

# INSIDE EDGE

Spring / Summer 2025

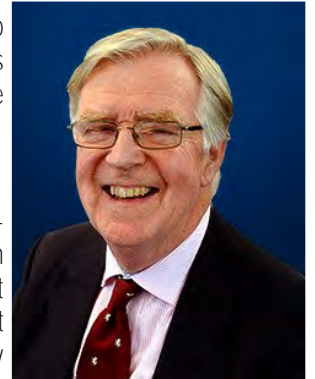
Volume 9

Number 1 (No 33)



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

I am writing this on the day of the Kent CCC AGM, which will no doubt stir up a few thoughts, both good and bad, about the previous twelve months, especially on the field. However, for the Heritage Trust, we can say that all in all we have had a positive time of it.



Over the winter we have not been idle. We have added several interesting items to our collections, from a painting by Terence Macklin which echoes the famous Kent v Lancashire 1906 masterpiece, but updated to 1995, to a framed photograph by Tom Morris of the Kent team playing on one of our outgrounds, the Goodwin Sands, in July 1995. Our research into the history of Women's cricket in Kent, ably led by Rosemary Piddock, is expanding by leaps and bounds, and we have planned a full programme of ground tours and teatime talks for the 2025 season. We have also begun a major reorganisation of the entire collection, starting with offering many duplicate items and others which are not related to Kent cricket, for auction in March. This has raised a useful sum which is being earmarked for helping to develop better facilities for the storage and display of our heritage.

The biggest news, for all people interested in any aspect of Kent cricket, is the result of the sale of the Hundred franchises. Whatever your views of the Hundred (and I count myself as a non-believer), the fact that perhaps as much as £25 million will be coming to the club is beginning to **focus everybody's minds on how best to use this money. It is of course a one-off payment**, which will not last for ever, but with a clear strategic plan for the club, which is now being developed, we can expect that KCHT will be have the funds to continue to play its part in the preservation of our history and, more importantly, in the future.

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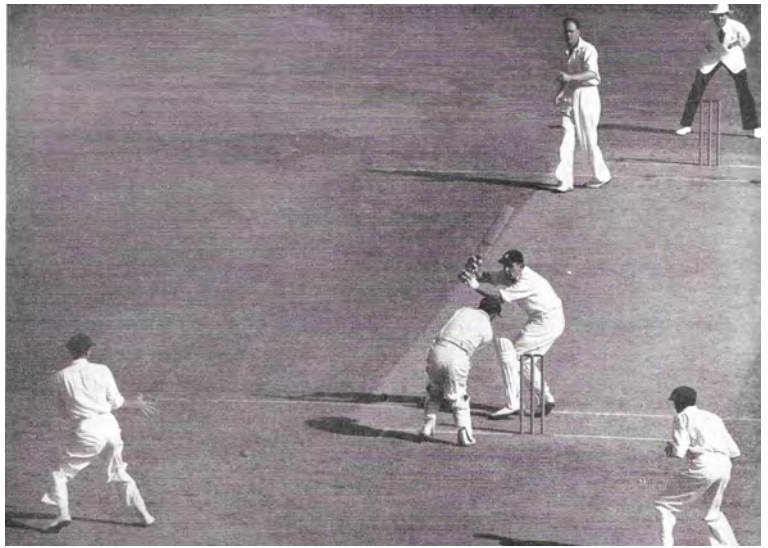
*Jonathan Rice*

*A Moment in Time, Friday December 31 1954*

There is a generation of now elderly Kent supporters who will answer with the same name to the question as to who was their favourite Kent, or even anywhere, cricketer. In the passage to that choice, New Year's Eve 1954 was a likely start.

The cricketer, of course, was Colin Cowdrey.

From appearing at Lord's aged just 13 for Tonbridge School he had been marked out as someone special. Through the youngest ever capped player for Kent, the youngest ever to captain the county in a match to the inevitable Test selection for England, that opinion seemed unchallenged. He was the twelfth man at the Oval in 1954 and on the boat to Australia. A few eyebrows were raised as others were deemed to have greater claims. Don Kenyon was one mentioned



*Cowdrey sweeps Johnston on his way to 102*

Two centuries in the match against New South Wales secured his place in the Test side when the form of more obvious batters was wobbling. Reasonable scoring in the first two Tests and we come to Melbourne for the third.

FIRST INNINGS	
*Hutton, c. Hole, b. Miller ..	12
W. J. Edrich, c. Lindwall, b. Miller ..	4
P. B. H. May, c. Benaud, b. Lindwall ..	0
M. C. Cowdrey, b. Johnson ..	102
Compton, c. Harvey, b. Miller	4
T. E. Bailey, c. Maddocks, b. Johnston ..	30
†Evans, l.b.w., b. Archer ..	20
Wardle, b. Archer ..	0
Tyson, b. Archer ..	6
Statham, b. Archer ..	3
Appleyard, not out ..	1
Extras (b. 9) ..	9
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>191</b>

Hutton won the toss and England batted. Miller's outswingers, aided by the wind and the slope of the pitch, soon had them in trouble. At 14 Edrich fell to a snick to slip and at 21 May succumbed first ball to a rising ball from Lindwall that popped off the bat to gully.

Cowdrey joined a struggling Hutton who at 29 stabbed at a Miller outswinger and was caught. Three wickets down and Miller yet to concede a run, Compton, next in, broke that duck, but he too fell to him. 41 for 4. There followed a modest counter-attack as Cowdrey and Bailey took the score to 59 by lunch. Miller, struggling with an injured knee and under instructions to be used sparingly, was not called upon to bowl.

After lunch Cowdrey came into own as the team crumbled around him. He cover-drove Archer; he straight-drove Johnston. He reached 100 out of 156 in less than four hours, with 15 boundaries to his credit. Soon after he was bowled off his pads by Johnson. The innings thereafter faded away. The rest of the match is well known with Tyson bowling out Australia and giving England but for Cowdrey's effort an unexpected victory and a lead in the series,

As for Colin Cowdrey the rest is history.....

## News From The Archive

We are always very grateful to anyone who has been kind enough to donate items to the Kent Cricket collection. The winter months have seen a steady flow of new objects arriving at Canterbury, many of which are still to be catalogued. There is not enough space here for me to mention them all though a couple of items deserve special mention.

In late March, the executor of Howard Evans, son of legendary Kent wicket-keeper/batsman Godfrey, gave us a collection of family scrapbooks with hundreds (literally) of newspaper cuttings, family documents and photographs. These have not yet been fully reviewed but my initial impressions are that they will provide a great resource for us. One photograph album contains dozens of informal snapshots – presumably taken by Godfrey – of cricketing scenes in Australia during the 1946/47 Ashes tour. Among them are panoramic photographs of the Sydney and Melbourne Cricket Grounds with play in progress. Others feature the great Donald Bradman taking to the field, and Godfrey trying his hand at deck quoits (with a rather bored looking Wally Hammond looking on). A second album contains photographs of Godfrey away from cricket – in military attire and at various family functions.

The second item (see page 10) I'd like to mention is a painting commissioned by Steve Marsh for his Benefit Year in 1995. As will be seen from the image, it's a modern take on the Chevallier-Taylor painting of Kent v Lancashire, 1906, a copy of which can be found in the Pavilion at Canterbury (with the original at Lord's). This updated version, by Terence Macklin, features Carl Hooper bowling from the Pavilion End rather than Colin Blythe with Marsh behind the stumps in lieu of Fred Huish. Richard Ellison, Martin McCague, Alan Igglesden, and a Cowdrey or two are among those also depicted in the field. We were pleased to purchase this from a recent specialist auction house and we hope to have it hanging alongside the more famous work for you to compare and contrast.

If you have any items lurking in your attic, spare bedroom or garage which needs re-housing, please think of the Heritage Trust as we will happily provide them with a new home! I can be contacted via email at [heritage@kcht.co.uk](mailto:heritage@kcht.co.uk) or via the main Kent Cricket Office.



Ian Phipps





## *Derek Underwood*

### *The Biographer's Perspective*



It was highly appropriate that Canterbury glistened in spring sunshine to mark Derek Underwood's memorial service in the Cathedral Crypt on Tuesday 4 March. Before a packed congregation, including several surviving members of Kent's championship side of 1970, Derek's eldest daughter, Heather, spoke about her father's benign influence on the family and Christopher Cowdrey reminisced about Derek's cricketing prowess, not least his unique skills on a drying wicket, his great enthusiasm and stamina, his love of representing Kent and England, his innate modesty and his great respect for the enduring values of the game.

Derek was fortunate that his rise to eminence came at a time in the mid-1960s when the great Kent side of the 1970s was steadily evolving. He found ready soul-mates in Alan Knott, Brian Luckhurst and Alan Ealham, he formed a close bond with overseas players, John Shepherd and Asif Iqbal, and had a captain to look up to in Colin Cowdrey, one of England's finest. This wasn't only a highly talented side, it was a harmonious one, devoid of egos, who genuinely enjoyed each other's company and the supporters who flocked to watch them play.

Perhaps the greatest paradox of Derek's career is how such a gentle person became embroiled in two of the fiercest cricket controversies since Bodyline: Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket in 1977/78 and the England rebel tour to South Africa in 1982. Despite being one of two players being willing to forego a match fee for the hastily-arranged additional Test on the MCC tour of Australia in 1970/71, Derek became increasingly disillusioned about the scant financial rewards available to top international cricketers compared to other sportsmen, especially now that he had a family to support. Yet while others signed up for Packer without giving it a second thought, Derek was more torn. A supreme patriot who regard playing for his country as the ultimate accolade, the thought of being banned from county and Test cricket exercised him greatly. In the end, the Kent Committee rescinded their earlier decision to dispense with his services and those of the other Packer players, but the hurt remained, not least some of the barbs he received from committeemen and members alike.

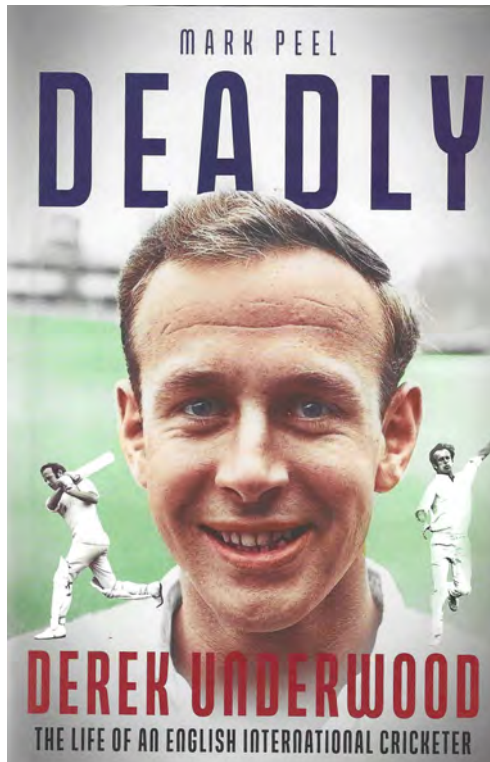
In time all was forgiven and Derek remained a highly respected senior pro in the Kent side of the 1980s and the great esteem in which he earned as a player carried into retirement, during which he dedicated much time to helping those less fortunate than himself. He derived particular pleasure from being President of Kent in 2006/07 and President of MCC in 2008/09 and continued to be a stalwart ambassador for the game until laid low by a cruel illness. The overwhelming reaction of sorrow to his passing spoke of a man who'd elevated the game with his presence and who'd stamped his mark in the national consciousness ever since that memorable day at the Oval in August 1968 when a shy 23-year-old bowled England to victory in the closing minutes against Australia.

Mark Peel

## Book Review

### *Deadly*

Deadly: Derek Underwood: the life of an English international cricketer: by Mark Peel. 256pp. Pitch Publishing. £25.



The death of Derek Underwood marked a serious break in an increasingly flimsy, if measured in the survivors, link with Kent's golden period of the 1970s,

His match winning role in that time needed to be recorded and recoded by a notable biographer, preferably a lover of Kent cricket and with the authority of an agreement with the Underwood family.

This book has all this. Mark Peel is a lover of Kent cricket who for some years has been producing biographies of some note, indeed award-winning.

Of particular mention is his biography of Colin Ccwdney *Gentleman and Player..*

He also had the full approval of his family, notably his wife Dawn. For this is book gives full rein to the family issues that can arise in the life of a professional cricket constantly away from home. It is all here. That approval is well illustrated by some good family photographs. Not to be overlooked was the importance of elder brother, Keith, and father Leslie, who laid out a wicket in the family back garden for the Underwood boys to hone their skills on.

The book follows Underwood career in the accepted chronological sequence

almost match by match, but leans heavily and profitably along the way on the thoughts and written accounts of Underwood's contemporaries. The acknowledgements and bibliography pages bares witness to this, and it is major plus how widely Derek was appreciated across the game. Not the least thoughts on his unique, almost undefinable, bowling skill.

The book also gives a really good detailed account of the background to his career. No one who is not up to speed on Kent's rise up the championship table to champions in 1970. or the story of the Packer and the rebel South African tours, in all of which Underwood was heavily involved, will find the answers all here.

Simply put, this is a very good read. The author of this article received the book at 10 am and by the start of BBC Six O'Clock news he had reached the end. Virtually unique.

Howard Milton



## *Have Gunn, Will Travel*

### *The Story of a Kent Cricketer Lost and Found*

Among the many obituaries of the late lamented Derek Ufton, one man found the reference to Derek's successful innings in his first match for the county, a second eleven game at Hastings in 1946. Opening the innings and scoring a hundred was a batter bearing a very familiar cricket family name, Brian Gunn. But no was the answer to the obvious question raised. But there was a story to be told.

Brian George Herbert Gunn was born in Old Road East, Gravesend on September 19 1921. He went to school at the Cecil Road Primary School in Gravesend and then to Gravesend County (now Grammar) School. His father Malcolm was a well known journalist cum newspaper advertising executive in Fleet Street and a considerable figure in Gravesend cricket. His mother was the former Irene Agnes Alexandra Clinch.

Brian Gunn had his first serious encounter with first-class cricketers in 1940 playing for Gravesend against London Counties. His form was poor there and not much better in two ambitious matches his father put together against Australian service sides. These were in 1943 and 1945 during breaks from the Army. The July 1945 game, where he was bowled for a duck by Keith Miller, was for Gravesend Sunday with G O Allen against the Australian Services side. The match, played for charity at Central Avenue, Gravesend, is a curiosity in that it was played between the first and second days of the **Third 'Victory' Test Match at Lord's. In addition to Miller, four other members of the Australian side – Lindsay Hassett, Ross Whittington, Cec Pepper and Bert Cheetham - were taking part.** Sunday cricket was not permitted on the Bat and Ball ground and Gravesend Sunday was formed specifically by Malcolm Gunn to perform on the Sabbath, using the Central Avenue Ground. (The ground is now largely built on, although small area remains much used by dog lovers.)

But Gunn was a prolific scorer for Gravesend. A score of 199 is mentioned, but there are no records to prove this. However, Kent were paying attention and in the later half of 1945 season he was playing in county organised matches. He was given a trial, but not taken on the **staff possibly because employment in Gravesend Borough Architect's Department was a safer option.**

Nevertheless, Gunn was playing for Kent in Club and Ground and second eleven matches in early 1946 and was promoted to the first team making his debut v Nottinghamshire at Gillingham. However in the four matches he appeared his top score was only 39, followed by 19. Two of these matches were played at the Bat and Ball. He played no more first team matches and just four second eleven games in 1947.

Gunn continued to pursue a successful career at Gravesend, captaining the local side until after a couple of games in 1950, he completely disappeared without explanation. Legend had it that he had built up considerable gambling debts notably from the Crayford Dog Stadium (closed January 2025) and needed a hasty retreat. As far as his family was concerned nothing more was heard from him for over 40 years. The *British Newspaper Index* does throw up two references to his fate in the early years of his absence, probably given the journalist in him sent by him to local papers. Certainly down the years his destination was believed to be in Australia, not the least given the popularity of the ten pound passage and the quick getaway on the Gravesend ferry to the starting point of such passages in Tilbury. The reports stated he had resumed his cricket life with the Mosman club in Sydney.

Early in the 1990s two cousins employed the Salvation Army to find him, which it did. Also interested were the records of Kent county cricket with time passing and the possibility he was dead, but where? The genius in such matters was the late Philip Thorn. In an age before the **internet, he was reputed to have a living room full of the world's telephone directories. It must have taken a while looking for "Gunn B G H"** presuming starting in the more obvious big cities. Eventually one that matched was found in Cairns in Queensland, and ringing the number **got the answer from a daughter "I will get him, he is working in garden!"**

Brian was overjoyed that he had restored his connection to Gravesend. It appeared in Sydney he had worked in sales and then as a theatre manager. Moving northwards he had returned to the family tradition of journalism in Townsville, Ingham and finally for more than 20 years on the *Cairns Post* initially as court and crime reporter, then on a weekly feature for the paper.

Meanwhile, back in Sittingbourne where the cousins who traced him lived, in October 2001 returning from holiday found a mysterious package from Australia awaiting them. Opening it they found an urn containing half the ashes of Brian Gunn. The other half had been scattered in Cairns. As per his final wish, with due ceremony, the other half were scattered at the Bat and Ball a few weeks after his death on September **3 2001. Accomplished in other sports, it was reported he was briefly on Tottenham Hotspur's books which would be via the nursery connection to Northfleet United.** But there is no trace in existing records. He had racing interests and played golf until well into his 70s. He was survived by his wife Val and four daughters and a grandson.



*Brian Gunn (front right) at Doug Wright's benefit match at Gravesend on April 22 1950 just a few weeks before he "disappeared".*

Howard Milton



## *Kent County Women's Cricket Association Tour to New Zealand 1982/83*

In 1983, the Kent County Women's Cricket Association (WCA) celebrated its Golden Jubilee. Having become affiliated to the WCA in 1933 it was time to celebrate 50 years of playing county women's cricket in Kent. Part of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations included a cricket week held from Sunday 21 to Saturday 27 August. Events were arranged including golf matches at Leeds Castle. Souvenirs commemorating the Jubilee Year were also produced including a souvenir brochure that sold for 20 pence. However, the main event of the Golden Jubilee was a tour to New Zealand. The touring party comprised the following squad:-

Sue Goatman (captain), Mary Pilling (vice-captain), Kate Brown, Caroline Brown, Pauline Weeks, Angie Bainbridge, Anne Stuart, Chris Symes, Janet Lees, Nan Haggerty, Jane Northwood, Tina Preece, Clare Eveson.

The manager of the team was Audrey Disbury (shown opposite) and the assistant manager was Pat Sheringham. Seven supporters were also listed as members of the touring party.

11 matches were played with the Kent Team winning 7, losing 3 and drawing 1. Kent played matches against Auckland, Northshore, Hamilton, Taranaki, Wanganui, Manawatu, Wellington 2nd XI, an Invitation XI, Nelson and Canterbury.



*Sue Goatman*

An article, written by Audrey Disbury, about the exciting trip to New Zealand was published in the *Kent County WCA Annual Report Golden Jubilee Edition* in 1984:

*The players arrived at Heathrow on 18th December, excited and eager to get going - hence the early arrival of most of the team. Eventually, after photographs and good-byes, we boarded the QANTAS flight, with the awesome thought of 25 hours of flying time ahead of us. We need not have worried, as we were given a royal welcome aboard, and by the time we had eaten all the meals, seen all the films, drunk the champagne (kindly donated by QANTAS), browsed round the duty frees in Bahrain and Singapore, and snatched as much sleep as possible, there we were in Sydney. We had a couple of hours to change planes and get into our blazers and skirts before completing the final stage of our journey to New Zealand.*

*We arrived in Auckland, tired but in good spirits, and who would not have been with the warmth of the sun on our backs, and the outstanding welcome we received. Wherever we played, private hospitality was provided by cricketers and their friends, who had obviously been looking forward to our tour for some time. The Kiwi organisation was very efficient and every team laid on some form of entertainment. Before leaving England we had decided to hire two eight-seater mini buses to travel throughout New Zealand. This meant that we saw as much of the surrounding countryside as possible, and as none of the venues were too far apart, we certainly did not spend any more time in the buses than was necessary. All this had been arranged for us by Joy Lamason, also the motel at Taupo where we all gathered together with supporters as well, to spend a very enjoyable Christmas*

We played eight matches in the North Island, at Auckland, North Shore, Hamilton, New Plymouth, Wanganui, Palmerston North and two in Wellington. Out of these we won six, drew one (definitely in our favour) and lost one.

From Wellington we flew to Nelson in South Island, where we played an enjoyable game against Nelson; they were all schoolgirls, very keen to learn as this was their first game against outside opposition. Then we travelled on down the West Coast for a spot of sightseeing, stopping for a night at both Westport and Greymouth, before making our way across Arthur's Pass into Christchurch for the final stage of our tour. Here we had two of our hardest games, both against the strong side of Canterbury who had just won the Tournament. Sorry to say we lost both of them.

On our last night we had a Farewell Dinner and it seemed impossible that the four weeks could have gone by so quickly. I have not mentioned all the sightseeing packed into a few weeks, never ending U-turns, pies and hokey pokey consumed, rain in Rotorua, tears for E.T., photo snapping maniacs, and the friendliness of the Kiwi's. No one wanted to go home, which is always the sign of a good tour, and I think I can safely say it was enjoyed by everyone.



*Audrey Disbury Kent  
Team Manager*

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The next day was the time for our farewells to all our friends made on and off the field, and it was sad to be saying good-bye to Kate and Caroline Brown, going back to Aussie. So, the tour ended, with a day's break in Sydney before returning home to Heathrow.

The scorecards for the matches were published in the *Kent County WCA Annual Report Golden Jubilee Edition*.

The trip to New Zealand highlights the changes, not just in cricket but in travel since Kent players, Betty Archdale, Doris Turner and Carol Valentine, had sailed to Australia and New Zealand in 1934 for their tour with the England team. **The Kent Women's team produced some very good performances. Sue Goatman scored a total of 455 runs in 10 innings including 109 against Manawatu. Anne Stuart made her highest score of 79 not out. Kate Brown was top of the bowling averages with 25 wickets for 240 runs and her best results were 7-9 and 6-35. This was a very successful tour for Kent and was an excellent way to commemorate 50 years of Women's County Cricket at Kent.**

Rosemary Piddock

### *KCHT Membership*

Any new readers of this publication would be very welcome to come and join the Kent Cricket Heritage Trust. (KCHT). **We are here to promote Kent Cricket's remarkable heritage to the world. Indeed in the world of cricket, that heritage has arguably no superior.** The membership fee is a minimum £10 (but more is very appreciated),. With such money, KCHT can support and build on its archive, not the least in what is a very competitive market when it comes to acquiring items of relevance. If you are interested please contact John Piddock at [john.piddock@btinternet.com](mailto:john.piddock@btinternet.com) or by post John Piddock , Secretary of KCHT, c/o the address of Kent CCC on page 10.

All the back issues of *Inside Edge* we hope will be available soon on KCHT website. Any queries to [howardmilton@btinternet.com](mailto:howardmilton@btinternet.com).



## Items for Sale

We have a large number of duplicate items in the collection at Canterbury and face a constant battle in trying to find space to accommodate new items. It's therefore a good time for a spring clean! We'd like to offer members the opportunity to acquire good selections of fully completed scorecards from home games, all of which are in excellent condition.

For some matches, we have more duplicates than for others so this offer is made on a "first come, first serve" basis. We MAY be able to help with odd scorecards to fill gaps in your own collection so please let me know via [heritage@kcht.co.uk](mailto:heritage@kcht.co.uk) if you are looking for anything in particular (1994 onwards) and we'll do our best.

OFFER 1 – 1994 : 11 scorecards (9 Championship, 1 Benson & Hedges Cup, 1 Tour match)

OFFER 2 – 1995 : 13 scorecards (8 Championship, 3 Benson & Hedges Cup, 1 varsity match, 1 Tour match)

OFFER 3 – 1996 : 12 scorecards (7 Championship, 3 Benson & Hedges Cup, 1 varsity match, 1 Tour match)

OFFER 4 – 1997 : 11 scorecards (5 Championship, 4 Benson & Hedges Cup, 1 varsity match, 1 Tour match)

We would suggest a minimum donation to the Kent Cricket Heritage Trust of £15 for each of the offers above or £2 for any "one off" scorecard you might want. If you would like to donate a little more, however, we would be very grateful!

100% of the proceeds will be used to help the Trust in the valuable work we do to look after the many historically important items we have in the Kent Cricket collection.

Ian Phipps



1 & 2

3 & 4



## Who's Who at KCHT

**President** : Hon Christopher Cowdrey

### KCHT Trustees

Keith Austin    Ian Phipps  
Howard Milton    Simon Storey

### KCHT Officers

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Secretary - John Piddock—john.piddock@btinternet.com  
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### Kent Cricket

CEO—Simon Storey - Simon.Storey@kentcricket.co.uk  
Heritage Officer - Ian Phipps -- heritage@kcht.co.uk

### Also on the Committee

Howard Milton - howardmilton@btinternet.com  
Peter Francis - p.mfrancis@hotmail.co.uk  
Rosemary Piddock—john.piddock@btinternet.com

### Contacts (addresses above)

General & Membership Matters & Website— John Piddock  
Subscriptions & Financial Matters—Keith Austin  
Historical Enquiries— Jonathan Rice or Ian Phipps  
**Women's Cricket Enquires** - Rosemary Piddock  
Inside Edge— Howard Milton

*Kent Cricket Heritage Trust*  
*Registered Charity Number 1154556*  
*The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence*  
*Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent*  
*CT1 3NZ*

## 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.

## KCHT Website

[KCHT.co.uk](http://KCHT.co.uk) then click KCHT media

Read the KCHT blog at –

[kentcricketheritagetrust.wordpress.com](http://kentcricketheritagetrust.wordpress.com)



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