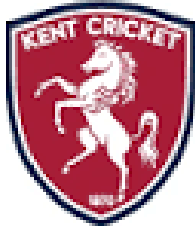




INSIDE EDGE



Christmas 2025

Volume 9
Number 3 (No 35)

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

We have to agree that, on the field, 2025 has not been a good year for the county. The men's team finished rock bottom in the Championship and although we did a little better in the Blast, and not too dreadfully in the 50 over tournament, all in all it is a season few will remember with affection. The same largely applies to the women's squads, but here we have the excuse that the new Tier 1/Tier 2 system robbed us of many of our best players, who quite naturally emigrated to Surrey and elsewhere, where they could actually get paid for their efforts. But there are green shoots everywhere, in the young men and women in our squads who showed great promise and who with more experience will, I feel sure, become mainstays of our teams.



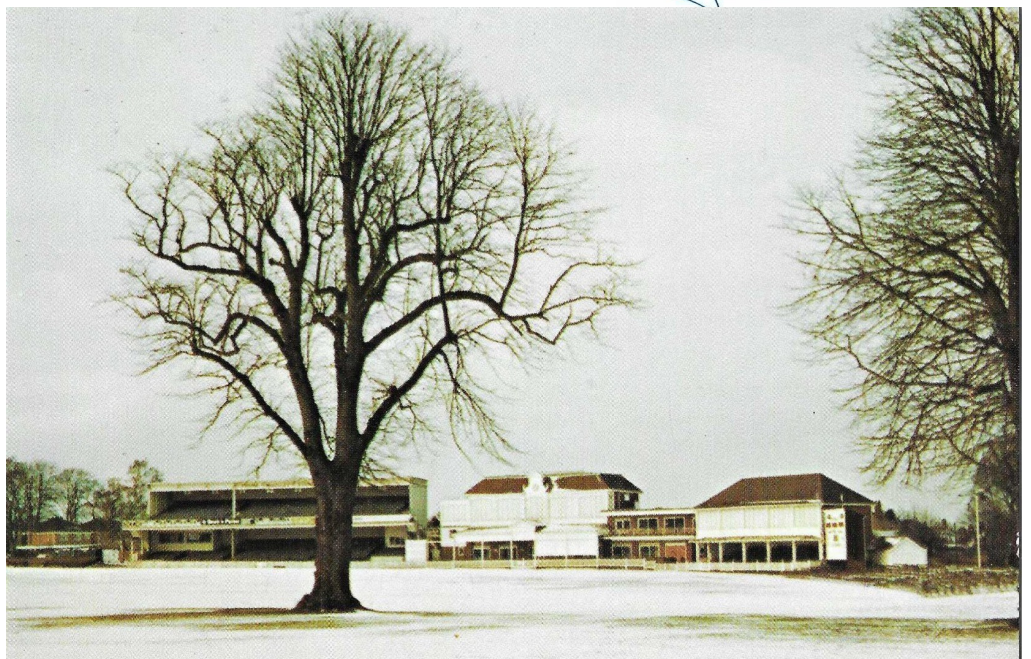
On a more statistical and historical note, the return of Sam Northeast next year marks the first time a former captain has returned to the team after an absence of at least five seasons (apart from breaks for World Wars) since Lord Harris made his return from governing much of India to the Kent side in 1896.

For KCHT, the close season is anything but. We remain very open, progressing our tasks of collecting, sorting, displaying, researching and spreading the word about our cricketing history and archive. And we always need volunteers. If anybody reading this (is there anybody out there?) wants to give up a little of their time to helping our keen but very stretched team, please get in touch. All contacts details are elsewhere in Inside Edge.

Merry Christmas and a happy and successful 2026 to all.

Jonathan Rice

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Visit our website

heritage.kentcricket.co.uk

A Moment in Time, Monday May 31 1875

1875

GRAND CRICKET MATCH.—CATFORD BRIDGE.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 31, June 1 & 2.

KENT v. SUSSEX.

1st innings.		2nd innings.	
KENT.			
W. Draper, b Pickering	28	b Fillery	0
E. A. White, Esq., b Lillywhite	0	b Lillywhite	0
H. Renny-Tailyour, Esq., b Lillywhite	0	c Phillips b Fillery	7
Lord Harris, c Charlwood b Fillery	84	c Phillips b Fillery	26
W. Willis, b Pickering	0	c and b Fillery	12
G. M'Canlis, c W. Humphreys, b A. Smith	13	c and b Lillywhite	11
F. Penn, Esq., run out	20	c Lillywhite b Fillery	12
Capt. Fellowes, R.E., b A. Smith	4	c Charlwood b Smith	0
E. Hickmott, b Pickering	6	b Fillery	1
C. A. Absolom, Esq., b Pickering	0	c Lillywhite b Fillery	0
W. George, not out	0	not out	2
Byes	3	leg byes 2, wide 1,	8
Total	158		74

1st innings.		2nd innings.	
SUSSEX.			
A. W. Anstruther, Esq., R.H.A., thrown out by Draper	2	not out	21
W. Humphreys, b George	3	not out	8
C. Howard, Esq., st Hickmott, b Fellowes	40		
F. P. U. Pickering, Esq., c Hickmott b Draper	24		
H. Charlwood, c Hickmott b George	47		
R. Fillery b Fellowes	25		
— Newlyn b Fellowes	0		
J. Pattenden, c and b George	1		
H. Phillips, b Willis	4		
Arthur Smith, Esq., c Draper, b Fellowes	12		
J. Lillywhite, not out	42		
Byes 2, wide 2,	4		
Total	204		31

Umpires: Fryer and Killick. Scorers: G. F. Salter and J. Crow.

Price 2d. LUNCHEON ON THE GROUND, 3s. 6d.

Printed on the Ground by S. HYDE, of Canterbury.

In the early days of the Kent County Cricket Club there was no official home of the Club. The ownership of the ground at Canterbury was still twenty years away.

Along with the somewhat nomadic existence the Club had was the desire to tap into potential supporters of the biggest population area that fell within their remit—namely South East London. Eyes turned to Catford where all four of the matches the county played at home in 1875 were based.

The ground had been formally opened the year before as the home of the Private Banks Cricket Club, a club formed "for cricket and athletic sports" consisting of gentlemen in London private banks, of which Barclays, Coutts and Hoares were leading lights. It had the particular additional attraction of being right across the road to a railway station with its link straight into London.

The scorecard (left) is that for the very first match, while the picture below is the pavilion there taken at a county match in 1875.

It was not a success. As *Lillywhite's Cricketers Annual* noted, "Catford Bridge was not a wise choice of ground for the county, and we question if county cricket has before ever been played to such a small gallery." Metropolitan cricket was not popular with the players either. The amateurs were reluctant

playing there and with few good professionals in the county at the time, the quality of the team was poor. To add to this the wicket was suspect with no match lasting beyond the second day, and the train service from London, thought to have been an asset, was, as the press regularly complained, poor. Kent did not return until 1892. In the winter of 1902/03 remarkably, Catford was a serious contender as a Test match venue, although the Board of Control did request some improvement in the seating.

Thereafter Kent did play the odd match each season before it was last used in 1921.



A fuller story of the Private Banks' Cricket Ground is told, along with all the other grounds used by Kent County Cricket Club, in *Kent County Cricket Grounds* by Howard Milton with Peter Francis. Copies are still available at a reduced price in the Kent Club Shop in Canterbury,

Kent Cricket Heritage Trust New Website

The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust launched its brand new website...

heritage.kentcricket.co.uk

... in October. The purpose of the site is to help the Trust promote the history of cricket in our county, share information about the many historically important items held in the archive at Canterbury and explain what is being done to preserve them for future generations. The site mirrors the style and "feel" of the Kent Cricket website to underline the fact that we are very much part and parcel of the Club.

Among a number of features on the site are :

News updates – details of items recently added to the archive, Trust activities and forthcoming events;

Collections – galleries with images of prized possessions in the Kent Collection including caps, bats, balls, pads, silverware and rare photographs - many of which have been kindly donated by our past players;

Research and Education – where you can see results of recent studies undertaken by members of the Trust (including much information not available elsewhere) and areas where we may be able to support the education sector;

Access to a Kent Cricket themed blog edited by KCHT Chair Jo Rice;

Access to all back-issues of the Trust newsletter, *'Inside Edge'*.

The site has already received a very positive reaction from users and there were over 1,800 page views in the first six weeks alone. Our aim is to add fresh content every week in order make it worthy of regular repeat visits.

We would also be delighted to help share your personal research on cricket history within the county with other users, particularly subject areas not considered in detail before - perhaps the history of your local club or school. You can get in touch with the Trust via our new email address

heritage@kentcricket.co.uk

Ian Phipps

Reflections on Playing Women's Cricket

Whilst researching for my book on the *History of Kent Women Cricketers* I have been privileged to meet, and talk to, several former Kent players. They have been very happy to discuss their Kent careers and highlight the challenges faced by women players when they played for their county.

One such former player was **Jean Ifield**. Jean played for Great Chart Ladies Cricket Club and Kent and, now in her eighties, was very happy to reflect on women's cricket when she played compared to today. Below are Jean's responses to some of my questions.

When did you develop an interest in and start to play cricket?

I started playing in the back yard at around 11 years old. A bucket full of rubber balls and an old broom handle would keep me happy for many hours in our small back yard. With the broom handle leaning against the wall of our outside, yes outside, loo. I had a short run up between the coalhouse and a shed. Bowling, picking up the balls again and again, trying to hit the handle as often as I could, would hold my attention for hours.

With the encouragement of my cousin, Betty Young, I became a member of the Lenham Cricket Club at the age of 13.

How did you bowl?

All of the Lenham bowlers bowled overarm. Almost unheard of in those days, underarm had to be faced! With overarm bowling you at least stood the chance of finding the boundary now and again. With most underarm bowling this was almost impossible. The ball would often arrive for you to hit, never having left the ground – they should have played bowls! Your only chance of scoring a run was to nudge it somewhere safe and RUN! These were very low scoring matches.

What do you think are the major changes for players from when you played compared to the women's game today?

When I was playing club and county cricket, I had to provide all of my own equipment and clothes. Today at the higher level games they not only get paid but everything a player needs is provided for.

Jean described, with a sense of humour, many of the differences as follows:

HELMETS – Worn today, not in my day.

SUNGLASSES – Worn today (possibly sponsored), not worn in my day.

BODY PROTECTION – Today padded arms, body and leg protectors. I wore only insufficient leg pads

GLOVES - HUGE gloves worn today. My gloves could be described as useless rubber sausages

FOOTWEAR - Like trainers today. I used screw in metal studs.

BAGS – Today they are filled with everything bar the kitchen sink and often include more than one bat. I received a gift of a cricket bag that contained one bat, a pair of gloves and leg pads

FOOD - Special diets today to improve performance. We ate anything we fancied – or what we could get after the 2nd World War. I was only 16 when sweets were taken off the rations in 1953 and meat a year later.

WATER – Today water is regularly supplied during the match. We had a cup of tea during the break.



Jean Ifield in 2025
Photograph © John Piddock

CHEWING GUM – Not in my day! The silliest and most dangerous thing to do. It should be banned immediately before a choking incident takes place.

What about the grounds when you started playing?

The men usually painted in the white lines but it was left to the ladies to sweep away the sheep droppings before play could start.

How did you travel to the grounds?

You transported yourself to games (no luxury coaches for us!). I was lucky enough to have a motor bike when I was 16 years old so, for club games, I could make my own way there. Dad drove Mum and me to County grounds. Thank goodness they enjoyed watching cricket!

What do you think about the modern technology that is used today?

Hawk-Eye! This is taking away the full responsibility of umpires. I can recall when I was batting with my friend Kay Smith, who, because of previous 'mishaps' took a leg stance standing way outside. She was given 'OUT' lbw! What she said on her way back to the pavilion cannot be recorded here!

Television has brought many changes to the wonderful game and has brought in spectators. No more 'one man and his dog' watching you play.

What other changes have taken place to the game?

Changes to the game must include the various colours of outfits that teams wear – some would look better worn in bed!

5 ball overs and the choice of bowling 10 if you want to.

Oh, and those beautiful grounds. Can you imagine what it would have been like for our women players to walk into Lords, have a changing-room, and sit on the balcony watching the game?

Even at County level we had just the basics, and at club level absolutely nothing. We shared the pavilion (actually a shed) with the visitors.

You also umpired?

Yes, and I remember a game I was umpiring when the ball went down a rabbit hole in the field of play. It was never seen again! My mind would addle should I try scoring or umpiring in this day and age. I really feel sorry for the umpires and what they have to do. Ball counting. End of Power Play. Signals. Checking the use of bowlers. Staying away from the strongly hit balls! All this whilst wearing two hats, two pairs of sunglasses, towel to wipe a wet ball, a sweater, plus anything else the bowler doesn't need.

Our umpires stood in their long white coats making sure the overs were correctly played. No-balls, wides, run outs, lbws were their responsibility.

And finally, what are the important memories from your cricket days?

Long-lasting friendships were made and my Christmas Card List is proof of that! I would take just one thing from my own playing days ... the opportunity to watch, over and over again, the matches I played in!

Jean played in the Kent 1st XI from 1954 to 1960 and the 2nd XI from 1955 to 1963 and her biography will be appearing in the book to be published by the Trust next year.

Rosemary Piddock

A Photograph from Brighton, 1907



We have recently had donated to the Kent collections a number of photographs dating back to the first and second decades of the last century, all of which show proud cricketers staring back at the camera lens, either before or after their game. The common denominator is William Dutnall, who appears in every photograph, and whose grandson is the donor of the photographs to the club.

My favourite is headed "Kent Second XI, Brighton, June 7th and 8th 1907". Not only are all the players identified, but the match is easily researched on Cricket Archive, which shows that not only did Kent win by an innings and 125 runs, but the photographer got the date wrong – it was actually played on 17th and 18th June that year.

Standing at the extreme left is Percival Ernest Morfee, misspelt as "Morphee". He was born 2 May 1886, and thus was just 21 when the photo was taken. He was a very fast right-arm bowler who went on to play 11 matches for the Kent first team, scoring 132 runs at 13.20, with a top score of 20. He also took 28 wickets for 934 runs, at an average of 33.35, including 5 for 47 v Northants at Mote Park in 1910. He was an independent soul who fell out with Kent and moved north, where he played Lancashire League cricket for many years. He died on 12 Feb 1945.

Standing next to him is George Christopher Collins, born on 21 Sept 1889, and thus not yet 18. He was a left hand bat and right arm fast medium bowler, who played 212 matches for Kent between 1911 and 1928, scoring 6237 runs at 22.35, with 4 centuries, and a highest score of 110. He took 378 wickets at 23.71, including 10 for 65 v Notts at Dover in 1922. He is Kent Cap number 75. After his retirement he became a first-class umpire and died on 23 Jan 1949, aged 59.

One of the most interesting things about this team photo is the presence of Claud Neville Woolley, the older brother, by one year, of Frank. Born on 5 May 1886, he never played for Kent's first team, and perhaps sensed that he would never be as good as his brother. However he moved a bit north and had a long career with Northants (362 games, 1911-1931) as a right hand bat and right arm medium slow bowler. Before moving to Northampton, he played 18 games for Kent 2nd XI, and was a lifelong friend of Colin Blythe

They joined up together and served together until the action that killed Blythe in 1917, in which Claud Woolley was injured. On retirement he, like Collins, became an umpire and stood in the Second Test against Australia at Lord's in 1948. He died on 3 Nov 1962, aged 74.

Next to Woolley is Raymond Munds, born 28 Dec 1882, who was one of the heroes of Kent's victory at Brighton. Opening the batting, he top scored with 116 to establish Kent's complete dominance. He only played 7 games for the Kent county side between 1902 and 1908, scoring 121 runs at 12.10, with a top score of 29, but he played for Kent 2s from 1901 to 1911. After his century at Brighton, he hit 144 v Middlesex in his next match, but could never establish a place in the county eleven. He died on 29 July 1962, aged 79.

Sitting on the left is William Dutnall, who opened the batting with Munds. Dutnall was born in Canterbury on 29 Aug 1888, and like Raymond Munds, had a brother who also played for Kent a handful of times. He only played one game for the first team, against the touring West Indians in 1923, but had 21 games for Kent Second XI. He was a stalwart of St. Lawrence CC and played for them until he was in his fifties, and also served on the Kent CCC committee from 1957 until 1959. He died on 18 Mar 1960, aged 71.

Next to Bill Dutnall is the young and splendidly named George McDonald Bottome, who was born 10 Sep 1887, and was an undergraduate at Cambridge University at the time of this game. He only ever played twice for Kent Seconds and never for the first XI. A product of Tonbridge School, he scored 60 in this game and 65 in his only other game for the 2s, against Sussex at Hove the following year, so it is rather surprising that he did not get other chances. He played in the Freshman's Trials at Cambridge, but never played for the University, and presumably did not have the family wealth to play cricket as an amateur. In 1907 it would have been unthinkable for a public school and Cambridge educated man to become a professional cricketer. He enjoyed a long life and died on 11 Jun 1972, shortly before his 85th birthday.

The captain was Lionel Holmes Wood Troughton, who was born 17 May 1879, and went on to play 180 games for the county, and to captain the side in 1914 and in the first few seasons after the War, part of which he spent as a prisoner of war. A batter of modest achievement, he was nevertheless a good and popular captain at both Second and First team level, and his 90 in this game was part of a large partnership with Munds. Lt Col Troughton was manager of the club from 1924 until he died on 31 August 1933, aged 54.

Henry John Berridge Preston, who was born in India on 25 October 1883, took 5 for 45 and 4 for 49 as Kent rolled over Sussex 2s in June 1907. He played only 19 matches for Kent between 1907 and 1913, but won his county cap (no. 70) in 1910, the season in which he took 4 for 8 and 4 for 27 against Somerset at Tunbridge Wells. He was a hopeless batter, scoring only 84 runs in his career at 6.46, but took 43 wickets at 20.11. He was described as a slow medium off-spinner, similar to Bill Fairservice in style, but not quite as good. After he left the club, he moved to Scotland, where he took plenty of wickets in club cricket. He died on 23 April 1964, aged 80.

Seated on the far right of the picture is Charles Thomas Skinner, born in Snodland in 1882. He played 24 games for Kent Second XI between 1904 and 1909, having joined the Kent staff in 1903. In this game he scored 34 batting at number 8, and took 2 for 15 in Sussex's first innings. That 34 proved to be his highest score for Kent Seconds, but he had at least four five wicket hauls and one ten wicket game as a bowler. The trialists' book describes him as a "slow left good bowler and promising bat", but despite that promise, he never played for the full county side. He later worked in the paper mill at Aylesford and died in 1957.

Seated on the ground is John Charlton Hubble, on the left. This is somebody we do know a great deal about, as by this time he had already played enough of his 360 games for the first team to have earned his county cap, number 62. A fine and stylish batter who took over as wicket-keeper when Fred Huish retired, Jack Hubble was born 10 Feb 1881, and played for the county until 1929. He died on 26 Feb 1965.

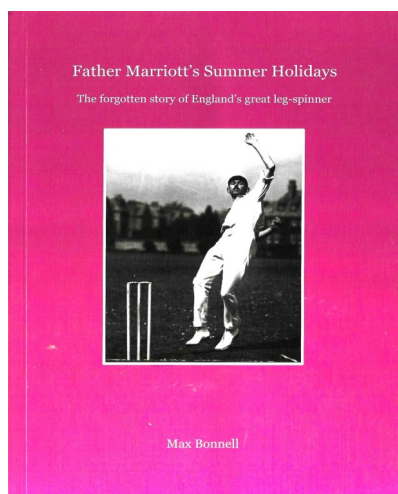
The last of the eleven is George Collins Wingham, not to be confused with George Christopher Collins. Wingham was born in Folkestone in 1884, and played 9 games for Kent Seconds in 1906 and 1907, before moving to Northumberland, where he played until 1920. A slow left hand bowler and left handed bat, he took 5 for 73 as Sussex crumbled in their second innings, but only played two more games for the team. He died young, aged only 36 or 37 on 2 May 1921.

These are the faces that stare out at us from a distance of 120 years, with expressions not so different from any cricket team photo of today. Was it taken before the match, or after? They all look pretty pleased with themselves, so I suspect it was in the aftermath of victory.

Jo Rice

Taken with permission from the number of blogs on the KCHT website. heritage.kentcricket.co.uk

Book Reviews



Father Marriott's Summer Holidays: the forgotten story of England's great leg-spinner: by Max Bonnell. Red Rose Books.. 168pp. £13 + p&p.

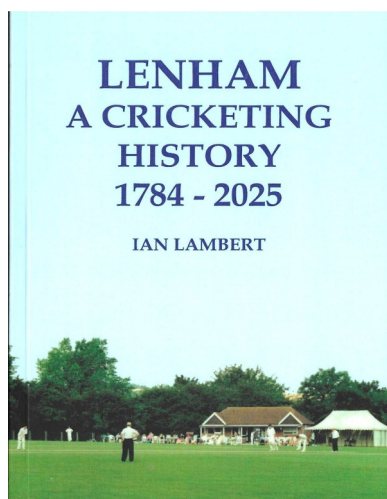
Many aspects of Marriott's story are well known from sources such as Derek Carlaw's "A to Z of Kent Cricketers". However, this volume, written by the award-winning Max Bonnell, significantly adds to our knowledge of a man who led a fascinating life.

As in all of the authors previous books, this is thoroughly researched and draws on an extensive variety of sources including personal correspondence with close friend and well known poet Edmund Blunden. It includes a fascinating account of Marriott's front-line experiences during World War I and considers the lasting mental and physical effects he probably endured. His passion for modern languages led him to study at Cambridge University, after which he took up a teaching role at Dulwich College. A popular Master in charge of Cricket, Marriott did much to nurture the talent of England's Trevor Bailey and future Kent player, Tony Mallett.

Bonnell describes a mild-mannered schoolmaster who, at the end of the academic year, dusted off his cricket bag and joined Kent to create havoc with his leg spin bowling (particularly in tandem with Tich Freeman). Despite achieving impressive match bowling figures of 11/96 on his Test debut against the West Indies at The Oval in 1933, he was never selected again. His captain Bob Wyatt stated that Marriott was "probably the worst batsman in county cricket, and one of the worse fielders too". England's loss was Kent's gain.

Of particular interest are photographs of Marriott which capture his distinctive bowling action - leaning away from the wicket immediately prior to delivery with his right hand positioned somewhere above his left hip. Despite this unconventional technique, his impressive record of over 700 first-class wickets at an average of a little over 20 runs each proves its effectiveness.

The book concludes with a range of statistics, endnotes and detailed bibliography. I would highly recommend it.

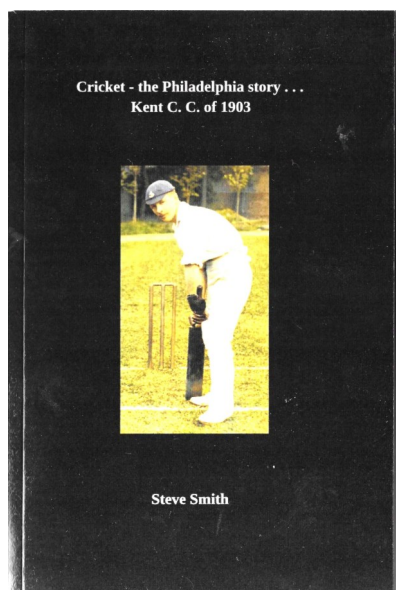


Lenham: a cricketing history 1784-2025: by Ian Lambert. Lenham Cricket Club. 169pp, £10.

The appearance of a new club or Kent cricket local history is sadly rare these days. Anniversaries, the prompt to produce one, go by unmarked as they once rarely did. Printing costs, no willing author, local past records of games lost all seem to contribute to this.

So this one on Lenham is particularly welcome, and in Ian Lambert they have an author who can use his always assiduous researching abilities to the task in hand. Indeed what started as a history of the Lenham club has spread to various other recorded clubs in the area, notably Chilston Park.

The book has a very nice appearance and is well served by numerous well presented pictures, scorecards and other illustrations. An excellent addition to what seems to be a declining area of cricket literature,

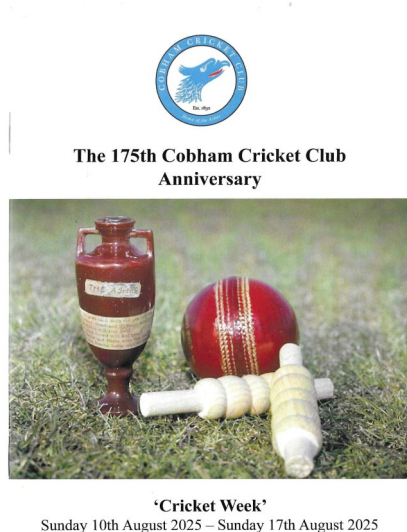


Cricket—the Philadelphia story: Kent CC of 1903; by Steve Smith. Available from Red Rose Books or Amazon. 128pp, £20 (hardback) £12 (softback).

Steve Smith is establishing himself as a one man publishing company with an output of 16 books, all on the great days of Philadelphian cricket, promised in 2025 alone,

And thus he has turned to Kent's ground breaking tour of Philadelphia and about in 1903. All these books follow the same style heavily reliant on long runs of text totally transferred from the original documents mixed into full match accounts, There is clearly some good original research not the least some equally good photographs, but there is no index or contents, so tracking down biographies of individuals is not easy. It has the air of what it is, a book off of a production line,

KCHT is particularly disappointed by the appearance of this book. Extensive material has been gathered in recent years with the aim to produce something on the same subject. This includes the late Roger Mann's archive of photographs and other printed memorabilia from the tour and more recently from C J Burnup's personal archive, many photographs. No contact seems to have been made to the Club who hold the original scorebooks, while Burnup's own account of the tour in the Kent history is not mentioned in the bibliography. All of this is a great pity.



The 175th Cobham Cricket Club Anniversary. Cobham Cricket Club, Cobham Recreation Field, The Street, Cobham, Kent. DA12 3BL. 16pp.

As the title indicates this nicely produced booklet celebrates a notable Cobham Cricket Club anniversary. It covers briefly the Club's history woven into the story of the Ashes, as produced in a similarly styled brochure produced by The Cricket Society for the rededication of Ivo Bligh's grave in 2011 (see next page)..

It is particular pleasure to see grave well mentioned in this publication and indeed in all publications that relate to Cobham village. Prior to 2011 it was totally overlooked and often in poor order. But it is here that rests, both husband and wife, the end of the beginning of the Ashes, about the most famously named competition in the world of sport. Something Cobham has finally have realised they can be proud of, as The Cricket Society hoped.

Who's Who at KCHT

President : Hon Christopher Cowdrey

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Howard Milton Simon Storey

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Kent Cricket

Heritage Officer - Ian Phipps -- heritage@kcht.co.uk

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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
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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.

KCHT

Website: heritage.kentcricket.co.uk

E-mail: heritage@kentcricket.co.uk



*May 18 2011—The rededication of the grave of Hon Ivo Bligh and his wife.
Here where the beginning of the story of Ashes ended.*