

Leaves From The Past Pt 3

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of the match, but Cricket in its report of the second match of the tour in the 25 May 1882 issue records that the Australian captain William Murdoch lodged a formal protest against Blackman 'on the grounds that he threw'. His objections were however over-ruled by the umpires.

The Australian perspective is given in an extract from the Australian newspaper cited in Cricket on 7 September 1882, where a member of the side is quoted as saying that Blackman 'throws in an undisguised manner'. In this account, the tourists' objections were gainsaid by 'the clergyman who captained our opponents', presumably Rev Frederick Greenfield, the only man of the cloth in the Sussex side that day. According to Greenfield, Blackman's delivery was 'perfectly fair'. However, as the Australians won by an innings and 355 runs, and Murdoch himself made an undefeated 286, any unfair advantage Blackman may have gained by his 'bowling' would appear to have been minimal.

The writer of 'Pavilion Gossip' also points out that 'differences of opinion exist among the best judges as to whether certain bowlers have a fair delivery or not', a point which also seems to be underlined by the incident at Mansfield related above (and perhaps by the reverend gentleman's view of Blackman).

This is perhaps not surprising given that it was only twenty years since the legalisation of overarm bowling, which had been labelled 'throwing' by its critics. If the definition of a 'throw' had changed so radically in such a short space of time, and if moreover what had previously been considered a 'throw' was now perfectly legal, it is hardly surprising that the cogniscenti were unable to come to any agreement on what now constituted throwing, and as the entry in Cricket makes clear, even expert judges do not seem to have been able to make up their minds whether Crossland and others actually 'threw'.

In such circumstances, umpires can hardly be blamed for not 'calling' those whose actions they may have privately considered dubious. Indeed, they may well have reflected that twice in the previous sixty years bowlers had flouted the rules and when umpires had no-balled them, the authorities, far from endorsing their decision, had proceeded to legalise 'throwing'.

The match against Sussex at Hove was thus Crossland's last for Lancashire in first-class cricket, although he did play against Cheshire at the end of June. Despite – or perhaps because of – the objections of the Sussex crowd, he did not prove effective at Hove, bowling only nine overs without success in the first innings and none at all in the second. Thereafter he played as a professional for East Lancashire and made two further appearances in first-class cricket for C.I. Thornton's XI in 1886 and 1887.

In an ironic footnote, when Lancashire next took the field in a first-class match, at Liverpool in the middle of July, the rain-

ruined match was drifting towards a draw when Lancashire amateur George Jowett was put on to bowl. He was promptly no-balled for throwing, whereas the Lancashire committee had been at pains to point out that Crossland had 'appeared at Lord's and frequently elsewhere in first-class matches without having [his] fairness questioned.'

Teggin's Day

Lancashire v Kent, Old Trafford, June 17, 18, 19 1886, Wisden 1887 p 152

Wisden records that this match proved something of a turning-point in Lancashire's fortunes in 1886. Up to this point they had been unconvincing, having lost three of their last four matches, but their victory in this game was the first in a winning sequence of six matches (including one against Essex which was not first-class). The main weakness in Lancashire cricket this year was in batting, and it is perhaps no accident that the victory coincided with the first batting success of the season for Johnny Briggs, who made 107 in the first innings.

Dense fog delayed the start of Kent's innings (one wonders if it was one of those industrial fogs that characterised English city life before the Clean Air Act). When play did get under way, the bowling for Lancashire was opened by Alexander Watson – no surprise there – and a young club cricketer named Alfred Teggin, described by *Wisden* as 'a very slow bowler', who had played in two previous matches and taken a single wicket. On this occasion, however, he was far more successful, taking 6-53 in the first innings and a further four in the second to finish with match figures of 10-87 as Lancashire won by five wickets. As if to show this was no flash in the pan he then took 5-20 in the first innings in the following match against Sussex. And that was it.

In eleven overs in the Sussex second innings he conceded only seven runs but took no wickets. He then did not play again until early July when he bowled three overs in each innings against Yorkshire, conceded 28 runs and took no wickets. Another lengthy gap then ensued before his final match, in August against Sussex at Hove, when he bowled five unsuccessful overs in the first innings and did not bowl in the second.

He never played for Lancashire again, but did have the distinction of heading the Lancashire bowling averages for the 1886 season. As a postscript, *CricketArchive* records him playing three matches for Lancashire club side Longsight in 1889, including one against the touring Parsees in which he opened the bowling and took eleven wickets, so it is pleasing to note that he was not altogether lost to cricket after his day in the fog.

While Teggin was unable to make a sustained impact on the cricket field, he was a rugby forward of some distinction and played six times for England between 1884 and 1887.

A Good Toss To Lose

Surrey v Nottinghamshire, The Oval, August 2, 3, 4 1886, Wisden 1887 p139

Around this time county cricket, and cricket in Surrey in particular, was growing exponentially, nowhere more so than in the Bank Holiday fixtures between Surrey and Nottinghamshire. After a long period in the doldrums, Surrey was now emerging as one of the top sides in the country, while Nottinghamshire had been unofficial County Champions since 1883. Surrey had lost only one match all season while winning a large number; Nottinghamshire were unbeaten but had won fewer matches. So if Surrey won this match, they would have a better overall record.

The earlier match between the two sides, at Trent Bridge, had attracted a crowd of over ten thousand on the second day, while the August Bank Holiday crowd at The Oval, despite heavy overnight rain and threatening dark clouds, was over 12,000, although this was a fall of some 3,500 on the figure for the 1885 fixture.

Wisden nonetheless commented that 'probably no county match had ever been looked forward to with keener interest'. While there was no official County Championship in those days, cricket followers nonetheless knew that this was a battle to decide the top county of 1886, and any modern historian trying to tell them that there was no such competition would have received some odd looks and perhaps some sharp cockney response.

W. G. Grace is credited with saying, 'When you win the toss – bat. If you are in doubt, think about it, then bat. If you have very big doubts, consult a colleague – then bat.' It is arguable that Surrey's hopes that year were scuppered by this received wisdom. Surrey captain John Shuter won the toss on the first morning and of course elected to bat, a course which *Wisden* says would have been taken by nine out of ten captains and which Nottinghamshire captain Alfred Shaw generously indicated he would also have followed.

But this decision almost certainly lost Surrey the match. The pitch turned out to be far more treacherous than had been expected, and Surrey were bowled out for 99 by mid-afternoon. The pitch had eased by the time Nottinghamshire batted, and their first-innings score of 272 was enough to give them an easy victory. Thus Surrey's chances of being the Champion County of 1886 evaporated, although they were subsequently to atone for this amply.

Just how much Shuter felt obliged to go in first on winning the toss is a matter for debate. It was by no means unheard of for captains to be criticised for batting first on winning the toss. Thus, for example, in the September 1877 issue of *Baily's*, the cricket correspondent twice calls into question a decision of this nature.

Reporting the Surrey v Middlesex match at The Oval in 1877,

Baily's observes, 'Whether Middlesex acted wisely or not in going in first when they won the toss it is not for us to say'. Middlesex were bowled out for 110, thanks to Southerton, who according to *Wisden* took 7-38 on 'a wicket to please him', although the Almanack is silent on the issue of the toss.

Later in the season, again at The Oval, *Baily's* suggests that Yorkshire 'made a mistake in going in first on a heavy wicket'. By contrast *Wisden* reports that 'the Yorkshiremen commenced the batting on excellent wickets'. What is of interest, however, is not so much the difference of opinion about the state of the wicket as the implication that, for *Baily's* at least, inserting the opposition might be considered an option.

And indeed, despite W. G. Grace, to send in one's opponents, while rare, was by no means unheard of in Victorian times. One of the more notable examples occurred in the Varsity match of 1878, when Oxford, having won the toss, 'foolishly put in Cambridge' according to Haygarth. *Wisden* notes the decision without comment.

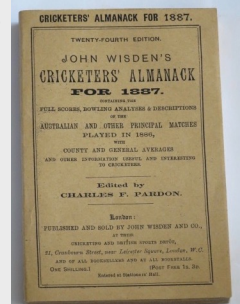
Oxford captain Alexander Webbe may perhaps have been influenced by events just prior to the match. *Wisden* informs us that a thunderstorm 'of great severity' had occurred on the day before the match, but the carefully-prepared wicket had been protected from the elements by a 'tarpauling' [sic] cover.

On the morning of the match, the cover was removed, but 'this was objected to' - apparently by the players themselves - and a fresh wicket was therefore cut, a half-prepared pitch that had been intended for the Gentlemen v Players match of the following week.

Possibly Webbe hoped to gain some advantage by inserting Cambridge on an unprepared wicket, and when the very strong Light Blues were bowled out for 168, his strategy seemed to have been vindicated and the hopes of Oxford men were high. Sadly for Oxford, however, they were unable to press home any advantage, being dismissed for 127 in their first innings, conceding a first-wicket partnership of over 100 in Cambridge's second innings and finally collapsing for 32 in an hour and a quarter on the second afternoon.

Wisden is unable to account for the collapse and does not attribute it to the pitch, wondering instead if the early loss of wickets so disheartened the side that they found at the batting crease the words 'let all who come here leave hope behind'.

An attempt to defy convention by Richard Daft in 1876 met with opposition from, ironically, W. G. Grace, when the United North met the United South at Hull. When the captains tossed for innings, there was according to *Baily's* a high wind which would have made batting conditions difficult; possibly Daft hoped that conditions would have improved by the time his side batted. To



some extent his plan succeeded: ten of the South side scored 28 between them. But then there was WG, who made 126 out of a total of 153 while he was at the wicket; the next-highest score was Ted Pooley's 14. The United North still achieved a substantial first-innings lead, thanks to an unbeaten 108 from Ephraim Lockwood, but the match was left unfinished.

A rather more successful example of insertion occurred in 1874, when Sussex invited Nottinghamshire to bat first at Hove. The decision may have been influenced by the bad weather that washed out the first day, although *Wisden* simply describes the wicket as 'soft', with no suggestion that the conditions had made it a 'sticky'. Be that as it may, Sussex bowled out Notts for 73 and although they then had to face the bowling of both Shaws, Morley and McIntyre still managed a first-innings lead of 51, enough to win them the match by seven wickets. That this was Sussex's only win of the season and occurred entirely against the run of form suggests that perhaps the decision to field first gave Sussex a winning advantage. Haygarth describes the result as 'most unexpected' and states that it 'somewhat retrieved their repeated defeats', but uncharacteristically does not mention the toss.

Derbyshire captain Levi Wright might perhaps have reflected how valuable such an advantage might have been following his county's match with Nottinghamshire in 1907. This fixture pitted the side that would go on to win the County Championship that year against the side that finished last, so it is little wonder that *Wisden* commented that Derbyshire would have needed the best of the luck to have any chance of competing.

There had been a lot of rain before the match, but the rain had stopped and the sun was shining as the match started – perfect conditions, in those days of uncovered pitches, for bowlers to exploit. Wright had the stroke of luck that *Wisden* prescribed when he won the toss, but in *Wisden*'s words he was apparently 'bound to take first innings'. Bound by convention, perhaps, but little else, and even in 1907, this convention was by no means universal. At the same time as Wright was facing his decision, Kent captain Cloudsley Marsham was sending in Gloucestershire at Dover (with slightly less than successful results, it has to be admitted).

Whether Derbyshire would have had the bowling resources to exploit the conditions is another matter, but alas for Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire did, in the persons of Thomas Wass and Albert Hallam, the bowlers of the season and both *Wisden* Cricketers of the Year in the 1908 edition, and it was these bowlers whom Wright, having won the toss, condemned his batsmen to face on a 'sticky' wicket.

With figures of 6-21 and 4-41 respectively, they bowled Derbyshire out in an hour and a half for 78. When Nottinghamshire batted after lunch, the pitch had eased, and Notts went on to win by an innings and 107 runs.

It is tempting to speculate what Nottinghamshire captain Arthur Jones would have done if he had won the toss!

A Declaration of Intent

Nottinghamshire v Surrey, May 30, 31. June 1, 1887. Wisden 1888 p58

As was the case with the previous season's fixtures, the meetings between Surrey and Nottinghamshire in 1887 were among the most eagerly-awaited matches of the season (and the match at The Oval broke all attendance records up to that point). But the match at Trent Bridge also generated some of the most talked-about controversy, and led ultimately to a change in the Laws.

By the start of the final day, Surrey had recovered from a poor start which had reduced them to 27-6 on the first morning. At 157-3, Surrey were 183 ahead but with seven wickets to fall and no provision for a declaration in the Laws, there were questions over whether the side would have the time to force a win.

When 250 was reached for no further loss, 'the Nottingham men looked forward to an almost certain drawn game'. So Surrey captain John Shuter gave orders that the remaining batsmen were to sacrifice their wickets, which they duly did, but, in *Wisden*'s words, 'in a terribly clumsy fashion'.

Walter Read was caught in the long field going for his hundred, but two others hit their wickets and a further two were stumped by the obliging Nottinghamshire wicket-keeper Mordecai Sherwin (who was also captaining his side). Six wickets fell for 25 runs and Nottinghamshire were batting before lunch. Even so, at quarter to six Nottinghamshire were only 133-6, still in with a chance of saving the game, and it was only when George Gunn was given out lbw that Surrey managed to take control of the match. Surrey's victory set them on the road to winning the County Championship, a success they were to repeat over the following five seasons.

Time and again the issue surfaced during 1887, often in the most important fixtures. When Nottinghamshire met Middlesex at Trent Bridge, they spent two days compiling the season's highest score, 596, but in so doing left themselves insufficient time to bowl out the opposition twice, and *Wisden* comments that 'the long score of Notts precluded any chance of bringing the game to a definite issue'.

They seemed to have learned their lesson ten days later when they met Sussex. After they had started the final day almost 300 ahead with seven wickets in hand, the captain, Mordecai Sherwin, instructed the last few batsmen to throw their wickets away. The scorecard reveals that the last three men were out stumped, bowled and hit wicket (this last being Sherwin himself, practising what he had preached). In so doing they gave themselves just under four hours to win the match, and won a crushing victory just before six o'clock on the final afternoon.

though Surrey's attempts to throw away wickets at Trent Bridge were so obvious, and hence Surrey's intent clear, Nottinghamshire had made no effort to thwart their attempts.

Similarly Sussex when they met Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge. But when Surrey met Sussex at The Oval at the end of the season, things were slightly different.

On the third afternoon Surrey had a lead of over 250 when the eighth wicket fell, with the pitch starting to behave treacherously, so *Wisden* records that the last Surrey batsmen were under orders to hit out and get out. However, Tom Bowley's efforts to get himself stumped were so blatant, and the disadvantage to Sussex of going in to bat again so clear, that the Sussex wicketkeeper made no attempt to dismiss him.

Wisden describes the ensuing passage of play as 'farcical', as George Bean bowled no-balls, trying not to dismiss the batsmen, while the batsmen tried to get themselves out. In the end Bowley hit his own wicket, which *Wisden* says he should have done earlier, although if the bowler was bowling no-balls this would have been of no use.

When Surrey were finally dismissed, only an hour and twenty minutes were left to play, and this was not quite sufficient to bowl Sussex out; the match was left drawn with Sussex 61-7, all seven wickets having fallen to Lohmann for 34 runs.

An intriguing reference in Surrey's match against Lancashire suggests that their batsmen were not always as clumsy in their attempts to get out. *Wisden* records that while against Notts the batsmen had undisguisedly tried to throw their wickets away, on this occasion 'it was stated that the Southern batsmen all tried to make runs.'

Nonetheless, Surrey subsided from 525-4 to 557 all out, which the Almanack describes as 'curious'. It seems that perhaps the Surrey batsmen were learning to be subtle in their approach, although as events against Sussex showed, this was not always successful.

It was situations such as this that in 1889 led to a change in the Laws to allow declarations (albeit initially only on the third day, or at any point in a one-day match). A symposium in the 1890 *Wisden* asked a range of cricketers, amateur and professional, if they were in favour of the new 'closure' rule. Most appeared decidedly in favour, with the notable exception of W.G. Grace, who argued that 'it may lead to disagreement'. He did not clarify further, and one wonders what kind of disagreement he had in mind and how it would have been worse than the kind of scene witnessed at The Oval in 1887.

A separate issue, but one leading to similar behaviour, was that of the follow-on rule, which in its earliest incarnation stipulated

a compulsory follow-on in the event of an eighty-run deficit on first innings. In the 1893 University match Oxford were on 98-9, eight runs short of avoiding the follow-on target.

The two Oxford batsmen consulted in the middle and seem to have decided that it would be to Oxford's advantage to follow-on and thus condemn Cambridge to bat last. However, the Cambridge bowler C.M. Wells understood the tactic and agreed with his opponents' conclusions. He therefore delivered two wides that went for four, thus ensuring that his side would bat next. Oxford, batting last, were dismissed for 64 and Cambridge won by 266 runs.

Wisden remarked tolerantly that the matter was treated too seriously and that all players 'were actuated entirely by the desire to do the best thing possible for their side' (an argument that could be used to justify all manner of things!).

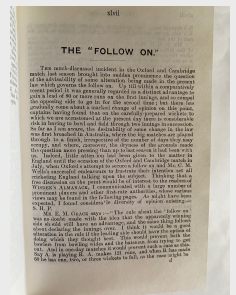
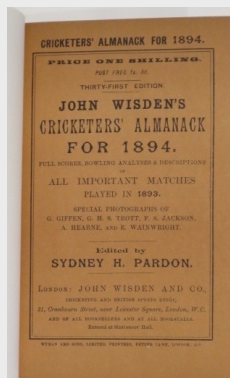
A symposium in the 1894 *Wisden* discussed the topic of the follow-on in some detail, with many leading figures giving very firm views. Although the views varied widely, there were few who favoured retaining the system as it existed, a surprising exception being John Shuter, captain of Surrey and one who no doubt would have instructed his bowlers to give runs away if he did not believe it to be in Surrey's interests to make his opponents follow-on.

Many drew a parallel between the toss and the follow-on, arguing that a side that had already gained an advantage through winning the toss (assuming it had decided to bat) should not be given the further advantage of deciding whether or not to make its opponents follow their innings.

Also surprising is the number of respondents who draw a direct parallel with the closure rule and conclude that with captains now being allowed to declare, the need for, or benefit from, the follow-on was therefore reduced - yet that two seem to operate in very different circumstances, for all that the attempts to evade the Laws led to very similar practices, which Robert Thoms referred to as 'unseemly play'. Three years later the Laws had been amended so that the follow-on total was now 120, not 80, but it remained compulsory and in *Wisden*'s words, 'it was easy to foresee' that there would be a repetition of the problems of 1893.

It is curious, however, that the repetition should have occurred in the Varsity match and that three years on, history seems almost to have repeated itself. Under instructions from his captain, Frank Mitchell, Cambridge bowler Eustace Shine delivered three balls to the boundary to ensure that Oxford, nine wickets down and 131 behind, would not follow on.

The result was a significant display of hostility towards the Cambridge team as they left the field, which became worse, according to *Wisden*, as they entered the Pavilion, 'scores of



members of the [sic] M.C.C. protesting in the most vigorous fashion'. *Wisden* is once again tolerantly pragmatic in its approach, describing the protests as 'illogical and uncalled for'. In the view of the *Wisden* correspondent, it was the Laws that were at fault, being 'ill-adapted to modern cricket', and Mitchell was 'quite entitled, in the interests of his side, to take the course he did.' Be that as it may, the Cambridge players seem to have been unsettled by the incident, collapsing to 61-6, and although they were rescued by Nigel Druce, Oxford went on to win the match, scoring 330-6 in the fourth innings to gain victory by four wickets.

From a modern perspective, *Wisden's* attitude seems the right one, and the attitudes of the (possibly Oxford-educated) MCC members absurd: why should Cambridge have striven to take that last wicket when it could have disadvantaged them? (*Wisden* does not say so, but it is not beyond the realms of possibility that the last Oxford batsman would have thrown his wicket away if given the opportunity.)

While the image of bowling sides trying not to take wickets and batting sides trying to get out is always going to be unappealing and uncomfortably reminiscent of accounts of allegedly fixed matches in the early nineteenth century, it does seem to be that on this occasion, as *Wisden* says, it was the Laws and not the players (of either side) that were at fault.

Before the Golden Age

Nottinghamshire v Yorkshire, Trent Bridge, June 16, 17, 18, 1887, Wisden 1888 p60

It is easy to be romantic about the quality of Victorian cricket - debonair amateurs striving for victory from the first ball, always willing to hit hard and watched by large crowds. The reality was sometimes different, of course. In the late 1880s the Nottingham eleven, the strongest in the country between 1883 and 1886, had acquired something of a reputations for slow play characterised by excessive use of pads. Arthur Shrewsbury was the pioneer of this method, but others also played a quiet game, for example William Scotton, and in 1884 the magazine *Cricket* was moved to write a pastiche of Tennyson's famous poem, in exasperation at Scotton's emphasis on defence:

*Break, break, break,
At the foot of thy wickets, O Scotton,
And I would that my tongue could utter my boredom,
You won't put the pot on!*

John Selby's benefit match against Yorkshire in 1887 provides a good example of this. On the opening day 200 four-ball overs were bowled - the equivalent of 130 overs today - in which Yorkshire scored 219. Louis Hall took over three hours to score 36. The second day was even worse, play lasting forty minutes

longer and only 216 runs being scored; Scotton matched Hall by scoring 32 in three hours. The final day, with no result in prospect, produced cricket 'of a most languid description', and altogether the three days produced 702 runs (less than the Australians made in a day against Essex in 1948!).

Such play is hardly likely to bring the crowds flocking, and Selby's benefit was not a huge success, although as he had a 'fair subscription list', he fared better than might have been expected.

Relatively sparse crowds were something of an issue for Notts in the late 1880s, and while as Champions Nottinghamshire were a crowd-puller away from home, on their own grounds they were not so popular. *Wisden* complains that with the exception of the first match against Surrey, there were never more than about 3,000 on the ground at any one time. While this would be reckoned a bumper crowd for a County Championship match today, the match at the Oval between Surrey and Nottinghamshire in 1887 drew a crowd of 24,450 on the first day alone.

By contrast, Selby's benefit match had an average attendance of 2,000 per day, and while it seems likely that the crowds would not have been great anyway, undoubtedly the slow play and lack of prospect of a finish will have deterred some spectators.

The Spirit of Cricket (1)

Surrey v Kent, The Oval, August 22, 23, 24 1887, Wisden 1888 p 30

A closely-contested match between the season's (unofficial) County Champions and a Kent side at full strength eventually ended in a draw, but not before an incident occurred that in other contexts could have caused fears of a riot or given rise to a legend.

After being 120 behind on first innings, Surrey pulled the match round thanks to splendid innings by a pair of amateurs (and hence 'gentlemen'), Kingsmill Key and Walter Read. However, there was then something of a collapse, so that on the final afternoon Kent were set 224 to win in three and three-quarter hours. Within a short period they had subsided to 20-3, two batsmen having been bowled by Lohmann and a third run out in circumstances described by *Wisden* as 'unsatisfactory'. William Patterson had played a ball to point and, apparently in the expectation that the fielder would return the ball to the bowler, left his crease. However, the fielder, Walter Read, instead threw the ball to the Surrey wicket-keeper, who removed the bails to run out Patterson.

Although *Wisden* describes the dismissal as fair, there is a strong sense that it was 'not quite cricket'. Interestingly, part of *Wisden's* concern seems to be that 'so good a batsman' should have been dismissed in such a way. It is unclear if this

was because it deprived spectators of his batting, or because it suggested Surrey ruthlessness in the pursuit of victory, or because such behaviour was not expected of a 'gentleman'.

Dismissal of a batsman who has naively left his crease is not uncommon and seldom uncontroversial. In another more famous match at The Oval almost exactly five years earlier, W.G. Grace, another 'gentleman', ran out Sammy Jones when he left his crease thinking the ball was dead. The incident caused the Australians what *Wisden* laconically describes as 'great dissatisfaction'; Fred Spofforth was reportedly so incensed that his anger arguably bowled Australia to victory and gave birth to the myth of the Ashes.

Almost a hundred years later, Tony Greig ran out Alvin Kallicharan as he was walking off at the end of a day's play in the West Indies, and sparked concerns that the crowds might riot. More recently, the run-out of Ian Bell at Trent Bridge in 2011 was perfectly within the Laws, but was widely felt to be against the spirit of the game.

It is interesting to note that the Trent Bridge and Port-of-Spain examples were both withdrawn and the batsman reinstated, whereas in the Victorian age, both appeals were allowed to stand. Possibly this was because the modern examples both took place before intervals that allowed time for calm reflection and permitted the withdrawal of the appeal, whereas the Victorian examples did not.

The Spirit of Cricket (2)

Surrey v Sussex, The Oval, August 29, 30, 31 1887, Wisden 1888 p32

Surrey's next home match after this controversy contained another example of acts that in more highly publicised contexts led to widespread debate and condemnation. On the third afternoon Surrey had a lead of over 250 when the eighth wicket fell, with the pitch starting to behave treacherously.

A declaration was not allowed in those days, so *Wisden* records that the last Surrey batsmen were under orders to hit out and get out. However, Tom Bowley interpreted his instructions rather loosely, trying instead to get himself stumped. His efforts were so blatant, and the disadvantage to Sussex of going in to bat again so clear, that the Sussex wicketkeeper made no attempt to dismiss him. *Wisden* describes the ensuing passage of play as 'farcical', as George Bean bowled no-balls, trying not to dismiss the batsman, while the batsmen tried to get themselves out.

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Laws to allow declarations (albeit initially only on the third day).

Similar situations arose in two Varsity matches in the 1890s, although the context in each case was the follow-on, not a declaration. In 1893 Oxford were on 98-9, eight runs short of avoiding what was then a compulsory follow-on target. The two Oxford batsmen consulted in the middle and seem to have decided that it would be to Oxford's advantage to follow-on and thus condemn Cambridge to bat last. However, the Cambridge bowler C.M. Wells understood the tactic and agreed with his opponents' conclusions. He therefore delivered two wides that went for four, thus ensuring that his side would bat next. Oxford, batting last, were dismissed for 64 and Cambridge won by 266 runs. *Wisden* remarked tolerantly that the matter was treated too seriously and that all players 'were actuated entirely by the desire to do the best thing possible for their side' (an argument that could be used to justify all manner of things!).

Three years later the Laws had been amended so that the follow-on total was now 120, not 80, but it remained compulsory and in *Wisden's* words, 'it was easy to foresee' that there would be a repetition of the problems of 1893. It is curious, however, that the scenario in the 1893 Varsity match should have been so nearly replicated. Instructed by his captain, Frank Mitchell, Cambridge bowler Eustace Shine delivered three balls to the boundary to ensure that Oxford, nine wickets down and 131 behind, would not follow on.

The result was a significant display of hostility towards the Cambridge team as they left the field, which became worse, according to *Wisden*, as they entered the Pavilion, 'scores of members of the [sic] M.C.C. protesting in the most vigorous fashion'. *Wisden* is once again tolerantly pragmatic in its approach, describing the protests as 'illogical and uncalled for'. In the view of the *Wisden* correspondent, it was the Laws that were at fault, being 'ill-adapted to modern cricket', and Mitchell was 'quite entitled, in the interests of his side, to take the course he did.' Be that as it may, the Cambridge players seem to have been unsettled by the incident, collapsing to 61-6, and although they were rescued by Nigel Druce, Oxford went on to win the match, scoring 330-6 in the fourth innings to gain victory by four wickets.

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While the image of bowling sides trying not to take wickets and batting sides trying to get out is always going to be unappealing and uncomfortably reminiscent of some of the fixed matches of the early nineteenth century, it does seem to be that on this occasion, as *Wisden* says, it was the Laws and not the players (of either side) that were at fault.

Ancestral Voices

Oxford University v Australians, The Parks, Oxford, May 1890.

The first first-class match of Oxford's 1890 season was against the Australian tourists, a fact that *Wisden* remarks on as the university had had no time 'to get their team into working order'. Not that the Australians had had things all their own way on the tour up to that point: their previous game, unusually at Westbury in Wiltshire, had resulted in a heavy defeat to a scratch side raised by local dignitary W.H.Laverton.

In the early stages of the game the university more than held its own. At 98-9, the Australians were struggling, and there was then a chance to run out the new batsman, C.T.B.Turner, who according to *Wisden* had yet to score. The chance was missed, Turner went on to score 59 and the last two wickets added 138; Oxford went on to lose by an innings.

The guilty fielder, named twice in *Wisden's* fairly brief match report, was one M.R.Jardine. One wonders how his son, Douglas Jardine, would have reacted to such an error. According to a contemporary at Winchester, quoted in Christopher Douglas's *Spartan Cricketer*, Jardine took a hard line on poor fielding. He 'was so scathing if [the team] made any mistakes that he had them all in a twitter of nerves. One poor man missed a catch ... and the man he missed went on to score a century.... For the rest of his career he never heard the end of it...' After one house match in 1919, which ended in a tie, Jardine put up a notice castigating those whose fielding errors had, he believed, cost his side the match (although he later apologised for this action).

Possibly Jardine senior instilled into his son the importance of good fielding as a result of his chastening experience at The Parks in 1890. I am not aware of any evidence, however, that the incident led to a desire on the part of Jardine junior to restore this blot on the family escutcheon in the form of victory over Australia!

 Young Championship Aspirants

Somerset v Surrey, Taunton, 13, 14, 15 August 1891; Yorkshire v Somerset, Bradford, 6, 7 August 1891, Wisden 1892 pp93 and 146

Somerset, invited to join the County Championship in 1891 after performing strongly in second-class county cricket in 1890, proved ungrateful guests. During their first season they achieved notable victories against both Surrey and Yorkshire. (They did, however, lose heavily to Lancashire in both games; see also the entry for 1894.)

When Somerset met Surrey at Taunton in August, Surrey were unbeaten in the Championship, and *Wisden* makes the point that Middlesex, the only other first-class county to defeat Surrey that year, did so with the aid of the weather. By contrast, Somerset's match was played out on a perfect pitch, in fine weather, in front of the biggest crowds ever seen at Taunton.

Wisden devotes more than a page to its match report, the bulk of it to the exciting third day, which began early to allow for a finish at 5.30. Somerset will have been glad that the playing hours were not curtailed, for after a well-judged declaration by Hewett, Somerset took the last wicket almost on the stroke of time.

Sammy Woods, the Australian all-rounder who was studying at Cambridge, as so often played a large part in the victory, with nine wickets including the crucial one of Maurice Read, bowled for 94 'with a fine ball' with ten minutes to go, and last man Sharpe with minutes to spare. But it was very much a team effort too, with important contributions from L.Palaret, Hewett and Nichols, and useful scores from others. As for Surrey, they will have wondered how they contrived to lose the match: with five wickets to fall they had only half an hour to go, but Key and Brockwell seem to have got themselves out to 'wretched strokes'.

For the return match against Somerset, Yorkshire lacked the services of Lord Hawke and F.S.Jackson, while *Wisden* states that Somerset fielded 'an exceptionally strong side'. The star in that eleven was again Sammy Woods. As well as taking 11-121, he scored 50 in the first innings and according to *Wisden* it was his 'determined hitting' that enabled Somerset to achieve a first-innings lead. *Wisden* notes that 'it would be difficult to over-estimate his immense value to the side.' It was his bowling in the Yorkshire second innings that was largely responsible for their being dismissed for 114, ensuring that Somerset had only a small total to chase.

Defeats such as this and several others meant that Yorkshire finished second-to-last in the County Championship that year. The form of the county side was clearly causing concern, and losing to 'a young aspirant to championship honours like Somerset' rankled, although as I hope the above shows, defeat to Somerset was in fact no disgrace. *Wisden's* review of the season bemoans the 'moderate quality of the new blood which has been infused into the Yorkshire team of recent years.... no great cricketer has arisen fit to compare with George Ulyett or Robert Peel.' Complaining that, for example, one F.S. Jackson had not 'realised the expectations which had been formed', *Wisden* goes on to say that 'It cannot be said that the outlook is at all hopeful.'

Which just goes to show how wrong pessimists can sometimes be. Only two years later Yorkshire were County Champions and had the nucleus of a side that was to prove dominant over the coming years. Several of the players who had been considered so poor in quality were now integral parts of this winning team (for example Brown and Tunnicliffe), while the grim outlook had wholly failed to spot the remarkable talents of George Hirst, who made his debut in the first match against Somerset in 1891 (won comfortably by Yorkshire). In fact *Wisden* took so little notice of Hirst that in the averages for the 1891 season he was listed as Mr. E.T.Hirst, an amateur who had made occasional appearances for Yorkshire in the 1870s and 1880s but had not played for the side since 1888.

Critical errors

Lancashire v Essex, Old Trafford, July 1,2,3 1897, Wisden 1898 p14

This match pitted the year's eventual Champions, an established county side with a distinguished history, against one of the newcomers of 1895 who were more than justifying their promotion with a series of fine performances.

Essex had already beaten Yorkshire, the previous year's Champions, and held their own against Surrey at The Oval, while later in the season they were to complete the double over Yorkshire and also defeated Lancashire at Leyton. *Wisden* describes this match as 'one of the finest of the Manchester season' and up to a point it was very evenly contested. Essex had a first-innings lead of 43, thanks to 5-28 from Charles Kortright (Pictured, below. *Wisden*, obituary, right), but with a century from Albert Ward, Lancashire made 297 in their second innings, setting Essex 255 to win.

It is at this point that controversy creeps in. *Wisden* observes that criticism of umpires 'is as a rule a thing to be carefully avoided', but goes on to say that an exception may be made in this instance, which suggests that some 'howlers' were committed. According to *Wisden*, two or three of the Essex batsmen (an imprecise statement, probably meaning at least three!) were victims of mistakes. It does not give any further details in the match report, but in the review of the Essex season, the point is made that 'on the admission of their opponents', Essex were very unlucky in the umpiring.



The acknowledgement from Lancashire that the umpiring was at fault is a remarkable statement. According to Charles Sale's biography of Kortright, the three unlucky batsmen were Carpenter (c Tyldesley b Cuttall), Perrin (c&b Briggs) and Owen (c Smith b Briggs). This is likely to be true, as all the remaining batsmen were bowled.

So did the Lancashire fielders appeal for dubious catches?

Sale quotes Kortright, writing around this time, as follows: 'I only regret that some counties go out of their way to deceive umpires. A preconceived agreement to unanimously appeal without cause often leads to the umpire being confused and giving the batsmen out.' Some would have us believe that this is a modern phenomenon, but as the writer of *Ecclesiastes* stated, some years before this match, 'there is nothing new under the sun'. However, it is worth noting that this was by no means the only time the Essex side of the 1890s found umpiring to their distaste. The following year, the match with Gloucestershire at Leyton was 'marred by ill-feeling', Essex 'complaining

bitterly of more than one decision'.

Whatever the truth of the matter, Lancashire's 66-run victory was crucial in the County Championship that year. Without that win over Essex, Lancashire would not have been Champions, and the title would have gone to Essex, 82 years earlier than their first title in 1979.

KORTRIGHT, MR. CHARLES JESSE, the old Essex cricketer and probably the fastest bowler in the history of the game, died at his Brentwood home on December 12, aged 81.

He played county cricket from 1889 to 1907 and was contemporary with such other noted fast bowlers as Knox and Richardson of Surrey and Brearley and Mold of Lancashire. Kortright who also played for Free Foresters never appeared in a Test Match, but he accomplished many fine feats and William Gunn, the famous Nottinghamshire batsman, said after Kortright had bowled him in a Gentlemen v. Players match at Lord's that the ball which beat him was a yard faster than any he had ever played against. The late Sir Stanley Jackson in an article in the 1944 edition of *Wisden* on The Best Fast Bowler wrote, Kortright was generally regarded as the fastest bowler of his time in this country. Not only was he a very fast bowler, but also a very good one.

Against Surrey at Leyton in 1895 he took six wickets, including those of Hayward, Abel and Lohmann, for four runs. In another game against Surrey, at Leyton in 1893, he dismissed thirteen men for 64 runs. Another splendid achievement was his eight for 57 against the powerful Yorkshire batting side of 1990 at Leyton. In 1893, also at Leyton, he and Walter Mead bowled unchanged through both completed Surrey innings.

A man of splendid physique, standing six feet and possessing abundant stamina, Kortright took a long run and hurled the ball down at a great pace. He was fond of recounting the tale of a club match at Wallingford where, so he declared, he bowled a ball which rose almost straight and went out of the ground without a second bounce. This, he asserted, made him the first man to bowl a six in byes! He also claimed to have bowled Brockwell of Surrey with a yorker which rebounded from the bottom of the stumps and went back past Kortright almost to the boundary. With the bat, Kortright was at times an effective hitter. Against Hampshire at Southampton in 1891 he scored 158 in an hour and three-quarters, and he hit 131 out of 166 off Middlesex at Leyton in 1890.

In later life Kortright turned his sporting activities mainly to golf, and he was for many years a devoted and popular member of the Thorndon Park club in Essex. He always retained the keenest interest in cricket and was a vice-president of the Essex County Club, at whose matches he was frequently to be seen until recent years.

When interviewed for *Wisden* of 1948, Kortright advocated plenty of hard work in practice as the secret of producing a fast bowler, and he deprecated the modern cults of swing and spin. He believed that length and direction at the stumps should be the aim of fast bowlers, with much more use than seen to-day of the yorker, especially against newly-arrived batsmen. He also stressed the need for good fielding and its effect in encouraging the bowler to give of his best. Kortright did not agree that present-day pitches were less favourable to fast bowlers than those of his playing days, and pointed out that the bowler of to-day enjoyed such advantages as a slightly smaller ball, wider crease, bigger stumps, and an l.b.w. law allowing a batsman to be given out to a ball pitching outside the off stump.

Wisden Obituary, 1952

Baldwin's Benefit

Hampshire v Yorkshire, Southampton, May 27 1898, Wisden 1899 p195

1898 was a difficult year for Hampshire, with some of their key players out of form and some of their amateurs – mostly Army officers – unavailable (a situation that was not going to improve with the Boer War just around the corner). This included the captain, Major Teddy Wynyard, who according to *Wisden* did not always choose to play for the county even when available, a fact that seems to have occasioned a certain amount of friction within the side.

One of the lowest points of the season was the match against Yorkshire, which had been allocated to off-spinner Harry Baldwin for his benefit (he was the first Hampshire player to receive this recognition). All the Army officers were away – Wynyard, Major Poore, Captain Quinton, H.W.Studd – the conditions treacherous, and in Schofield Haigh Yorkshire possessed a player fully able to exploit the wet pitch. After the first day was washed out, Hampshire were dismissed twice on the second day for a combined total of 78, with Haigh taking 14-43 in the match. Only one Hampshire batsman, D.A.Steele, reached double figures in either innings, and *Wisden* says that he had a let-off. Baldwin, batting at number ten, managed six in the first innings (one wonders if this included the beneficiary's 'one off the mark') but nought in the second.

By contrast, the Hampshire bowling seems to have been relatively innocuous, and although Baldwin took 4-37, these figures scarcely bear comparison with those of Haigh. *Wisden* comments that at this stage of the season Baldwin was 'of little use' and notes that he was left out of the side for three matches, although he did return later to take 35 wickets in the last four matches of the season.

Having been with the club since 1877, Baldwin was now something of a veteran, although as Hampshire had for most of his career been a second-class county, his first-class career was relatively short. Indeed, his Hampshire first-class record on *CricketArchive* leaps straight from a match in 1877 to one in 1895, a curious entry which reflects Hampshire's rather erratic past. Baldwin continued to play for Hampshire until 1905 when he was nearly 45, although he played no matches in 1902 or 1903.

With play taking place on only one day, Baldwin's benefit was a complete failure, although there was some back-up in the subscription list. This was something of an occupational hazard for professional cricketers in those days, and Baldwin was far from alone in his misfortune. Two other players, George Hearne and William Attewell, had their benefits on the same day as Baldwin, and suffered similarly; there was play only on the Bank Holiday Monday between Middlesex and Somerset, while between Nottinghamshire and Surrey at Trent Bridge play on the Monday and Tuesday was badly interrupted and abandoned altogether on the Wednesday. *Cricket* ruefully noted, 'Even in a dry season there seems a sort of fatality about benefit matches, and about half of them are spoiled by rain.'

The Big Fours

MCC v Australians, Lord's, July 31, August 1 and 2, 1899; Wisden 1900, p294

One of the most famous strokes in cricket history - certainly one of the game's mightiest blows - is the hit over the Lord's pavilion by A E Trott in 1899. *Wisden*, alas, is distressingly silent on the subject: the account of the game in the 1900 edition makes no mention of the feat, and Trott is recorded simply as *c Darling b Noble 41*. Indeed, the writer makes a point of commenting on the success of Noble as a bowler.

But then the pavilion was then little more than ten years old and perhaps the significance of the feat did not register in the mind of the *Wisden* correspondent. Had he known that 115 years later the feat would still remain unique, he might have taken a different tack.

What is perhaps even more surprising is that the feat very nearly was not unique in Trott's own innings that day. When he was reading Clem Hill's *Reminiscences* for a review in the ACS journal a few years ago, Roger Heavens was surprised to discover that Hill relates how Trott 'hit Monty Noble *on to the top seat of the members' pavilion*.' Clearly this implies that the ball did not clear the building as we have always been led to believe.

Hill makes no mention of a shot going right over the top. Does this mean that there is some doubt about the hit? I think not. *Cricket*: for 3 August 1899 records that Trott '...drove a ball which pitched on the seats in the top gallery of the pavilion ...' – evidently the stroke referred to by Clem Hill. However, *Cricket* continues: 'But a minute or two afterwards he hit Noble straight over the top of the pavilion, a feat which had never been accomplished at Lord's.'

Clearly there were two enormous hits that day, and Trott came close to performing twice in the space of a few minutes what no other man has accomplished even once in some 125 years. Quite why Clem Hill chose to record the smaller hit while ignoring the larger one is a mystery, however. According to the *Daily Telegraph* report of the day's play, the earlier blow struck by Trott was what prompted Noble to be put on to bowl, presumably to curb the hitting, in which case the outcome is highly ironic.

It is also interesting to note that a few weeks earlier, playing for MCC against Sussex, Trott had hit a ball from Fred Tate into the MCC coat-of-arms on top of one of the towers at the pinnacle of the Lord's pavilion – potentially a much bigger hit than the one against the Australians. It is generally stated that the hit scored only four, because (in *Wisden's* words) 'it struck a chimney pot and fell behind the building'.

In fact, having hit the rear roof of the building (according to E.H.D.Sewell), it came to rest in the garden of the dressing-room attendant, Philip Need, and it is a moot point whether this was in the ground or out of it.

Two Notable Obituaries from *Wisden*

To conclude this selection of articles from *Leaves From The Past* I thought the following two obituaries from the pages of *Wisden*, and players who have been mentioned in Richard's articles, may be of interest to readers. Some of you may own the *Wisdens* they appear in or you may have seen these obituaries previously, but they deserve to be reproduced here.

Back in 2012 I came across (wearing my *Wisdenworld* hat) an 1890 *Wisden* that I placed on the website. Whether it was tiredness or incompetence I did not notice the signature on an inside page, that of George Lohmann. The discovery led me to take a look at his career and sadly, his early death.

The obituary captures something of the man and an awful lot of the player.

The Bosanquet story is a fascinating one and again, his obituary is a rich recollection of the man. The inventor of the 'googly' entrepreneur and father of Reginald, who later found his own fame on the ITV news service.

I hope you enjoy both and I am grateful to John *Wisden* & Co Limited for allowing their inclusion.

Wisden 1902

George Lohmann

To those who saw him during the tour of the South African cricketers in the past summer - he was assistant manager to the team - the news of George Lohmann's death did not come as a great surprise. He was obviously broken in health, and the mere shadow of his old self.



The fact of his dying of consumption affords strong evidence that his recovery from the illness which attacked him after the season of 1892 was only partial. Still, for the time he seemed fairly robust, and it will be remembered that when he came back from Matjesfontein in 1895, and again in 1896, he bowled with much of his old skill. Indeed, in 1896

he played for England at Lord's, and helped Richardson to get the Australians out for 53. Towards the end of the same season an unhappy quarrel with the Surrey Club brought his career in first-class cricket to a close, but into that matter there is no need to enter.

Born in June, 1865, he was only in his thirty-seventh year. He first played for Surrey in 1884, and did enough to convince good judges - W. G. Grace among the number - that an all-round cricketer of no ordinary promise had come forward. In 1885 he jumped at once to the top of the tree as a bowler, and at the top he remained without ever looking back, till his health first gave way.

The great part of his career covered eight seasons in this country - 1885 to 1892 inclusive - and during that time he paid three visits to Australia, going out in 1886-87 and

1887-88 with Shaw and Shrewsbury's teams, and in 1891-92 with the side got up by Lord Sheffield. That he crowded too much work into a few years there can scarcely be a doubt. No one played cricket more strenuously or threw himself more completely, heart and soul, into the game.

It is the opinion of Alfred Shaw that he would have lasted longer if his energies had been more confined to his bowling. For a bowler who nearly always had to go on first, whatever side he played for, he got too many runs, and as everyone knows, he was one of the most brilliant and untiring of fieldsmen. If he had not been able to bowl at all, his batting and fielding would have entitled him to a place in any eleven.

He made the position of cover-slip more important than it had ever been before his day, constantly bringing off catches that ordinary men would not even have tried for. In this part of the game he, perhaps, reached his highest point in the England and Australia match at the Oval in 1888. The catch with which he got rid of Alec Bannerman in the first innings of Australia approached the miraculous. It was said at the time that Bannerman talked of nothing else for the rest of the day. Still, it is upon his bowling that his fame will mainly rest.

He was of the school of Spofforth, commanding great variety of pace, and being master of endless devices for getting batsmen out, but he in no way imitated the great Australian's delivery, nor was he able to bowl so fast a ball. All the same, he would hardly have been the bowler he was if Spofforth before him had not shown that the arts of the old slow and fast bowlers could be combined in one person.

On a wicket that afforded him the least help he could get as much off-break as he wanted, and though he wisely did not use the leg-break to any great extent he had it in reserve. To put the matter in a few words, he was a completely equipped bowler, ready to make the most of any advantage that the ground or the weather might give him.

On a perfectly true fast wicket he was not so difficult as Richardson or Lockwood, but even under conditions entirely favourable to batsmen he did many wonderful things. Take him for all in all, he was one of the most striking figures the cricket field has known.

As a match winner we have in this generation had no one greater except W. G. Grace, and, possibly, A. G. Steel. To him more than to anyone else was due the restoration of Surrey to its old place at the head of the counties. - Sydney Herbert Pardon (*Wisden Editor*)

In 'an appreciation of Lohmann as a cricketer,' written by Mr. C. B. Fry, appeared the following admirable description of his method and peculiar qualities as a bowler:

"He made his own style of bowling, and a beautiful style it was - so beautiful that none but a decent cricketer could fully appreciate it. He had a high right-over action, which was naturally easy and free-swinging, but, in his seeking after variations of pace, he introduced into it just a suspicion - a mere suspicion - of laboriousness.

Most people, I believe, considered his action to have been perfect. To the eye it was rhythmical and polished but it cost him, probably, more effort than it appeared to do. His normal pace was medium; he took a run of moderate length, poised himself with a slight uplifting of his high square shoulders, and delivered the ball just before his hand reached the top of its circular swing, and, in the act of delivery, he seemed first to urge forward the upper part of his body in sympathy with his arm, and then allow it to follow through after the ball.

Owing to his naturally high delivery, the ball described a pronounced curve, and dropped rather sooner than the batsman expected. This natural peculiarity he developed assiduously into a very deceptive ball which he appeared to bowl the same pace as the rest, but which he really, as it were, held back, causing the unwary and often the wary to play too soon.

He was a perfect master of the whole art of varying his pace without betraying the variation to the batsman. He ran up and delivered the ball, to all appearances, exactly similarly each time; but one found now that the ball was hanging in the air, now that it was on to one surprisingly soon. He had complete control of his length, and very, very rarely - unless intentionally - dropped a ball too short or too far up. He had a curious power of making one feel a half volley was on its way; but the end was usually a perfect length ball or a yorker. He had that subtle finger power which makes the ball spin, and consequently he could both make the ball break on a biting wicket and make it "nip along quick" on a true one.

He made a practice of using both sides of the wicket on sticky pitches. If he found he was breaking too much, he would change from over to round the wicket, and on fast pitches he soon had a go round the wicket at a batsman who appeared comfortable at the other sort. But he was full

of artifices and subtleties, and he kept on trying them all day, each as persistently as the others, one after another.

With all his skill, he would never have achieved his great feats but for his insistence of purpose. He was what I call a very hostile bowler; he made one feel he was one's deadly enemy, and he used to put many batsmen off their strokes by his masterful and confident manner with the ball. He was by far the most difficult medium-pace bowler I ever played on a good wicket."

Wisden 1937

Bosanquet, Mr. Bernard James Tindall.

Died at his home in Surrey on October 12, the day before the 59th anniversary of his birth. A capable all-round cricketer at Eton and Oxford and also for Middlesex, Bosanquet enjoyed chief claim to fame as the acknowledged inventor of the googly.

In the 1925 issue of *Wisden* there was reproduced an article from *The Morning Post* in which Bosanquet described all about the discovery of what he termed in the heading *The Scapegoat of Cricket*. He wrote, "Poor old googly! It has been subjected to ridicule, abuse, contempt, incredulity, and survived them all.



Deficiencies existing at the present day are attributed to the influence of the googly. If the standard of bowling falls off it is because too many cricketers devote their time to trying to master it..... If batsmen display a marked inability to hit the ball on the off-side or anywhere in front of the wicket and stand in apologetic attitudes before the wicket, it is said that the googly has made it impossible for them to attempt the old aggressive attitude and make the scoring strokes."

"But, after all, what is the googly? It is merely a ball with an ordinary break produced by an extra-ordinary method. It is not difficult to detect, and, once detected, there is no reason why it should not be treated as an ordinary break-back. However, it is not for me to defend it. If I appear too much in the role of the proud parent I ask forgiveness."

As to the birth of the googly, Bosanquet wrote:

"Somewhere about the year 1897 I was playing a game with a tennis ball, known as 'Twisti-Twosti.' The object was to bounce the ball on a table so that your opponent sitting opposite could not catch it... After a little experimenting I managed to pitch the ball which broke in a certain direction; then with more or less the same delivery make the next ball go in the opposite direction! I practised the same thing with a soft ball at 'Stump-cricket.' From this I progressed to the cricket ball..."

"I devoted a great deal of time to practising the googly at

Two Notable Obituaries from *Wisden*

the nets, occasionally in unimportant matches. The first public recognition we obtained was in July, 1900, for Middlesex v. Leicestershire at Lord's. An unfortunate individual (Coe, the left-hander) had made 98 when he was stumped off a fine specimen which bounced four times-- This small beginning marked the start of what came to be termed a revolution in bowling."

"The googly (bowled by a right-hand bowler to a right-hand batsman) is nothing more or less than an ordinary off-break. The method of delivery is the secret of its difficulty, and this merely consisted in turning the wrist over at the moment of delivery far enough to alter the axis of spin, so that a ball which normally delivered would break from leg, breaks from the off."

"A few incidents stand out vividly. The first time it was bowled against the Australians--at Lord's late one evening in 1902-- when I had two overs and saw two very puzzled Australians return to the pavilion. It rained all next day and not one of them tumbled to the fact that it was not an accident."

"The first googly ever bowled in Australia, in March 1903; Trumper batting, having made 40 in about twenty minutes. Two leg-breaks were played beautifully to cover, but the next ball (delivered with a silent prayer) pitching in the same place, saw the same graceful stroke played - and struck the middle stump instead of the bat! W. Gunn stumped when appreciably nearer my wicket than his own! Arthur Shrewsbury complaining that it wasn't fair."

"There are two or three bright patches I can recall. For instance in 1904 when in three consecutive matches I got five wickets in each innings v Yorkshire, six in each v. Nottinghamshire, and seven in each v. Sussex (including Fry and 'Ranji')."

"There was one week in 1905 in which I had eleven wickets v. Sussex at Lord's (and got 100 in each innings; the double feat is still a record); and during the next three days in the first Test match at Nottingham I got eight out of nine wickets which fell in the second innings, the last man being out just before a thunderstorm broke--and even then if Trumper could have hobbled to the wicket it meant a draw!"

"This recalls the fourth Test match at Sydney in March, 1904, in which at one period in the second innings I had six for 12, and then got Noble leg-before and never appealed. The last man was in, and the match won, and there were reasons!"

"There is a good story of Dick Lilley, the best wicket-keeper in a big match we have known. In the Gentlemen and Players match at the Oval in 1904 I got a few wickets in the second innings. Then one of the 'Pros.' came in and said, 'Dick's in next; he's calling us a lot of rabbits; says he can see every ball you bowl. Do try and get him and we'll rag his life

out. Dick came in. I bowled him two overs of leg-breaks then changed my action and bowled another leg-break. Dick played it gracefully to fine leg and it removed his off stump! I can still hear the reception he got in the dressing room." *In that match Bosanquet took 8 wickets (6 in the second innings for 60 runs) and scored 145.*

These performances, described personally, convey some idea of Bosanquet's ability but scarcely do justice to a splendid all-round cricketer.

Quite six feet tall, Bosanquet brought the ball over from a great height so that flight as well as the uncertain break mystified batsmen until a whole side became demoralised. When playing a big innings, Bosanquet in fine upstanding style, put power into his drives and forcing strokes with apparently little effort.

Born on October 13, 1877, Bosanquet was sent to Eton and profited so much by coaching by Maurice Read and William Brockwell, the famous Surrey professionals, that he got his place in the eleven and against Harrow at Lord's in 1896, scored 120. In his second year at Oxford, 1898, he received his Blue from F. H. E. Cunliffe and played three times against Cambridge without doing anything exceptional. In those days he was a useful bowler, medium to fast, and gradually cultivated the leg-break.

Bosanquet played a lot for Middlesex from 1900 to 1908 and made a few appearances for the county subsequently, but did not bowl after 1908. His great year was 1904 when he made 1,405 runs, with an average of 36 and took 132 wickets for less than 22 runs apiece. Twice he put together two separate hundreds in the same match, 136 and 139 against Leicestershire at Lord's in 1900, and 103 and 100 not out against Sussex at Lord's in 1905. This was the match in which he took eleven wickets.

Among his bowling feats besides those in Test matches were:--15 wickets for 65 runs, including nine wickets in one innings, for Oxford against Sussex at Oxford in 1900; 14 wickets for 190 runs for Middlesex against Sussex at Brighton in 1904, and nine wickets in one innings for the M.C.C. against South Africans at Lord's in 1904. Bosanquet took part in six different tours, going to America with P. F. Warner's team in 1898, and with K. S. Ranjitsinhji's team in 1899; to New Zealand and Australia with Lord Hawke's team in 1902-03; to Australia with the M.C.C. team in 1903-04. He captained sides that went to America in 1901 and to the West Indies in 1901-02.

In addition to cricket he represented Oxford University at Hammer Throwing in 1899 and 1900, and at Billiards in 1898 and 1900.