

The Virtual Wisdener

No 3, April 2020.

The Newsletter of the Wisden Collectors' Club

Welcome to VW 3 - the only Virtual Wisdener produced in Buckden during lock-down 2020.

Last Saturday we had a quiz with four of our friends. This is the third time during isolation that we have done this and once you get used to the technology, with its slight delay and overlap in talking it works really well. Two other couples and Lorraine and I each set 10 questions each, not cricket or sport, and out of a possible score of 40 (we couldn't answer our own), I achieved 15. I would have demanded, no, insisted, no threatened legal action, to have a recount, but as Lorraine pointed out to me, with that knowing smile of hers, the fact I was asleep holding onto my 'empty' wine glass at the start of the penultimate round, may have had a slight impact on my overall score. She also told me that after two bottles of red wine I was lamenting the fact no one else in the family drank red wine, but someone must have surreptitiously stolen some from me. Lorraine will also confirm that the word 'surreptitiously' was not used by me, owing to the fact that I had trouble speaking. Being honest, It was nice to relax amongst friends and it is something we all miss doing for real.

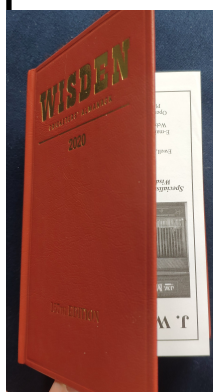
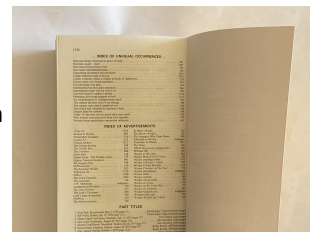
I am demanding a lot of you all and I apologise. Please contact me to enter the quiz..it is a telephone quiz and I will schedule a time to call you and also please have a look below at my ISOLATION CHALLENGE.

From us all, please Keep safe and take care,

Bill (almost sobered up), Lorraine (busy hiding bottles of red wine), Abbey (loves seeing dad 'tipsy') and Libs (definitely with Abs on that)

Each year the almanack throws up an oddity or two and this year is no exception.

To the right you are looking at this years Wisden soft back edition. You can see that it ends on page 1536 - the last three inside pages, including the one for the 'Dust Jackets' offered by Wisdenworld, are lacking. These things happen



To the left is the 2020 Wisden Hardback edition, thank you to WCC members Michael Brown, Alan Kenning and Norman Priest who pointed out that either the insides were printed upside down or it was a cunning optical illusion.

It is only fair to point out that Wisden informed Wisdenworld about the soft back issue in plenty of time before the edition arrived and immediate replacements were issued to the three hardback customers.

Isolation Challenge:

To one and all, a challenge -

Think of the Radio 4 programme, Desert Island Discs. Now I know, some of you might not have heard of it, so here is a simple description. For almost every week for nearly 50 years a different guest has appeared on this radio show and have been asked to choose 8 'songs' or pieces of music, a book and a luxury item that they would take with them, if they were marooned on a desert island.

Your challenge is - Which would be the single Wisden that you would take onto the Desert Island?

In 2015 the Wisden Collectors' Club published a book that consisted of a wonderful selection of members' choices, some examples are on the last page.

But now, please wax lyrical, be as wordy as you wish to be, or as succinct as you wish to be. Please email me with your choice to:

furmedgefamily@btinternet.com or furmedgefamily1864@btinternet.com
whichever address you normally use

Back in 2013 the Wisden reproduced, over four issues, an article written by Murray Hedgcock for Wisden Cricket Monthly in 1992. The article appeared in the December 1992, January, February and March 1993 issues of WCM. Murray - member of the WCC since, has given me permission to reprint it again. Since 2013 our membership has increased five-fold so hopefully older members wont mind seeing it again. The Survival of Wisden Part 2 (of 4) is below.

John Wisden died at the Cranbourn Street premises in 1884. His manager, Henry Luff, took control of the business, as Wisden was unmarried and had no family heir. In 1897 the John Wisden Company acquired its first factory to make its own branded sports goods. The shop had previously sold materials sold by others. This was at Tonbridge, a traditional centre of the cricket ball industry, followed just before the First World War by a second works at 52 Richford Road, West Ham.

It was this factory, presumably outgrown and out of date as demand expanded with the spread of sport in the 1920's, which was replaced by leasing buildings in Fitzgerald Avenue from John Rottman in 1925.

John Wisden and Co Ltd further acquired, in 1920, Duke & Son, whose factory at Penshurst, also in the cricketing county of Kent, was famed for its cricket ball tradition and quality, as well as making top-class bats

In 1924 the *Wisden* range was extended by purchase of a controlling interest in Taylor-Rolph, a major manufacturer of lawn bowls, a company founded around the turn of the century when George Taylor designed a master machine to ensure absolute accuracy in building the essential bias into a lawn bowl. The process remained secret for years. One room at Penshurst after the Second World War was still closed to all but a select group of craftsmen who signed the equivalent of the Official Secrets Act, guaranteeing they would not reveal the process.

Penshurst also housed a 42ft testing table, with a slate bed and green felt cover, like a giant snooker table. Completed bowls were checked on this for bias: an early version was based at Mortlake. Mortlake concentrate don tennis racquets and hockey sticks as well as cricket bats, but cricket balls came primarily from Tonbridge, made by long-serving craftsmen born and bred in the Kentish cricket craft tradition. Head office was set up at Mortlake, while the West End showrooms moved in 1928 to 15 Great Newport Street, round the corner from Cranbourn Street. A plaque on the



wall at No 15 (Pictured, left) records the *Wisden* link.

The *Wisden* company minute-books outline the story of the Mortlake years, but with scant attention to the Fitzgerald Works themselves. The West Ham property had been

sold for £750, the board meeting at No 8 Staple Inn was told on September 24 1925, the minutes recording also that employees at Watford were on strike.

Managing Director of *John Wisden*, G.D. Gooch, reported "progress regarding the impending removal to the factory at Barnes"-a reminder of uncertain boundaries around Fitzgerald Avenue and Priest's Bridge (the immediate area was called Barnes for years, changing to Mortlake between the wars).

Confusion extended to the only instance when the minutes actually recorded the full address of the works-getting it wrong. The record for August 6, 1937 refers to the factory at No 28 Fitzgerald Avenue, where a private house stands today, clearly of Victorian origins!

Certainly Mortlake made cricket equipment before *Wisden*: firms and craftsmen recorded by M.B.Alexander in *The Journal of the Cricket Society* in 1984-84-89 include, back in 1882, Mark Clapshaw, "batmaker", living at The Green, Mortlake.

Two years later, Charles Clapshaw, of similar occupation, was based in Mortlake High Street: five generations of bat-making Clapshaws are listed by Hugh Barty-King in his history of bat and ball makers, *Quilt Winders and Pod Shavers*, starting with the splendidly named Aquila Clapshaw, who held the Royal Warrant as supplier of cricket bats to Prince Albert, Victoria's Prince Consort.

Alexander also notes S.M.Wainwright as a batmaker based at 15 Soho Square, W1 and Fitzgerald Works, Barnes, as well as in Leeds between 1919 and 1925. Possibly his small outer-London plant was taken over by *John Wisden* in that year. (But to confuse the issue, Barty-King says the Wainwright bat firm was bought by the freshly-founded Gray- Nicholls Ltd in 1941)

Minutes suggest the *John Wisden* cricket side ran smoothly enough in the late 1920's, but there was constant concern about tennis, especially ball production, handled by an associated company, The Avon India Rubber company Ltd of Melksham, Wilts, (It also produced grips for bats, hockey sticks, racquets etc, plus football bladders). In 1928, for instance, the directors asked the managing director to make special effort "to increase the sale of tennis balls to Belgian holiday resorts such as Ostend, Zeebrugge, Knocke, etc,"

There is no explanation why this market is significant, but it was important enough for the next meeting to hear Mr Gooch "fully explain the position regarding the supply to the Belgian holiday resorts," and this was "discussed at length. The company was doing well. A dividend of 15% was regularly approved, and staff bonuses paid. But there was a marked

lack of generosity to sales representative H.T.W Hardinge, the Kent all-rounder (Pictured, right), who asked if the company would pay half his expenses to travel to Australia at the same time as Percy Chapman's 1928-29 MCC team. Not only did the board reject his request: it voted that "no leave of absence be granted." Poor Hardinge: a one-Test player and soccer international (he played for Newcastle United, Sheffield United and Arsenal), his services were dispensed with in 1934 when his first-class career ended.

There is an odd entry for the meeting on Feb 18 1929 that printers and bookbinders Hazell Watson & Viney Ltd had suggested *John Wisden & Co Ltd* might be willing to "purchase" *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack*. As the company owned the Almanack, printed by Balding & Mansell, it seems more likely that the enquiry was whether it might be willing to sell, and the secretary got the wording wrong. In any case, it was agreed that no proposal be entertained "if this should involve the alteration of the Almanack in any way, or control changing hands," and the matter appears to have died.

Fitzgerald Works receives a rare and mundane mention in the same minutes-the managing director reporting "certain old sheds at Mortlake were in course of being replaced by new ones costing £500." This was approved.

On May 19, 1930 the managing director was instructed to investigate the possibility of opening a factory in Australia, with special attention to regulations affecting skilled

workmen "it would be necessary to send out." The idea was considered again five months later, but allowed to "stand over"-and suddenly markets were hit by worldwide depression.

Cricket-ball makers went on strike from December 24, 1930, forced to return to work on March 16 of the following year with a 10% cut in their wages as *Wisden*, like all companies, felt the cold blast of

the economic climate.

One sales gimmick was recorded that January: buyers of the top-range *Wisden* Exceller Extra Special bats in April and May would be presented with a copy of *Wisden* "as long as the supply of Almanacks lasts." Did this have any effect on the scarcity of that 1931 edition?

Perhaps the company should have tried softening up the surveyor of Barnes Urban District Council with a gift *Wisden*, for the managing director reported at the same meeting that he was "having trouble" with the officer because machinery was being used in sheds erected at Mortlake in 1928, the original licence being for storage only. "Barnes UDC renewed the licence only to June 30. They will be unable to renew after that date," Mr Gooch reported gloomily. There is no further reference. Whether the surveyor was persuaded otherwise, the machinery was shifted, or work stopped for a while and then resumed, no one knows.

By November 18, 1932 trading difficulties were reported from every country, with "practically no orders being received in Australia, where a big turnover used to be done." The Australians were manufacturing all their own sporting goods, the directors were told. "Extracts were read from different customers in Australia, pointing out the bad position there as regards imported goods." It was to be only a few weeks later that the "imported goods" brought in by one Douglas Jardine were to sour Anglo-Australian relations as the Bodyline series exploded.



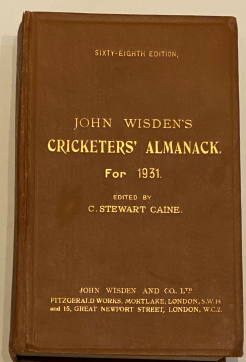
There was more bad news: "There is no doubt in India that a large proportion of the population are still averse to buying British goods. In Argentina, the rate of exchange is very much against the importing of British goods. On the continent, it is difficult, with the exception of Holland and Denmark, to sell there owing to the rate of exchange."

There was soon much more to worry about on May 13, 1935, a section of the minutes in different handwriting to the usual reports a steady fall in sales and "what appears to be the unsatisfactory position of the sales organisation." An outside firm, presumably accountants, was called in to investigate: the managing director took exception to the report presented two months later, and after further concern expressed at rising production costs, a second outside inquiry was commissioned.

On May 6, 1937, the managing director said: "the sports trade had been and still was in a very bad way"-and two directors advised that a change of management or liquidation was essential. Chairman A.E.Tilley referred to "disastrous results of trading" and Gooch was allowed 48 hours to consider the request that he resign as managing director. Four days later the embattled managing director refused to quit, so was given three months notice. F.L. Horabin was appointed as a director for a limited period "to take over and reorganise the management of the business with a view to liquidation."

He was immediately involved with new ideas, reporting on July 20 a proposal for a "pocket *Wisden* at sixpence (the Almanack then cost five shillings in limp cloth and 7/6 in boards) to compete with the annuals produced by News Chronicle and Athletic News." (Nothing more was heard of this until after the war, in 1947, when delayed appearance of the Almanack sparked the suggestion of a half-crown "pocket volume" to be produced in April "as a forerunner to, but not in place of, the Almanack." Again, nothing happened)

Part 3 will be in the next VW



The latest challenge was - Choose your World XI comprising of All-Rounders.

This proved to be a much more difficult task, we had 88 entries and I have chosen a selection. The last one from Mark Kerr had me looking up a couple of players, much to my shame.

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| A: | E: | I: | M: |
| David Ackland | Derek Black | Michael Hannam | Pat Sutcliffe |
| Roy Marshall | Engineer | Tendulkar (Ind), | Benaud |
| Phil Mead | Kallis | Fleming (NZ), | Jayasuriya |
| C B Fry | Richards (sir V) | Richardson (WI), | Jadeja |
| George Brown | Barlow | Inzamam-ul-Haq | Klusener |
| Peter Sainsbury | Sobers | (Pak), | Grace (WG) |
| Nigel Cowley | Wasim Akram | Lehmann (Aus), | Miller |
| Nic Pothas | Stokes | Yuvraj Singh (Ind), | Wasim Akram |
| Gareth Berg | Flintoff | Sarfaraz Ahmed wk | Stokes |
| Kevan James | I Khan | (Pak), | Imran Khan |
| Tim Tremlett | Warne | Starc (Aus), | Watson (S) |
| Malcolm Marshall | Hadlee | Morkel (SA), | Pollock (S) |
| B: | F: | N: | |
| David Bown | Giles Falconer | Don Clarke | |
| E J Barlow | Grace (WG) | Jayasuriya | |
| A J Stewart (wk) | Rhodes | Botham | |
| J N Kallis | Woolley | Richards (sir V) | |
| Mushtaq | Hammond | Kallis | |
| Mohammed | Ames+ | Klusener | |
| M J Procter | Stokes | Sobers | |
| G S Sobers | Botham | Wasim Akram | |
| Shakib Al Hasan | Flintoff | Stokes | |
| Imran Khan (c) | A.W. Greig | Hadlee | |
| I T Botham | Hirst | Gilchrist | |
| Kapil Dev | Titmus | Lindwall | |
| R J Hadlee | G: | O: | |
| C: | Frank Camilleri | Lisa Ferguson | |
| Nick Gillgrass. | Jayasuriya | AJ Stewart | |
| Craig White | Shane Watson | Rhodes | |
| Moeen Ali | Khallis | WG Grace | |
| Alec Stewart | Imran Khan | B D'Oliveira | |
| (wicketkeeper) | Botham | Kallis | |
| Ben Stokes | Gilchrist | Proctor | |
| Ian Botham | Al Hasan | Flintoff | |
| Freddie Flintoff | Ravi Ashwin | Wasim Akram | |
| Tony Greig | S Pollock | S Watson | |
| Basil D'Oliveira | Hadlee | Benaud | |
| Tim Bresnan | Wasim Akram (P) | Hadlee | |
| Ray Illingworth | H: | P: | |
| Phil DeFreitas. | Keith Russell | Mark Kerr | |
| D: | Knott | S Watson | |
| John Lear | Illingworth captain | Gilchrist | |
| Jayasuriya. | Kallis | Waugh (S) | |
| Close. | Sobers | Miller | |
| C. Lloyd. | Botham | Armstrong (W) | |
| D'Oliveira. | Stokes | Noble (Monty) | |
| A W Grieg. | Imran | Benaud | |
| Wasim Akram. | Proctor | Warne | |
| Ray Illingworth | Flintoff | Davidson | |
| Cork. | Kapil Dev | Lindwall | |
| Knott (wk). | Hadlee | | |
| Hadlee. | | | |
| Procter | | | |

Comments on Team selection:

David Ackland (A)

- 'Have you considered contacting Michael Holding for wine supplies: Whispering Death for Whispering Angel?'

Nick Gillgrass (C)

- 'I tried to put together a "post 1970" England Test XI, based on players who have taken 50 Test wickets and scored a Test century, but I could not find enough players, so had to stretch the criteria.'

Frank Camilleri (G)

(On no Stokes and putting Flintoff as 12th man) - 'I tried to spread around a bit Bill. It was Al Hasan or Stokes but I had two Englishman so went for the Bangladeshi. I tell you one thing, I would definitely bring Flintoff in for a series deciding match.'

Michael Hannam (I)

- 'Trying to pass a little time during the isolation period I tried to put together a Test side made up of overseas players who had appeared in any form of the game for my county side, Yorkshire, selecting no more than 3 players from any country. Although they were the last county to introduce overseas players I think that a team can be produced to rival any other side'.

Ian Campbell (L)

- I had to put Sir Viv in, even if he only bowled one over just before lunch'

Lisa Ferguson (O)

- 'All respect to him, but putting Alec Stewart in was like asking Danny Dyer to play the lead in The Godfather remake.'

I have been asked to print the questions from Isolation Quiz 1. Here goes, no prizes but if any of you believe that, on the basis of these, you would like to enter IQ 2- please contact me.

Place in order which of these counties have won the County Championship since 1890 (and Division 1 since the split) the most:

Somerset
Worcestershire
Gloucestershire

Which two counties were runners-up in Division 1 and Division 2 in the 2019 season?

Somerset
Northamptonshire

Bonus Question

In the famous Sand-paper-gate 'Third Test' in March 2018, who was the only batsman to score a century?

Which fast bowler had the nickname of 'Whispering Death'?

In 1992, at the age of 19, who became the first overseas-born player to represent Yorkshire?

Who was the first player to reach 10,000 Test runs?

Steve Smith
Geoffrey Boycott
Sunil Gavaskar
Don Bradman

Guess the Year (sliding scale of points awarded)

5 points - John Edrich made his Test debut for England

4 points - Knight of Essex, Mortimore of Gloucestershire and Pressdee of Glamorgan all completed the double of 1,000 runs and 100 wickets in this season.

3 points - Brian Close, Charlie Griffiths, Rohan Kanhai. Gary Sobers and Conrad Hunte were Wisdens' five cricketers of the year

2 points - Yorkshire Won their 26th county championship title.

1 point - The first Limited-Over tournament began in England, the Knock-Out Competition, which the following year had a sponsor, Gillette. The final was won by Sussex, who defeated Worcestershire by 14 runs.

In January 2006, Andrew Flintoff was presented with the Freedom of which English City?

Blackburn
Bolton
Preston

Bonus Question

In the year 2000 edition of Wisden, a panel of cricket experts named five 'Wisden Cricketers of the Century'
Please name them

What name, apart from a no ball, is given to an illegal delivery that reaches the batsman at around head height without bouncing?

What were the two first innings scores for England Ireland in the July 2019 Test match at Lord's

85 and 207
75 and 217
89 and 197

Who was the leading English run scorer in the 2019 County Championship?

**Thank you to Michael Brown for submitting the following: -
For English fans it makes *interesting* reading.**

An Intriguing poser on all rounders. I share two responses.
First off, Team A: This is from my (anglo-centric) viewpoint -
in batting order:

Kallis
Sobers
Stokes
Greig
Botham
Gilchrist
Ashwin
Flintoff
Kapil Dev
Imran
Hadlee

I then I looked at the **stats only** (using Statsguru) with following conditions and in batting order:

- Matches played after 1 Jan 1970
- More than 500 Test runs
- More than 30 wickets
- Batting average >25
- Bowling average <35

Then from the ~30 players meeting this criteria:

- Rank this list in order of batting average less 2 x bowling average, and select the first 8 [why 2 x? On basis that it's easier to increase batting average by 1 than it is to reduce bowling average by 1, ie I don't want to rule out great bowlers who can also bat a bit, eg Hadlee]
- Select the top 2 openers batting average less 2 x bowling average. Important to have specialist openers in the team if we're, say, playing the equivalent team from Mars

Then, select WK with highest batting average.

This gives us:

Shane Watson - opener AUS
Mohammad Hafeez - opener PAK

Kallis SA

Doug Walters AUS
AB de Villiers (WK) SA

Sobers (c) WI

Mushtaq Mohammad PAK

Imran Khan PAK

Ravi Jadeja IN
Shaun Pollock SA

Hadlee NZ

Only 4 in both lists, in bold. Note - no England players make it on the stats. In my mind, the second list is stronger than the first.

Interestingly, rating very highly under these conditions are the rule-breaking Jayasuriya, Shakab al Hasan and Cronje - the first two of which almost made it into the team based on my criteria.

Michael Brown

In 2015 I posed the question - given the option of just one, 'which' single edition of Wisden would you take onto a desert island. A large number of selections were published in Desert Island Wisden and below are three that I hope you enjoy.

Trent Bridge and Teenage angst

1998 Wisden

In the summer of 1997 I finished my A-levels. My plan had always been to go inter-railing for a month with my mate Ian. The plan back-fired when Ian started going out with Kate just after our exams finished. Kate persuaded Ian to have two weeks in Benidorm rather than a month exploring the delights of Europe with me.

I was so angry with Ian. We had been planning it for nearly a year and he knew I was furious. But secretly I envied him a two-week holiday with the delightful Kate. I suspected then and I knew for sure by the end of the summer that taking me to Trent Bridge for the second day of the England v Australia Fifth Test was an act fuelled by pure guilt. He paid for the tickets and I wasn't going to argue about that.

Australia led the series 2-1; after losing the First Test and drawing the second they had won the next two, but being an optimist I knew with my support winning the next two and regaining the Ashes was a (admittedly, unlikely) possibility. A six Test series against Australia too!

Boy, it was a cracking day! If I had to remember it without looking at the 1998 Wisden I would recall odd little things: the pub near the ground with a sign outside proclaiming 'Free pint if Athers gets a hundred'; the couple who sat directly in front of us for the entire day and never stopped moaning about what a botch-job the builders were doing on their new kitchen; watching a very large bloke in a vest and long khaki shorts carrying two trays of six pints, each tray balanced precariously on a massive forearm, carefully to his mates, then realising he'd come in at the wrong place and watching him struggling against the mid-afternoon sun to find out where they actually where.

The cricket! Australia had reached 300 for 3 the day before but England fought back, and although Wisden tells me that the two Hollioake brothers bowled in tandem against the Waugh brothers, I don't remember that. The fact that it was such a momentous occurrence has long since been removed from my memory bank.

Australia did bat fluently and even though England chipped away, I remember thinking that it looked so easy for them. I do recall Atherton being warmly cheered for every run he scored when England began the reply to the Aussies scoring 427 and the huge disappointment when he was out. England started well and then struggled, and the last session was spent hoping that Thorpe and Adam Hollioake could survive.

Reading through the match report in Wisden jolts my memory. Atherton was under tremendous pressure; the Aussies were a rampant domineering side and England had lost their most potent bowler (Gough) for the match.

I would take the 1998 on my desert island for all the memories tied up with that day at the Test; for the summer that I finished my A-levels; for not going inter-railing; and for having all day to worry if I would get the grades I needed to go to university.

Kate and Ian went to Benidorm, and according to Ian, Kate spent most of the holiday sunbathing. What Ian didn't realise when he ditched inter-railing was that her parents and her 13-year-old brother were also joining them on holiday.

John Parkinson

You never forget your first!

1960 Wisden

As with so many things in life, you never forget your first. Mine was the 1960 hardback edition, bought as a Christmas present. I treasured it (I still treasure it). It told me about games that I hadn't seen, in places that I hadn't been to, involving players that I hadn't heard of. Page 893 told me that a Pakistani batsman named Hanif Mohammed had made 499 in a single innings.

I read in detail about the games in the English season and how Yorkshire had ended Surrey's run of 7 Championships and I imagined being at Lord's, The Oval, Worcester.... I read about the 1959 Test Series, in which England beat India 5-0, a series described as "a disappointment for the team as well as the British public". And at other times I dipped in to the records, to the laws of the game (which encouraged me to take up umpiring), the obituaries and the Editor's notes.

I have collected many Wisdens since but this is the one that holds a special place in my heart.

Neil Nelson

Hobbs! Not Botham?

1926 Wisden

My father bought me the 1926 Wisden in the early 1980s. I had been telling him that Ian Botham was probably the best batsman that had ever taken to a cricket field. After all, I.T. almost single-handedly won the 1981 Ashes series for England.

Dad didn't argue with me about Botham; he listened intently and on Christmas Day 1982 he presented me with two books, Profile of The Master by John Arlott and Wisden 1926. Inside Arlott's book on Hobbs my father wrote: "If you think Botham is the best batsman to have ever played, where does this bloke rank?"

We chatted about both books over the couple of days that mum and dad stayed with me during that Christmas, with dad pointing out in Wisden not only Hobbs's 129 hundreds but his astonishing season of 1925, when in his early forties he topped the national averages and scored more than 3,000 runs, with sixteen centuries. By the time my parents left to travel home, I didn't need much convincing that at the age of 25, with cricket beginning to have an impact on my time, my wallet and my social life, I knew nothing about the game or the great players it bred.

Profile of The Master is still one of the best books I have ever read on a sportsman – to call it a biography does not do it justice. I read it over a month, mainly on train journeys to work, but I found myself wanting to know more about the games and the career of Hobbs, and thus began my Wisden collecting. The 1926 coupled with Profile of The Master taught me about one great batsman, possibly the greatest English batsmen ever. I have devoured the Wisden since, not just the article on Hobbs and his accolade (the last) of being the sole cricketer celebrated in one year, but also the poignant notes on Sydney H. Pardon, the previous Editor who had died in late 1925.

My favourite Wisden is the 1926 and that's the one I would take to my desert island, but I would try and sneak in Profile of The Master too.

Brian Poole

Isolation task - To one and all, a challenge - Which would be the single Wisden that you would take onto the Desert Island you have been marooned upon. Wax lyrical, be as wordy as you wish to be, or as succinct as you wish to be.

Please email me on furmedgefamly@btinternet.com or furmedgefamly1864@btinternet.com whichever address you normally use