

The Virtual Wisdener

No 32 February 21 2021.

The Newsletter of the Wisden Collectors' Club

For those of you who have ever spoken to me or occasionally read my little introductions you will know that I despair sometimes at certain elements of the current game. I have finally conceded that the twenty over game and even The Hundred are financially necessary, but it is sometimes what is being done with the money coming in that I find, to put it bluntly, a disgrace.

The amount of money invested into the Test set-up is vast, not only the money the players get, but the back-up personnel, the facilities - everything that enables messers Root and Anderson to do the best job they can.

It is likely that between the Sri Lanka series just finished and the last Ashes Test in 2021 England will have played 18 Tests (19 if they play in the World Test Championship Final - and I beggar anyone to explain how that contraption works), so that is $18 \times 5 = 90$ days of Test Cricket. Well, its already 89 because we lost in four days in the recent second Test to India. I guess most of you can see where this is going.

So, in around 400 days with the best ever entourage of people to train, motivate, feed and care for them, while 99% of everyone else has none of that support, they are asked to play a cricket match one day every four and a half days....and then the people who run this pampered bunch tell us that 'x', 'y' or 'z' player will be rested between Tests to look after them!! Exasperated? I am!

Oh and there is a very high likelihood that they might play, during that same period, around 16-20 days of county championship cricket.

People who do not like cricket and I have many friends who fall into that category are baffled by how little generally goes on. One of my friends shared a piece of data with me that on average the 'ball' was active for four and a half seconds per delivery, from run up to dead - taking into account dot balls, all run fours etc - and that an average of two players were involved with each delivery ('not including the faffing around in passing it around the houses to get it back to the one who bowls it' he also said).

Now those of us who love the game know that there is more to it than that, but he has a point.

From the outside cricketers have an amazing life, most professional sportsman do, and the skill and beauty they bring to their sport is breathtaking and difficult for the average spectator to comprehend, but we do appreciate these skills and we do admire them, but

I had promised to put all the books that were free or inexpensive onto the Wisdenworld website in around four days, well, I had no idea that as soon as most of them went on they were acquired and I spent most of the past two weeks packaging and trying to list other books, so an apology it took so long. The last books are now listed, click [here](#) to view them. Thank to everyone for your support of The Alzheimer's Society in supporting the sale.

there has to be a balance. Cricket has no balance.

Resting international professional athletes so they play for only 4 or 5 days every 21 days is scandalous. We deserve more. Stuart Broad was pretty average in the recent second Test, he missed the first Test. It is simply expected that because he is *Stuart Broad* that he will automatically bowl expertly so there is no need for him to do anything other than nets!

We will be told in the months ahead that bowlers need to rest and there is a sub-text here, bowlers need resting '...for the Ashes.' Am I wrong?

The past is the past but again, explain to me why the bowlers of yesteryear could play more, bat more and bowl more without the need for the expensive entourage of people doing everything for them. Explain to me why a professional county/Test cricketer from 1960, 1970 or 1980 played double the amount of cricket played by those today, bowled three times the amount of overs and batted more.

Cricketers are given more respect now than at any time in the game's history. They are allowed to leave tours, delay touring or not tour for reasons such as the impending birth of a child and whether you agree or not with this, it happens.

It now seems that if they play more than 60 days cricket a season they are exhausted - get a real job and see what exhaustion is!

Tonsillitis

Libby, in Nottingham, has tonsillitis and she has been feeling awful for days. As parents Lorraine and I cannot go up to see her or scoop her up and bring her home. I know she will get over it, but it is still difficult. Maybe thats an excuse for my England rant!

Keep safe and keep well

Bill, Lorraine, Abs and The Tonsillitis-Kid

This edition of The Virtual Wisdener
has been sent out to
8,110 people

The current membership of the
Wisden Collectors' Club is
2,795 people

Most lovers of cricket will look back on 1960 as "The Sad Season." It will be remembered for the rain which spoiled so many matches, for the alarming fall in attendances and for its bitter controversies--the throwing of Griffin, the sacking of Buller as a Test umpire, the withdrawal by M. C. C. and Surrey of privileges to Laker following the publication of his book, *Over to Me*, and the Graveney dispute over the Gloucestershire captaincy.

There was also the disappointing South African tour. For the fourth consecutive summer a visiting team failed to extend England in the Test matches. Indeed, for the third year running England settled the rubber in three straight matches, South Africa undergoing the same fate as India in 1959 and New Zealand in 1958. On the other side of the picture, there was the superb batsmanship of Dexter and the successful Imperial Cricket Conference at which the delegates of all seven Test match countries showed a genuine desire to tackle the various problems confronting the first-class game.

A Wonderful Game

Then as this depressing year was reaching its close Australia and West Indies lit the torch to the path of brighter cricket by playing a tie at the Woolloongabba ground, Brisbane. It was the first tie in the long history of five hundred Test matches and there was scarcely a dull moment throughout the five days. I am grateful to E. M. Wellings, who was there and saw every ball bowled and every run scored, for his graphic description which precedes these Notes. He avers that this was the greatest match ever played. How was the miracle achieved in this age of so much unimaginative and negative cricket? It was achieved by Richie Benaud and Frank Worrell, the rival captains. First of all they were blessed with ideal conditions, sunshine and a perfect pitch, two important factors. Just as important was the attitude of both men to the game. These captains insisted that the men under their command played enterprising cricket from the very first ball and they did not think of withdrawing into their shells when they ran into trouble. They still put victory as their goal and the stories of their deeds right through the series thrilled the cricket world.

Responsibility of Captains

Many people are anxious about the future of the first-class game. One cannot control the weather, but when it is favourable the destiny of cricket is in the hands of the captains. Benaud and Worrell have proved this truism. You can vary the Laws and do what you like, but without the goodwill of the captains all is in vain. In other words there is nothing wrong with cricket--and particularly county cricket--that the captains cannot put right. It is useless them going to Lord's in the winter and agreeing that it is essential for every county to adopt a dynamic attitude to the game from first ball to last whether batting, bowling or fielding and then

I was asked a question this week which on the surface seemed a silly one, but it made me think, 'Which edition is the most popular Wisden.' My answer may have been a bit long-winded but in a nutshell, it is completely down to which one the collector currently seeks, but there is also another answer. Wisden editions that coincide with 40th, 50th or 60th birthdays - so the 1961, 1971 or 1981 almanacks - are always in demand.

Since January I have sold 21 Wisden 1961 editions and it was the woman who bought one from me on Friday who asked the question. Her question also made me pick up the 1961 and I found Norman Prestons' editors notes fascinating, so with the permission of John Wisden & Co I have reproduce them over the next two pages.

deliberately ignoring the agreement on the field. And I am afraid this accusation can be levelled against some county captains.

Too many excuses for poor cricket are attributed to the weather. We have always had rainy seasons in this country. The odd tropical summers like those of 1921 and 1959 come only rarely. Nowadays, the public will not risk the heavy expenditure of fares to the grounds and the price of admission when the weather is doubtful because even if the conditions are quite good for play they cannot be certain they will be entertained.

The professional cricketer, and particularly the specialist batsman, should remember that he is a paid entertainer and if he fails or makes no attempt to keep the onlookers interested, the time will surely come when he will have to seek a living elsewhere. Some County Committees, too, should be more realistic and not pick players on the form shown by the weekly averages but by their actual deeds on the field.

English Attendances Slump

In 1947 the total attendances--exclusive of members--at county matches reached 2,300,910. In 1960 the figures fell to 1,046,104, a decrease of 323,569 compared with 1959, and these were the lowest figures since the war with the exception of 1958 (983,820). Daily attendances for county matches in 1960 fell on every day of the week compared with 1959, Saturday showing the biggest decrease (137,344) and Monday (74,817) the next greatest.

The Dexter Touch

That the presence of only one personality in a match can make all the difference was illustrated by the experience of Sussex last summer. They possessed that most gifted batsman, Ted Dexter, who captained them for the first time, and their membership went up by 1,200 and their gates by £2,000. There are some people who argue that runs are more difficult to make in this second half of the twentieth century than in the Golden Era before 1914. They say that the bowling is more astute, the fielding better and field-placing

The 1961 Wisden - Editor's Notes

more skilful. They point to the catches held close to the bat these days, but I did not see many men standing close to the bat when Dexter (Pictured, Right) was in full cry. The plodders and the prodders have allowed the fielders to creep nearer; they soon disperse to safer regions when a genuine batsman appears. There are too many county professionals who reckon they have done a satisfactory job if they scrape



True, much of the opposition has been weak, but it must be remembered that two operations have caused May to miss nine matches. He did not play any cricket last summer. Happily he is restored to full health again and England under his leadership should have a really strong and attractive side, with such batsmen as May,

1,200 runs in a season for an average of about 30.00. They pay no heed to the way they make their runs and it is time they were clearly told that unless they are prepared to think of making the occasional hundred in two and a half to three hours, their services will no longer be required. The decline in professional batsmanship since the War is one of the main reasons for the alarming fall in public support. Another is the counter-attraction of T.V. and sound radio.

Another Inquiry

Meanwhile, M. C. C., at the request of the counties, have set up a Committee to examine--with particular reference to the financial situation of the county clubs--the present state of first-class cricket and to consider whether any changes in its structure and/or in the general conduct of the game are needed. This will be the fourth inquiry on these matters in less than twenty-five years. We had the W. Findlay Commission of 1937; Sir Stanley Jackson's in 1944; H. S. Altham's in 1957 and now we have Col. Rait Kerr's in 1961.

(The rest of this particular piece can be found in the 1961

Welcome, Australia!

After an interval of five years the Australians will be in England again this summer. They came here first in 1878 and this will be their twenty-third tour to this country. Everyone hopes that the sun will shine and that the presence of our most illustrious opponents will bring the crowds flocking to the game again.

Thirteen years have passed since Australia last won a rubber in England and then they had the great Don Bradman as their captain. Nevertheless, they hold the Ashes by virtue of their overwhelming success against Peter May's M. C. C. team which went to Australia in the winter of 1958-59.

On the return of that unsuccessful expedition, the England selectors under their industrious chairman, G. O. Allen, decided to rebuild on a three-year plan in readiness for the 1961 Australian visit. Nineteen players took part in that tour of Australia and now only six remain in the England side, May, Cowdrey, Dexter, Subba Row, Statham and Trueman. Moreover, the accompanying table of England results since the post-war revival shows that not a single Test has been lost during the latest rebuilding process.

Cowdrey, Dexter, Pullar, Subba Row, M. J. K. Smith and Barrington available and Statham and Trueman as the spearheads of the attack. Lock, in his new mode, is still the best left-arm slow bowler, but the spinners are more likely to come from Allen, Illingworth, Barber and Greenhough. In order to avoid a long tail, Parks must be a strong candidate for wicket-keeper, otherwise Murray or Swetman (if he is in form) seem likely.

Avoiding a Catastrophe

At one time it seemed that the Australian tour of England might be marred by another altercation. Indeed, Sir Donald Bradman on his return to Australia from the Imperial Cricket Conference, said that, if allowed to get out of hand, the throwing controversy could lead to the greatest catastrophe in cricket history. "It is the most complex question I have known in cricket, because it is not a matter of fact, but of opinion and interpretation," he said. "It is so involved that two men of equal goodwill and sincerity could take opposite views. It is quite impossible to go on playing with different definitions of throwing. This was the great hurdle of the Conference and it unanimously and amicably agreed on a uniform definition. It was a major achievement, but it still had to run the gauntlet of time. We must find some answer which places due regard on the integrity, good faith and judgment of all countries, their umpires, players and administrators. I have good reason to think that certain proposals under examination might lead us into calmer waters. I plead that a calm, patient attitude be exercised while we pursue and resolve the problem."

Throw Defined in 1899

The Imperial Cricket Conference's definition of a throw is not exactly new. On going through various books and brochures which I acquired on the death of my father last August, I came across the following in a booklet compiled for The Australian Visit to England in 1899 written by James Phillips, the Australian umpire who used to spend his summers alternately in England and Australia. Moreover by his vigilance and the action he took he did much to stamp out throwing at the turn of the century:

Phillips wrote:

"I am one of those who hold the opinion that to bowl a

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fair ball it is immaterial whether the arm be straight or at an angle so long as there is no perceptible movement in the elbow-joint at the precise moment the ball leaves the hand of the bowler.

"Just as one bowler, in his desire to make his delivery more difficult, gets as near the return crease as possible, and occasionally inadvertently oversteps the mark, thereby bowling a 'no-ball,' so another bowler will, in attempting an increase of pace, use his elbow, especially if he be a bowler whose arm is not quite straight.

In each of these instances it does not seem just to suppose that either bowler is wilfully unfair.

"In my capacity as an umpire I have found that there is great difficulty in detecting the elbow movement at the bowling end, whereas when standing at the batting end, near short-leg, this difficulty is overcome, and every movement of the bowler's arm is noticeable."

In those days only the umpire at the bowler's end could call "no-ball." Phillips went on to plead that either umpire should be allowed to call and the Law was changed that year to that effect.

Sixty years later we get the Imperial Cricket Conference version: A ball shall be deemed to have been thrown if, in the opinion of either umpire, the bowling arm having been bent at the elbow, whether the wrist is backward of the elbow or not, is suddenly straightened immediately prior to the instant of delivery.

The Truce

While the Imperial Conference was deliberating on the issue of throwing, it was seriously suggested in outside quarters in England and Australia that for the good of cricket it might be expedient to postpone the Australian tour of 1961. The Australian public apparently were convinced that the open condemnation of Griffin as a thrower had been done as a preliminary skirmish and that the real target was the Australian fast attack.

Another suggestion advocated a moratorium on throwing for the whole of the 1961 season. Later came the final agreement between M. C. C. and the Australian Board to call a truce for the first seven weeks of the season before the first Test. The cynics said the truce was nothing more than a "Charter for

Chuckers." H. L. Hendry, the former Australian Test cricketer, stated that it is well known that some Australian bowlers chucked and that to argue otherwise was sheer hypocrisy. He advised that the Australian Board instruct the Selectors not to pick anyone whose bowling action was suspicious and to see that no bowler was called in England as it was essential that the tour proceeded without incident.

Sensible Compromise
Looking at the problem from all angles, the truce would appear to be a sensible compromise. All who desire to see cricket played in the true spirit should thank those who have striven behind the scenes to restore harmony to the game, particularly Mr. Harry Altham, the M.C.C. President, whose

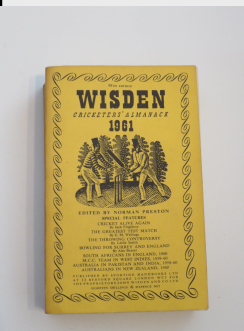
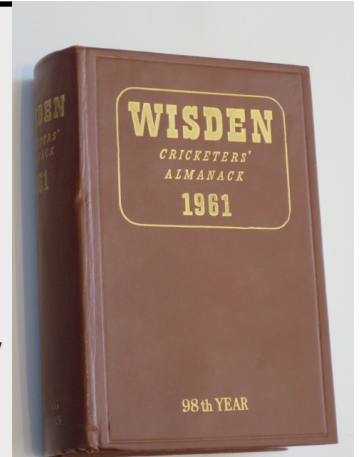
firm and courteous chairmanship won high praise from the delegates who attended the Conference.

Already there are indications that all should be well in England this summer.

Three of the four Australian bowlers, G. Rorke, J. W. Burke and K. Slater, whose suspicious actions caused so much criticism during the M. C. C. tour of 1958-59, seem to have disappeared from the Test match scene and I. Meckiff, the central figure of the argument, could not, after smoothing his action, produce the same venom against West Indies. His two wickets in two Tests against West Indies cost 117 runs apiece and his loss of penetrative power caused the selectors to leave him out of the team they selected to visit England this summer.

What is to happen to English bowlers who have been called for throwing during the past two seasons? I recollect Lock, Rhodes, White, Pearson, Aldridge and Bryant. None has been condemned universally by the umpires. There has been the odd case and some of these men, if not all, have taken pains to correct their faults. Are Lock and Rhodes, both Test men, to be barred by England for ever? There was the isolated instance of White, the very promising Hampshire bowler, being called when he had a good chance of going to New Zealand with M. C. C. His action had never been questioned until umpire P. A. Gibb no-balled him and I am not aware of any opposing batsmen who considered his bowling unfair. Obviously, M. C. C., having taken such tough action in their war against throwers, cannot invite such men for representative matches--especially overseas--until their names have been cleared. Surely any bowler called by an umpire for throwing should have his action investigated, so that he can be either advised of his fault or have his name cleared. The umpire may be right, but because a bowler has been under suspicion once, that should not rule him out of big cricket for all time, especially if he is satisfying umpires day after day in the County Championship.

The Editor's Notes concluded with a brief synopsis of the Australia v West Indies 1960-61 Test series, including the Tied first test.



Old Father About Time Too

It was good to see MCC finally agree to accept women members, even though some of those supporting the proposal may have done so in order to win Lottery money rather than welcome women. Whatever the motive, the result earns the Club more of my respect. I had found myself pitying it when it would not offer the obvious, appropriate acknowledgement to Rachael Hevhoe Flint (Pictured, Below) and other fine women cricketers.

Members of other clubs in all-male days found it was often their newer, younger members, anxious to belong to an unchanged tradition, who held out against admitting women, while their older,



longstanding members did not feel so threatened by the change. Usually the change granting women membership turns

out to be less disruptive than the anticipation of it. One Lancashire member described how easily his club had absorbed women members after a vote at the end of 1989, despite some fierce earlier opposition which was soon looked back on as 'silly'. Let us hope MCC makes the same progress. Its exclusion of women hitherto was the only official sexual opposition I have encountered while playing cricket at Oxford and Cambridge, then over a decade of writing about it.

The only other trouble I found for women at Lord's was one of neglect rather than policy and has been rectified. Until a couple of years ago the Lord's press box, though willing to admit women, did not exactly welcome them and had no ladies' lavatory. Either I had to queue with the crowds or leave the ground and try to find somewhere in nearby streets. Happily those days are past and the press box now boasts a spacious Ladies, which the doorman proudly climbed all the stairs to show me with a flourish. 'Fully fitted, I believe.' Next stop? A creche for small children of young female cricket writers?

Traditionally, The Oval prides itself in having more liberal arrangements than its rival Test ground north of the river. Last year the deputy secretary and president were both women. Nor is Surrey the only county to appoint women to senior posts. Amanda Spalding enjoys her work on the committee at Nottinghamshire, as long as other members or journalists are not condescending. Perhaps most surprisingly, the Yorkshire League, a stronghold of trustworthy cricket, was sad to lose one of its most trusted servants in April

Caroline Langford has been an Umpire in her local cricket league for fifteen years. She joined our ranks of readers just under a year ago and she recently sent me this article, written back in 1998 by writer and former umpire Teresa McLean. Caroline welcomes the investment and support given to the womens game and to all forms of cricket, but sadly reports that some of the sexism experienced by McLean during her umpiring days still prevails today.

when its first female umpire, Colleen Morley, died after 10 years on the league list and years of work as a coach and administrator for cricket associations in the Barnsley area.

On the whole, women working in cricket do not come up against official so much as unofficial, personal prejudice, when they find men who are made nervous by women experts on the game.

Now that I have mentioned umpiring, for example, I am reminded of how different my own experiences were from the achievements of Morley. At first all seemed well. The Association of Cricket Umpires (and Scorers now) welcomed me into its ranks when I applied for membership. When I published a book on the history of umpires, the Association invited me to give a lecture on that subject to its annual conference; which opened up a lively session of questioning afterwards and was great fun. I passed umpiring exams, though not every one I wanted and they were right to make me retake one.

But I lacked the authority of successful women such as Morley on the field of play, which any number of exams could not give me. The first few times I stood in local games between mens' clubs, many of my decisions, even indisputably correct ones, were mocked. 'Come on, luv, save us your blindness...Be serious or go back somewhere more suitable!' The worse the player, the more complete his contempt and the more uncertain my pronouncements. When the Financial Times asked me to write about cricket at weekends, I was glad to take that option instead of umpiring and found the going easier.

I have found the most common attitude to women, among all sorts of cricket clubs and their employees, players, advisers and fellow writers, at all levels of the game, is patronising, amused cooperation. Just a few players are disconcerted if I ask for an interview; they retire into exclusively male strongholds, the favourite being the changing-room, where they can plead inaccessibility among the undressed. The bar is a less secure retreat.

In my experience, Australians are the most wary of women in cricket, Wicketkeeper Ian Healy scolded me for wasting his time when I approached him for an interview at Derby on their last tour. I asked at short

notice, I admit, and he let me know he was disgusted with me and my idea. By contrast, his Derbyshire opponents were eager to talk. That may, of course, have been connected not so much with my sex as with the unexpected success they were carving out for themselves in the match. I think I am right in remembering that Derbyshire was the only county which defeated the tourists in 1997, to the surprise of everyone, including its own players - not a triumph to leave quietly uncelebrated.

The South Africans were more reserved. They treated me with old-fashioned politeness to a woman, standing up to shake my hand before accepting or refusing interview requests. I enjoyed meeting them this year. Ironically, other women working in the cricket world have once or twice shown more discomfort than men at meeting me on the job. There would be no benefit for them in applying their feminine charms to me, hoping to secure a friendly write-up or impress me with their achievements. But as I say, any such uncertainty has been rare and amounts to little more than a form of embarrassment.

My femininity is usually helpful when discussing cricket with another woman; we become a partnership in a minority interest. Women connected with the world of

men's cricket can produce some vivid descriptions of their experiences. I remember Gladstone Small's wife, Lois, telling me about her hardships as a cricket widow, married to a first-class player often away from home. She knew I would understand the essence of what she said, though luckily it is not a problem in my own marriage.

I am not very demanding about the status of women in the world of men's cricket, only objecting to outright unfairness or exclusion. And I would object to that being inflicted on people for reasons of colour, age, religion or race as well as sex. Maybe I am letting my sex down, but I am happy to have my easy-going views expressed by the 18th century's Third Duke of Dorset, an unreliable man, a keen fan of both cricket and the female sex, a supporter of the Hambledon Club and of women being allowed to take whatever part they wished in cricket, from playing to publishing.

In 1777 he wrote to 'a circle of Ladies, his intimate Friends', stating his case with philosophical simplicity: 'What is life but a game of cricket? And if so, why should not the ladies play it as well as we?'

Teresa MacLean.

David 'Bumble' Lloyd

When I played the game I never felt that I really got the credit that I deserved. When I go to speak at dinners, the chairman for the evening will, more often than not, give me the big build up. So many thousand runs, so many hundreds, etc, etc.

They always omit to say I scored none in my first innings for Lancashire and being a consistent sort of player, scored none in the second innings. Furthermore, it took more than one hour and a half at the crease to register the dreaded 'pair'. I seemed to become typecast by the press after that. When I did manage to score a few I invariably got the following reviews in the press.

'It was a painstaking knock by Lloyd ... always ill at ease ... never in command ...'

I always used to read the papers and sometimes used to think, 'That's a bit unfair. I didn't think I did too badly today.' Of course when I retired in 1983 things died down. I suppose, out of sight out of mind.

David Hughes, the Lancashire captain, has a long memory and, after my son Graham had scored 100 in 80 balls against Kent, was heard to remark:

Well, watching that it is obvious that your father has had no input, whatsoever, into your game."



When I signed for Cumberland, I did a local radio interview by telephone. We chatted for a while about the team's prospects and my role in the team. The chap finished up by asking me: "Do you think you will adapt to the Cumberland

weather after spending so much time in the West Indies?"

I was a little confused and replied:

"I have never been to the West Indies, I'm David Lloyd, not Clive."

I heard the interviewer shout to his colleagues:

"Hey, they've signed the wrong one!"

You wouldn't believe that Clive and I could ever get mistaken for each other, but we did. On reflection I can understand why. We were both left-handed for a start, and we both played in that same debonair fashion which put the fear of God up every opposition bowler...well, one of us did anyway. On one occasion we were walking out to bat together after being not out on the previous evening when we heard two members talking on the Old Trafford steps.

"Are the two Lloyds brothers?" one asked.

"I don't think so," replied the other, "but I think one of them wears spectacles."

Ken Barrington - The Best Professional Batsman

The soundest judges of cricketers are their opponents; and there is little doubt that, in the dressing-rooms of county cricket, the bowlers would rank Ken Barrington the best English professional batsman now playing. They would use the word 'professional' to distinguish him from the amateurs.

But it applies also to his quality. Cricket — batting in particular — is Ken Barrington's work and he carries it out in a completely and admirably professional fashion. It would not —yet—be accurate to call him a great player: that is given to few. But character is a decisive factor in any player's make-up: and Ken Barrington reinforces thoughtful technique with immense concentration and courage.

Cricket is his chosen living. At sixteen he left an engineering job to be assistant groundsman to the Reading club and was already good enough to command a place in their strong first eleven as a leg-spinner.

Surrey have been well served by players from Reading - notably Peter May and the Bedders - and by 1948 the seventeen-year-old Barrington had served a satisfactory apprenticeship with their Colts team and was taken on the staff—as a leg-break bowler. Had his early career taken a different course, or had he played with a different county, we might well talk of him now as a true all-rounder rather than as a batsman who sometimes bowls.

When he came back from Army service he had taken a host of soldiers' wickets with leg-breaks, but had also matured into a sound-looking batsman. Surrey, with an attack of Alec Bedser, Loader, Laker, Lock and Eric Bedser, did not need his leg-spin. Two years as a second team player, then Barrington was 'blooded' in nine Surrey matches of 1953 and scored his first century in 1954 when he made 854 runs at 40.23.

On paper, 1955 looks to have been a story-book year for him. He scored 1,580 runs, won his county cap, played for England against South Africa and went on the M.C.C. 'A' tour of Pakistan. But his friends were doubtful if so rapid a rise was fair to him. He never had a more enthusiastic supporter than Stuart Surridge who, convinced that Barrington was a Test class batsman, added 'but they took him too soon'. His three Test innings against South Africa were 0, 34 and 18: against Pakistan he averaged 23.

Characteristically, without press-statements or a hint of rancour, he went back into the Surrey team, put his head down and, for four years, studied his business. By 1959 he was ready for Test cricket: he knew it, and so did the men who bowled at him. He took his place in

From the early 1960's the legendary journalist, author and commentator John Arlott wrote a number of contemporary cricket biographies for publications such as *Playfair Monthly*. Here is his profile of Surrey and England player Ken Barrington.



the England side and, in 19 Tests since then, has made two centuries and eleven other scores over fifty.

Many of these runs have been made against the run of the game, while he emerged as a gritty, reliable number four or five at Test level.

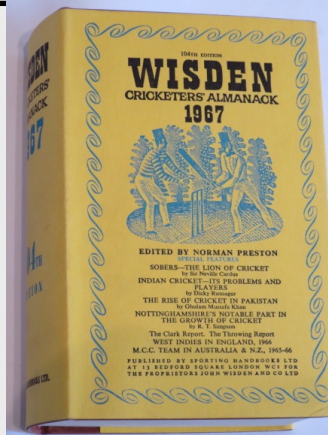
In the West Indies, he made 128, 121 and 49 in his three innings of the first two Tests. Then the full heat of the fast bouncer was turned on him. He lacks the height to get over the bumper, but he battled on. Despite the hammering he took, he was only once out to a fast bowler in his six subsequent Test innings of the tour. It was then that he developed the peculiar jump, as if startled, when he plays back to short pace-bowling: but he does not flinch. His is now an established - at times of crisis, reassuring - figure, as he comes out to bat for Surrey or England. Usually bareheaded,

his thick, wiry, dark hair jutting, he moves with a purposeful tread, head pushed slightly forward, lean jaw well out. He is not the shape of the great batsmen: one turns to other sports, and likens him to a soccer wing-half or a middleweight boxer, with his busy, quick-footed movement.

From experience, he 'reads' leg-spinners well; but his forward play against spin, though very straight, sometimes seems tentative. On the offside he commands a well-drilled cover-drive, a strong square cut and a late cut - usually more of a dab - which often makes him runs when the bowling is tight but also, from time to time, costs him his wicket when he can ill spare it. On the back foot, especially to leg, he is in his element. His hook—with a hint of the pull in it—is a vivid stroke: a superbly controlled turn of the wrists, he keeps it down to a remarkable degree, and often hits it as far forward as midwicket. When he is going for runs against time, he will play this stroke, again and again, with great power and nice placing from bowling barely short of a length and from the line of the middle-and-leg stumps.

Modest and quiet in success, Ken Barrington never grumbles when the games goes against him. As a bowler who as one of his old opponents put it - 'Ken Barrington is a good chap: never moans: in the field, he has a grin or a friendly word for you: but when he gets a bat in his hands, he means business: he doesn't think of anything else: he's out there batting for his side: he doesn't want to make friends with bowlers: that's what makes him so hard to get out'. What better judgment could we - or Ken Barrington - want?

Cricket books come and go; some, the work of great writers with a deep literary sense and knowledge of the game as their basic ingredients. Others, run of the mill; some, ghosted rubbish; you pay your money and take your pick, but you would have been right one hundred and four times had you chosen Wisden. This little (in page size only) wonder book of over a thousand pages is always a happy harbinger of spring and summer.



This year it was out so early that it almost caught the tail-end of winter. Whilst Wisden and its many writers would want to paint the broad canvas of cricket with a pen of happiness and confidence, the Editor, Norman Preston, is realistic enough to present the disquieting situation in his notes, which are headed 'English cricket at the cross roads'. He says: 'For the time being the three-day County Championship remains unaltered, but although I would not like to see it cut down as was proposed, it cannot last much longer in its present form without public support which has dwindled to next to nothing.'

Mr Preston then airs the pros and cons with special reference to better pitches, and here again is realistic enough not to suggest that herein lies the whole remedy. Certainly, better pitches should produce better cricket, but whether it does or not is still in the hands of the players.

The Clark report in its most intricate detail is previewed by Charles Bray, and as a member of the Committee himself he is admirably placed to sum up, especially as a former player. Mr Bray writes: 'The Clark Committee's bold plan to give the County Championship a new look was killed before it was born. Its main recommendations which was to alter the existing Championship and create an additional one of one-day games, was defeated by 16 votes to four, a majority so emphatic that the counties may have signed their own death warrant. Only time will tell. A mountain of labour produced a mouse of achievement.' Mr Bray goes on: 'The counties for their part produced some remarkable suggestions. Hampshire were so satisfied with the status quo that they didn't want any change for at least three years, despite the state of their finances. Glamorgan, whose secretary greeted the Clark report with: "it's a lot of

Sometimes it is good to remind ourselves that Wisden has published every year since 1864, obvious statement I know, but also that for a very large part of that time, each new edition has been anticipated and welcomed with open arms. This Gordon Ross review of the 1967 almanack reminds us of that.

tommy rot" were in favour of leaving well alone, although the county lost £10,539 in 1966 and their gate receipts were £6,573 less than in the previous season. They were £5,344, the lowest since the war. A similar reduction this season would see the County paying spectators to watch its cricket.

'Sussex went even further than Glamorgan. They suggested even more first-class cricket. In other words they want to give the public more of something, of which, by its decreasing support, it has shown that it has too much already.'

Surely, somewhere along the line, notice will be taken of what Mr Bray has to say. We cannot much longer exist on a sort of 'Cricket in Wonderland' attitude. If the average Company suffered a decline in sales comparable to cricket's declining gates then quite a few heads would roll in the drastic measures taken to become solvent again, and commercial companies could hardly run football pools to bolster their finances as so many counties do. If any company has a product which the general public does not want, then it has to modify it to fit the public's tastes or go out of business.

To turn to happier matters, let us have a look for a moment at the Wisden five cricketers of the year. I have always felt that there is something a little false about this, since, by virtue of the fact that no player can be chosen twice, the selection does not reflect the true cricketers of the year. Sobers, for instance, was head and shoulders the cricketer of the year in 1966 as is clearly seen by the article by Sir Neville Cardus entitled 'Sobers—The Lion of Cricket', but he cannot be included since the honour had previously come his way. This, clearly, is not an implied criticism of the five chosen, but merely of the system which has now become too much tradition to be altered.

The five players chosen by the Editor for this year's honour are: Milburn, Nurse, D'Oliveira, Murray and Barber, and no-one but the most carping critic could cavil at this selection, although inevitably parochial leanings will tend to colour judgment. So much for Wisden, and good value it is for money.

The Virtual Wisdener has been published since April 3rd 2020 and every edition along with the three 'Special Newsletters entitled - Leaves From The Past (by Richard Lawrence - a look of some unique and unusual matches from the nineteenth century onwards) - can be found and read by clicking [here](#)

England levelled the series in the third Test at Edgbaston by beating West Indies by 217 runs in rather less than three days' actual playing time. The game, however, went to the final afternoon, before it was concluded with stunning swiftness by Trueman's brilliant bowling, because of interference from rain. The weather, which had frustrated England at Lord's, turned out this time to be an ally for the pitch stayed fresh through the water it absorbed and the atmosphere remained damply overcast.

In these conditions, England will always be a formidable side and they proved their point as indisputably as did West Indies in the sunshine at Manchester. Only Sobers, of the fine West Indies attack, was able to exploit the seam as effectively as the England bowlers, among whom Trueman was outstanding. His match figures of 12 - 119 were his personal best and his work on the fifth afternoon, in particular, bore the stamp of true greatness. Ironically, he has been taking it out on batsmen the world over since a congenital weakness was diagnosed in his back last winter in Australia. Since then he has taken 59 wickets in 10 Tests (275 altogether) including 25 in this series. Records, wickets and bemused batsmen are at his feet in what seems sure to be his most memorable season.

Dexter, at the end, said 'it was a fine team effort' and, indeed, it was with no one contributing more in an all-round sense than the captain himself. The recalled Richardson, unfortunately, failed twice but the selectors could preen themselves on their other choices for they successfully brought back Lock and introduced Sharpe (Philip, Pictured, Below) . Lock had opportunity for only two overs (Titmus bowled none at all) but played an extremely important innings and generally helped give a proper combative appearance



to the side, while Sharpe had a dream debut by not only holding his slip catches as was hoped but making 108 runs for once out

when the pressure was always on.

The answer to the series at this point, of course, remained as much an enigma as the English climate which doubtless will prove the deciding factor. But what we did know was that the series was as excitingly alight as that memorable rubber in Australia in 1960/61 and that both sides will be considerably richer

England v West Indies, 1963 - The Battle for the Wisden Trophy - The Third Test

Thank you for your feedback on my decision to print the contemporary match reports of the England v West Indies 1963 Test series. I am delighted to reproduce the contemporary full reports of each of the five Tests and this continues with the third Test played at Edgbaston on July 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9. Written by Gordon Ross and this first appeared in The Cricketer in July 1963.

at the end of it. Receipts after three Tests were over £116,000.

FIRST DAY

Dexter won the toss for the first time in the series, and with Larner omitted, decided to bat first. He did not please everyone by this decision because Edgbaston is usually more helpful to bowlers on the first day than later, but no one can argue about the value of runs on the board in unsettled weather. Sobers took three of the five wickets that fell for 157, his pace variations proving as troublesome as his angle of delivery, from left-arm over-the-wicket. Dexter drove well and Sharpe was by no means out of his class but the best batting again came from Close, whose selection and judgment confirmed that he has finally established himself at the highest level. Play was ended at tea-time by a short but sharp shower that was sufficient to make the already heavy in-field unfit.

SECOND DAY

England slipped to 195—8 before another long delay in which the pitch this time took a thorough soaking. At least, England now had the runs on the board but Dexter wanted more, and resisting a temptation to declare in the search of a couple of quick wickets when play was resumed in the last 40 minutes, saw the innings through to its conclusion —216 all out on the stroke of half past six.

Inevitably, discussion over covering regulations was sharpened by the holdup, and the arrangements at Edgbaston did appear inadequate in comparison with the other excellent amenities on the ground.

THIRD DAY

Another day in which cricketers probably suffered more from dealer's cramp in the dressing room, than from Test match tensions. Yet, in the two and a half hours' playing time that was possible, the game made an important advance. West Indies lived dangerously, no doubt by design for understandably they have no great liking for rain-affected conditions, and when they exceeded 100 with only Hunte and Carew out, their methods were proving unexpectedly successful. Just before the rain closed in, however, Shackleton and Dexter each took an important wicket and at 110 - 4 the game was nicely even.

FOURTH DAY

The first day unsullied by the weather and a wonderful day of 302 runs and 14 wickets. In the first 80 minutes, West Indies lost their last six wickets for 76, most of those runs coming from the eighth wicket pairing of Hall and young Murray, who both in front and behind the stumps continues to have an admirable first series. Dexter swung his out-swinging prodigiously and he and Trueman put England on the high road with three wickets in eight balls. England's batting, however, again looked short of 'class' at 69 - 4, but Dexter, who had held himself back after his bowling exertions, and Sharpe put on 101 in even time, which in the context of the game speaks for itself.

England looked in control after this belatedly fine batting but Gibbs, on changing ends, took three quick wickets, and Sobers switching to his googly role took another. With the help of fine fielding in which Gibbs and Sobers were themselves outstanding, they reduced England to 189 - 8. Lock, however, assailed the spinners and with Sharpe cool in his second crisis - skill, temperament and technique in happy harmony - England finally turned the corner in the last half hour. They could sleep easy at 226 - 8, 256 on.

FIFTH DAY

Once Sharpe and Lock overcame the new ball, the question of a declaration arose. If Dexter erred on the side of caution it was because the pitch at this juncture appeared to have dried out plumb, for the ninth wicket pair were utterly untroubled in adding 89. Lock's first

Test half century was that of an accomplished batsmen. Upon his dismissal, West Indies were set to score 309 in 279 minutes. It was a tall order, which assumed sky-scraper proportions when Trueman and Shackleton each got rid of an opening batsmen with the new ball. In their hands, the pitch took on different characteristics. They knew how to use it, of course, and when Dexter dismissed Butcher with a break-back, three wickets were down and a long afternoon (or so it seemed), stretched before West Indies. They decided to continue to go for their strokes, a commendable general approach but betraying lack of individual judgment, and in 55 dramatic minutes it was all over. If a bowler can be described as 'unplayable', Trueman was just that in this period of merciless execution. Worrell himself probably got an unlucky verdict in being caught behind but no one could have withstood Trueman bowling what amounted to fast leg-breaks. He took five wickets without cost, six in his last 24 balls. The glory was his—and England's.

England 216 (DB Close, 55. GS Sobers, 5-60 and 278-9dec (Sharpe, 85*. Dexter, 57. Lock, 56. Gibbs 4-49)

West Indies 186 (Carew, 40. Trueman, 5-75. Dexter, 4-38) and 91 (Kanhai, 38. Trueman, 7-44.)

England won by 217 runs.

The 2021 Wisden is available to pre-order and if you would like to order please click one of the links below. If you have already paid for your edition there is no need to do anything else.

[Wisden 2021 Hardback](#)

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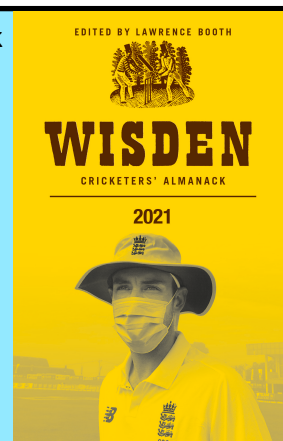
[Wisden 2021 Large Format Edition.](#)

If you would rather pay by card or bank transfer please contact me.

The 2021 is due to be published on April 15th.

Wisden Editor Lawrence Booth says of the choice of the front cover image for the 2021.:

"It was a year when cricket, like the rest of the world, was dominated by the coronavirus – and no single item symbolised the pandemic more starkly than the mask. It seemed to make sense that the cricketer wearing it should be Stuart Broad, England's player of the summer. Dropped from the First Test against West Indies, he returned for the Second, and immediately proved his class. By the end of a season in which he became only the fourth seam bowler to pass 500 Test wickets, Broad had taken 29 at an average of just 13, and helped England to series victories over West Indies and Pakistan."



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Whither South Africa

I think in the foreseeable future our international cricket sphere will be as limited as it now is; confined to Tests against England, Australia and New Zealand and it will be something of a miracle if South Africa is permitted to return as a member of the Imperial Cricket Conference and once again can indulge in official Test matches.

Our position is quite clear. We have a year in which to convince some members of the I.C.C. that we deserve a fate better than exclusion from the Commonwealth cricket club now that we are a Republic. By next July it will be surprising if we have anything new to report to the I.C.C.

In the past South Africans have been happy enough to play with, or against, non-whites. They have done so regularly on overseas visits and have enjoyed the experience. Custom here does not encourage such meetings. Springbok teams would only too gladly visit the West Indies, India and Pakistan—if they would have us. But the trouble is that we could not reciprocate without causing our guests some embarrassment on the social side and in the matter of accommodation. Politics have no place in sport is a platitude all too frequently bandied about. It seems difficult to divorce the one from the other in practice.

Thus India, Pakistan and the West Indies delegates, who must know precisely what the position is as far as it concerns South African cricketers, have every opportunity of not allowing politics to encroach on the noble game of cricket. By depriving South Africa of her status on the I.C.C. it is the players that are suffering not those who frame the laws of the country. There is the law. As citizens we are bound to abide by it and there is nothing that can be done about it. No amount of railing will change the present policy. Having accepted it we must do the best we can and that appears to play unofficial Tests against England, Australia and New Zealand.

South African cricketers are the losers by the limit in their opposition. They would obviously be better players if they had more Test experience and played against all types of players. In common with other countries we find an alarming drop in cricket crowds. This season barely a dozen spectators have paid to watch senior league cricket at Kingsmead, ground made famous by some exciting Test struggles.

The play has been bright enough. There have been some Test players on view and the standard of cricket has been high.

This rather sad but also unsettling article was written by C.O. Meredith in January 1962. The seeds of the decision to ban South Africa from the International Cricket arena were sewn long before the D'Oliveira affair.

Spectators are just not interested. They have been spoilt by wanting only the best—and mostly getting it in the way of Commonwealth or Cavalier teams with international stars. Perhaps we forget that nowadays we have to cater for a new generation of people. The modern youth is the spectator of tomorrow and his taste has completely changed. We no longer deal with the genuine cricket lover but want the casual observer to help to balance our budgets. The modern young man demands constant action and speed. He gets it from rugby, professional soccer and racing which is why these three sports in South Africa are always big draw cards. He cannot be sure that he will always get it from cricket and in any event he cannot get a result (in present circumstances) as he can at his other loves—in a single afternoon at cricket.

Here in South Africa we must make some serious changes if our cricket structure is to survive. Annually we have been losing heavily for some years now on the Currie Cup (our national provincial competition). So long as there were profits from our overseas tours and home Tests all was well. But when McGlew's team came back from England in 1960 without a profit some Unions began to feel the pinch and even the more affluent Unions are thinking twice before spending money. Another such a set back as the 1960 tour of England and there will be red lights shining all over the Union.

There is nothing to indicate that this season will see crowds flock in such numbers to watch the New Zealanders that finances will be boosted. Although John Reid's players (Reid, Pictured, Below) have implemented their promise so far to play the game attractively and get on with it, folk have just not rushed to see them. Attendances have been most disappointing and one must admit that the New Zealanders have not so far looked a very formidable proposition. Nor have they, apart from John Reid, a player of international renown.

It is funny how the average follower loves the tag official. He seems completely disinterested if the competition is of lesser degree and if he is made constantly aware that this year's series is unofficial I doubt whether he will even trouble to listen in. In that respect the unofficial Tests South Africa now plays—and may continue to play—could seriously affect attendances and so the finances.



Nearly everyone has been digging up excuses for the poorer attendances and some have vouchsafed reasons but they cut little ice. The cold facts cannot be by-passed. How to net the spectators back into the fold is something eluding the best cricket advertiser.

Our Sunday observance act which makes competitive play on the Sabbath on a national basis taboo cuts out one possible source of revenue. Folk seem to have so many other things to do on a Saturday and no play no refund guarantee is another deterrent in a summer when rain seems to come more frequently than before.

I'm sure that if someone could think up a bright idea to run a tote at a cricket match, or some form of bingo on the various sessions of play, that it would see crowds coming back to cricket. Such a thought would greatly affront the cricket purists I am sure. But games do not, unhappily, survive the modern cash demands from the

attendances of only those who love the game so deeply that they will sit in broiling sunshine or through boring hours of slow play simply because they are cricket devotees. It has, in fact, come down to that. Excitement or no attendance.

Naturally the optimistic hope that the next I.C.C. will see us back in the fold and the pessimistic believe that we have got what we deserve and so cannot hope to receive any favours.

Meanwhile we have our sights on the next tour to Australia and make team building plans this year against the New Zealanders. Already there are players who hope to be in favour for the much sought after tour to England next planned for 1965. For South Africa at any rate those tours keep the game alive. It could not continue to survive if it were not for these interests.

Famous Scorecard

OXFORD UNIVERSITY v. M.C.C. at OXFORD - 1877

Oxford U - First innings

H. O. Tylecote	b Rylott	0
H. R. Webbe	b Morley	1
E. T. Hirst	b Morley	0
E. Wallington	not out	7
H. Fowler	b Morley	4
A. W. Pearson	b Morley	0
H. J. Hollings	b Morley	0
J. H. Savory	b Morley	0
C. E. Horner	c Walker b Morley	0
F. G. Jellicoe	b Rylot	0
A. J. Webb	absent	
Total		12

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-8, 5-8, 6-8, 7-8, 8-12, 9-12, 10-12.

Bowling:	O.	M.	R.	W.
F. Morley	22	18	6	7
A. Rylott	21.2	18	6	2

This innings set up a new record for the lowest total in first-class cricket, since equalled by Northamptonshire in 1907, but one that no team is particularly desirous of gaming. Until this match the record had been 13 by Wellington v. Nelson in 1862-63, the previous worst in England being 15 by M.C.C. v. Surrey at Lord's in 1839 and 16 in the equivalent match in 1872.

A. H. Heath and F. Buckland were unable to play for Oxford, while A. J. Webbe arrived late and could not take his innings in the morning, even though the Oxford innings lasted for nearly two hours and lasted for 174 balls. The actual scoring strokes were 1 three, 3 twos and 3 singles.

When M.C.C. batted they were all out for 124 (H. G. Tylecote 8-51) and there was still time for Oxford to be dismissed for 35 in their second innings before the end of the first day. This time Morley took 6 wickets for 8 runs, to give him a match aggregate of 13 for 14.

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The Man Who Coached Champions - Sam Cadman

Every county side possesses its hewers of wood and drawers of water. To Derbyshire followers many years ago the name of Sam Cadman (Pictured, Below) became synonymous with good, solid, reliable professionalism.

Cadman's career spanned 22 seasons between 1900-26. In comparison with cricket's great all-rounders - he was a steady opening or middle-order right-hand batsman and a medium-paced right-arm bowler—his record appears modest; 14,055 runs in 375 matches for the county, average 21.42, 803 wickets at 25 runs each. But he was one of the most consistent of the all-rounders at the 'bread and butter' level of the County Championship and in many seasons his value to Derbyshire could not be measured by figures alone.

Had Cadman left first-class cricket for good when he retired his reputation would still have remained high but in 1926 he was placed in charge of the Nursery at Derby with such excellent results that a decade later in 1936 Derbyshire won the County Championship for the only time in their history.

That milestone is being duly celebrated this year — the 50th anniversary of a historic occasion which saw Derbyshire cricket scale new heights. Third in 1934, second in 1935, champions in 1936, third in 1937, fifth in 1938, it was indeed a golden era for Derbyshire and much of the credit must go to Sam Cadman's ability as a coach, particularly with bowlers.

The nucleus of Derbyshire's greatest-ever side was coached by Cadman and the club's former secretary Mr. W. T. Taylor paid tribute to his role in helping to create the Championship-winning side. 'Every member of that team except Harry Storer and Harry Elliott had graduated under Sam Cadman.'

Although the batting was adequate and occasionally brilliant Derbyshire's strength lay in the bowling. Bill Copson, Alfred and George Pope (although George missed most of the 1936 season), Tommy Mitchell and Leslie Townsend formed the bowling attack in the years of greatness.

Earlier there had been Archie Slater and Stan Worthington (before the latter was allowed to concentrate on his batting) and later would come Bert Rhodes and Cliff Gladwin whose best days followed the 1939-45 War by which time Cadman had retired. All to a greater or lesser degree were influenced by Cadman's coaching.

Lancashire-born in 1877, Cadman soon came to live at Glossop, a town with which he was always associated,



This article by John Shawcroft first appeared in Wisden Cricket Monthly. It is a wonderful reflection on the coach who inspired Derbyshire to be aunty champions in 1936, Sam Cadman. During the recent general cricket book sale on Wisdenworld a copy of 'The Rise of Derbyshire' was snapped up within an hour of it being listed by Eddie Baron, who subsequently sent in the article.

and he joined the county staff in 1900, when he made his Championship debut. He became established in 1904 and a year later did well against the Australians at Derby, taking five for 94 in the first innings when Victor Trumper made 58 and scoring 66 in the county's second innings. Twice he exceeded 1,000 runs in a season in 1909 and 1911 and in 1910 he enjoyed his best bowling year with 67 wickets at 23 runs each. Nothing sensational yet he and his fellow all-rounder Arthur Morton were the backbone of the side and never more so than in 1920 when Derbyshire suffered the most dreadful season any first-class county has ever experienced.

Morton and Cadman had been in the 1919 side which defeated the Australian Imperial Forces by 36 runs at Derby but a year later Derbyshire lost 17 of their 18 Championship matches, the other one being abandoned without a ball being bowled. And the last nine county matches in 1919 brought seven defeats which meant that Derbyshire had lost 24 of 27 consecutive matches. No fewer than 39 players represented Derbyshire in 1920, including 15 amateurs. Nineteen played in no more than two games and 10 in only a single match. Only Cadman and Morton appeared in every game and although both were now in the veteran stage of their careers it was all too often a case of Morton and Cadman and little else.

Cadman continued to provide steady service until his final game in 1926 when he was aged 49. That year he took charge of the Nursery, the county's forcing ground for young cricketers which had been established just before the 1914-18 War.

It is arguable that the seeds of Derbyshire's Championship victory were sown at a lunch at Simpson's in the Strand at which the Hon. Christopher Lowther, whose mother was of Derbyshire birth, entertained Mr Taylor, the secretary of the county club, in the autumn of 1913.

'It was an excellent lunch,' Mr Taylor happily recalled, "I expressed the view that the gap between the standard of county and local cricket was such that inexperienced players coming into the side had too great a test and the only solution was an engagement on the staff for a full season of promising young cricketers, and a system of intensive coaching."

Taylor, continued, 'Lowther promised a very handsome annual subscription and the services of Harry Blacklidge, a good all-round cricketer from the Surrey club, were obtained, both as coach and as player when he was qualified.

Blacklidge commenced his duties as coach to the newly formed ground-staff in 1914 and a number of young players were employed. The project showed almost immediate results, Jim Horsley, a young fast-medium bowler who had made a few appearances for Notts in 1913, now played for his native county towards the end of June. Other young players who might have made the grade but for the advent of the First World War were Harold Wild and Walter Reader-Blackton. In the war Blacklidge died on active service in Mesopotamia. He was a delightful personality and the club lost a very good coach and a player who would have added strength to the side.'

The Nursery was restarted in 1920, special subscriptions having begun in the previous year and the fund had an income in 1920 of £492 which was kept separate from the club's general account. Cadman supervised coaching for two years but, of course, he was playing regularly and his time was limited.

In 1922 the old Sussex and England player Fred Tate was appointed and he ran the Nursery for three years before Bill Bestwick succeeded him in 1925, Cadman taking over in the following year.

Gradually, under the captaincy of Guy Jackson, Derbyshire's fortunes improved and new players, most of them Derbyshire-born, formed the nucleus of what was to be the Championship side - Harry Elliott and Harry Storer first played in 1920, Leslie Townsend (1922) and Stan Worthington (1924) making their first appearances.

Then came an influx of genuine talent as Denis Smith, Tommy Mitchell, Albert Alderman, Alf and George Pope and Bill Copson established regular places. A. W. Richardson, who was to captain the Championship side, followed Jackson as captain and now the products of Cadman's Nursery bore rich fruit, "There were some who said the batting was not enterprising enough, but the bowling was feared by all teams in the Championship. There was probably no finer coach of bowlers in the world than Cadman between the wars and he was invited repeatedly to South Africa for winter engagements.

Alf Pope remembers him well, even half a century later. 'He was a very good coach, particularly as a bowling coach. He knew the game well and I think everybody accepted him as a good coach but he was really on his own as a bowling coach.'

'Of course, we were all young then and probably we did not always appreciate the techniques he was trying to impart, but he took charge of us when we joined the

club and he would often coach the senior players as well.'

Sam would have them in the nets if they were out of form and he was usually able to point out any problems and remedy them,'

'We all respected him although we were only youngsters and he would be in his fifties. He was a likeable man in many ways and a very fair-minded sort of a chap.'

In "The Rise of Derbyshire Cricket 1919-35' L. Eardley Simpson wrote: 'There are always open questions as to the best methods of coaching a young player, and Cadman has not satisfied everyone'.

But he could be proud of the players who had developed through the Nursery, he added, describing the coaching scheme as the finest investment ever made by the committee. He also paid tribute to Captain Evelyn Wright, who had used his influence in the county to obtain financial support, and to the Rev. Henry Ellison who had captained the Second XI and who had a flair for spotting a talented young player.

Some saw Cadman as a strict man and a gruff disciplinarian but he was an undoubted master of his trade. Of course, he was fortunate to some extent in that his period as coach coincided with the arrival of some of the finest cricketers ever produced in Derbyshire but he is still regarded as the architect of the Championship victory, along with people such as Guy Jackson, Harry Elliott and Harry Storer who had been the bedrock of the club's development in the 1920s and early 1930s.

Cadman, who was twice chosen to play for the Players against the Gentlemen in 1908 and 1923 at Scarborough and The Oval, played for Glossop in the Lancashire and Cheshire League after he retired from first-class cricket. In 1950 when he was 73 he scored 17 not out in a Second XI match for Glossop. He died at his home in Glossop on May 6, 1952 at the age of 75.

Derbyshire County Champions 1936.

Derbyshire
Played 28 matches
Won 13 outright
Lost 4
Won 5 on First Innings
Lost 5 on First Innings
No Result 1
Points 239 (out of a possible 420)

Champions by having the highest points percentage across the season of 56.90
Second Place: Middlesex, 52.05
Third Place: Yorkshire, 51.11



THE BIG SPRING QUIZ

I have included the first set of BIG SPRING Quiz questions as well as the second set simply because not everyone receive their Virtual Wisdener on the same day last time, this has now been corrected. So here goes, Round 1 and Round 2 questions are below.

PLEASE if you have already sent in your first set, do not send them in again.

All answers please by Sunday February 28th.

I will print a little league table in the next newsletter and there ill be a prize for the league winner.

Round One

- 1: Who was the first bowler to be hit for 200 sixes in Test cricket?
- 2: Who was the last man to umpire in a Test Match under the age of 30?
- 3: Who was the last Australian batsman to be out for 99 in a Test Match?
- 4: Who was the man who scored 1 run and 5 ducks in his first 6 innings in Test cricket but later went on to score 6 double centuries?
- 5: Which bowler took the most wickets in Test cricket during the decade of the 1970's?
- 6: Who was the first man to captain 3 state teams in the Sheffield Shield?
- 7: Who was the first man, born in South Africa, to score a century against South Africa in a Test Match?
- 8: Who is the youngest man to captain England in a Test Match since World War II?
- 9: West Indies fast bowlers dominated Test cricket during the 1980's, but which 2 men scored double centuries against them in this decade?
- 10: Who was the last batsman to be given out 'handled the ball' in the County Championship?



Round Two

- 11: Which bowler inflicted a record 104 ducks on batsmen in Test cricket?
- 12: Who was the last man to score a century before lunch on the 1st day of a Test Match?
- 13: Who was the first Sri Lankan batsman to be out for 99 in a Test Match?
- 14: Who is the only man to take 5 wickets in an innings against all 18 first class counties in the County Championship?
- 15: Who was the last Australian opening batsman to be out for a duck on his Test debut?
- 16: Who was the last man to score a century and take 10 wickets in a Sheffield Shield match?
- 17: Who was the last man to be stranded on 99 not out in a County Championship match?
- 18: Who is the only English batsman to score 3 ducks in 3 consecutive innings and then 3 centuries in his next 3 innings in Test cricket?
- 19: Name the bowler who has taken the most 5 wicket hauls in the 4th innings of the match in Test cricket?
- 20: Who was the last man to make his Test Match debut for Australia over the age of 35?

Please send your answers and again, those who have already sent in for Round 1, DO NOT send in again, by one of the ways - email or letter, on page 12.

The Virtual Tea Interval

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