



INSIDE EDGE

The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust

A Message from The Chairman

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Welcome to the first issue of the Kent Cricket Heritage Trust newsletter, "Inside Edge", which we intend to make the main mouthpiece of the Trust.

Since we formed the Trust last November, we have been setting out the strategy of what we want to do. Our first main task is to manage the large collection of cricket books, paintings and memorabilia owned by Kent County Cricket Club, as well as to catalogue, protect and increase it. To do this, our main task is to create a permanent home for it all - a museum, an archive and display cabinets and interactive exhibitions around the Spitfire Ground St. Lawrence.

To make sure that the Trust does not devote itself only to first-class cricket in Kent, we are also keen to establish links with local cricket clubs and heritage organisations, for whom we will be offering a corporate membership. We also hope to be able to bring exhibitions and events to different parts of the county from time to time, although inevitably the main focus of our work will be in Canterbury.

So, if you have any interest in the history and heritage of cricket in Kent, please join us. For just £10 a year you will have the chance to get involved in our heritage, through the newsletter, events and exhibitions, by exchange of information among collectors of cricketana and by enjoying evenings of discussion of every different aspect of cricket in Kent.

An application form to join the Trust is included in this newsletter. Please join us in building up a treasury of Kent cricket.

Commemorating The Great War

Kent Cricket with the aid and assistance of the KCHT, is marking the Centenary of the start of the Great War with a small exhibition highlighting the part that the cricketers of Kent played in the War and the tragic loss of life from amongst those who served.

The exhibition will include a Timeline of the events starting on 26th June 1914 - the day of the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand in Sarajevo. It shows the progress of the season with details of the matches played from this date up to the end of the season. It charts the movement of current, past and future Kent players in the early months of the war against the background of events in continental Europe.

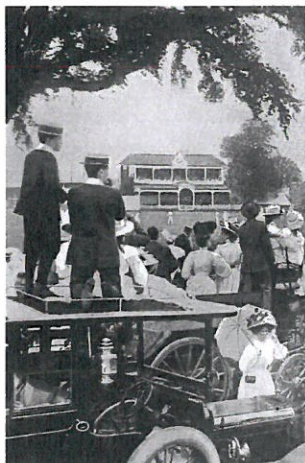
A further exhibit is a collage of photographs of the majority of Kent cricketers, again past,

present and future, who served during the 1914-1918 period.

There is a reproduction of the correspondence between Lord Harris and Major JSR Tufton (later Lord Hothfield) regarding the continuance of county cricket after war was declared on 4th August 1914.

The Club has also opened a Book of Remembrance that carries the names of those who died in both World Wars. Current players, Club officials, members of the Committee and Past Presidents are all being invited to sign the Book along with members and supporters.

The exhibition is sited in the foyer of the Pavilion and will run until the end of the season. It will be possible for Members and supporters to sign the Book of Remembrance during intervals on match days in August. Outside of those times signing can take place by visiting the Club office.



The Blythe Memorial

Visitors to The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence over the past few years will have noticed that The Blythe Memorial, which stood near the Old Dover Road entrance to the ground, is no longer there. The Memorial has been removed from its former location whilst the recent building and renovation work has been undertaken. The Blythe Memorial, together with the Fuller Pilch Memorial have been in placed in safe storage pending restoration work which also includes some correction to the original inscriptions.

The two memorials will be incorporated into the new landscaped entrance to the ground. At present the exact location of the memorials is to be confirmed, but it is intended that the work will be completed and the memorials re-sited on the ground in sufficient time to commemorate the centenary of Blythe's death in 2017.



JC

Publications & Bibliography of Kent Cricket

Publications - A notable aim of the Trust is to establish a programme of publications on Kent cricket history. The immediate ambition is a series of booklets covering Kent cricket in widest sense – club and ground histories, biographies of notable Kent cricketers etc. But we cannot do this without the funding that more members would provide. So if you have a pet project that deserves greater recognition, please join us and persuade as many as you can to do likewise so as we might achieve this aim.

Bibliography - Knowledge of the publications on Kent cricket held by collectors will be a considerable help in the compilation of an ongoing bibliography of Kent cricket, which is another aim of the Trust. We have a starting point in the bibliography published in the last appendix to the Kent history to which can be added many other relevant books and articles.

HM



**Thomas Jennings, Henry Preston, David Jennings, Colin Blythe & Claud Woolley
having signed up for the Kent Fortress Engineers**

The Day War Broke Out

Although the title of this piece is more familiar in connection with the sketches of Robb Wilton at the beginning of WW2, it is nevertheless apt for the 4th August 1914. Great Britain declared war on Germany and Austria-Hungary the day after Germany had declared war on France. Asquith's declaration came on the 2nd day of the first match of Canterbury week in the match against Sussex.

The first day of the match saw Sussex win the toss and bat on a good batting wicket. By close of play, they had established a strong position at 327 for 4, largely due to a splendid hundred by Joe Vine (140) and 64 from Vallance Jupp. The following day, the Kent Committee issued a statement to the media which appeared as part of the days match report in the *Times* -

"The Committee of the Kent County Cricket Club trust that the public will not suppose that in deciding that as far as lies within their power to adhere to the programme of matches, they are not indifferent to the grave crisis which affects the country. Their decision is due to their solicitude for the club's employees whose earnings would be materially affected if county matches were not played. The Committee have at present arranged to carry out the Dover Week, but owing to the unforeseen dislocation of business it will not be possible to provide luncheons for the public."

Elsewhere in the *Times*, the first recruiting poster appeared in the middle of page 3 amid news of military activity in continental Europe.

Meanwhile, back on the playing field, Kent struck back at Sussex following a shower of rain which made the wicket much more bowler friendly.

The remaining six wickets were collected for a mere 57 runs with Colin Blythe finishing with 6 for 107. The Sussex innings closed just before lunch and the remainder of the day saw Kent bowled out for 291 conceding a significant first innings advantage to Sussex. Wally Hardinge was the top scorer with 87 and other support came from Frank Woolley (54) and Arthur Day (49).

The crowd was reported to be several thousand down on previous years. During the afternoon, the band of the 6th Dragoon guards played the French and Russian National Anthems "each being well received with loud cheering all round the ground"

War was actually declared at 11.00pm on the evening of 4th August and the news, together with the poor weather, had a dampening effect on the following day. *The Times* says "There were not more than 500 people present to see the end of a thoroughly good game"

Rain prevented any play before lunch and Sussex declared their second innings at 78 for 8, setting Kent 172 to win in about 135 minutes. The Kent chase did not go well on the rain affected wicket and despite good efforts from James Seymour (48) and Arthur Day (30), Kent suffered a 34 run defeat with George Cox taking 6 for 45.

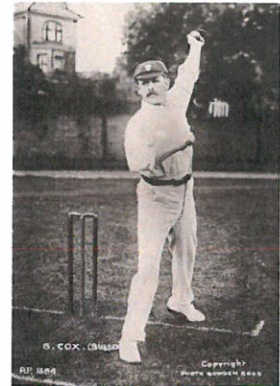
MM

Display Cabinets

We have all missed the displays of the Club's collection of memorabilia since the start of the ground redevelopment. What we have had on display has been restricted to the Pavilion, with some pictures and scorecards hanging from the walls in the Cowdrey stand and in other buildings.

The purchase of new display cabinets is now an urgent priority. We are seeking sponsorships for these cabinets. Can you help? Acknowledgement of sponsors will be attached to the cabinets. Depending on size, cabinets are likely to be in the £600 to £800 range. Let's get our collection back on display!

DR



The Telegraph Stand, Pavilion & Ladies Annex at St Lawrence circa 1914

Who's Who at KCHT

President : Hon. Christopher Cowdrey

Trustees : Jamie Clifford - Kent County Cricket Club CEO

David Robertson - Kent County Cricket Club Honorary Curator

Howard Milton - Kent County Cricket Club Honorary Statistician

Jonathan Rice - Kent County Cricket Club Main Committee Member

Tony Kilbee - Kent Cricket Heritage Trust Treasurer

KCHT Committee

Chairman - Jonathan Rice - jnhrice@googlemail.com

Jamie Clifford - jamie.clifford.kent@ ECB.co.uk

David Robertson - david.robertson81@btinternet.com

Howard Milton - howard.milton@tiscali.co.uk

Tony Kilbee - skilbee@gmail.com

Martin Moseling - acricketsortofchap@gmail.com

Derek Barnard - cricketologist@btinternet.com)

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

Future KCHT Events

Tuesday 23rd September
Kent & Gloucestershire

After close of play on the first day of our final county match of the season, against Gloucestershire. The theme will be the historical rivalry between Kent and Gloucestershire, and the people and events that connect the two clubs. No doubt the names of W.G. Grace, Wally Hammond and John Shepherd, among others, will come up during what we hope will be a lively evening. Admission for Trust members is free, for all others £10. Make a note in your diary now.

Help Needed

The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust has been formed as a Registered Charity with a view to assisting with the preservation and display of the archive material owned by Kent County Cricket Club. Although the present collection is extensive, the Trustees are aware that significant memorabilia in the form of photographic images, pictures and works of art, documents and other items are avidly collected by private individuals throughout the land. The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust is keen to ascertain details of items that exist in private collections.

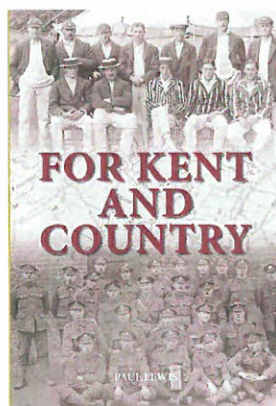
If you sent in the form expressing interest in the formation of the Kent Cricket Heritage Trust, you might well have told us that you are a collector of Kent books and memorabilia. We would like to draw up a register of collectors to give the opportunity for an exchange of information on what collectors have, what their special interests are, and to highlight anything unusual. Such a list might also appeal to those who have items to sell and those who are looking for particular items of Kent interest. Would you like to be included in this group? If so, please communicate, in the first instance, with David Robertson at the email address shown above.

We are always looking for willing help to progress the Trust. In particular at this particular time, anyone who can help with general administration, communications and public relations and editing publications would be heartily welcomed. Please contact us.

Recent Acquisitions

From time to time the Club is the recipient of generous gifts of artefacts and memorabilia from those who are anxious that appropriate items should have a permanent cricket home. We have recently received three mounted signed bats from more than thirty years ago, which carry the signatures of the 1981 Australian tourists and the England team, the great West Indies side captained by Clive Lloyd and including the signatures of the Essex, Middlesex, Somerset and Sussex teams, and the third to mark Graham Johnson's Benefit Year signed by the Kent team and other counties.

DR



A New Book on Kent Cricketers

A major contribution to the commemoration of the start of World War I and Kent cricket's contribution to it is Paul Lewis's *For Kent and Country*. In a monumental piece of historical research, the book tells the story of the Kent cricketers (First and Second XI) who served in the conflict. Using many previously unpublished photographs and records of bravery, it is an important addition to Kent's already considerable cricket literature. The price is £16.99 (paperback) and £22.99 (hardback) plus £3.85 postage. Paul will be signing copies during Canterbury Week. Otherwise, copies are available from Paul at 89 Hallsfield Road, Chatham, Kent ME5 9RT.

HM