



The Forty Club Newsletter

June
2011

The Forty Club and W.G.Grace

As you will hopefully all know the Club will be re-enacting the first ever fixture of the club v Wellingborough School on 19th June 2011. We have found out many intriguing facts about this fixture and some of them appear elsewhere in the newsletter. However on a visit to the venue our Club secretary stumbled across for me the most interesting. At the foot of the steps leading up to the front of the pavilion, a large stone has been sunk into the grass. On that stone is inscribed the following:

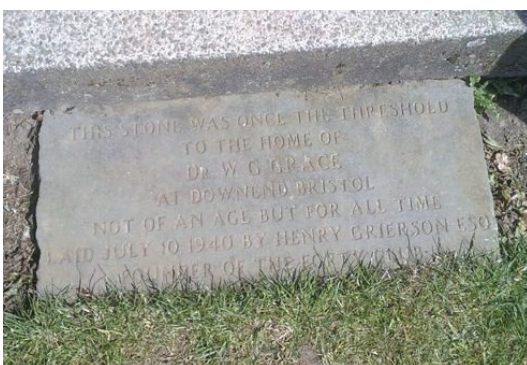
This stone was once the threshold
to the home of
Dr WG Grace
at Downend, Bristol
Not of an Age But for all Time
Laid July 10 1940 by Henry Grierson Esq

Barry looked up various XL annals and came across the following, taken from The Cricketer, June 25 1960: the article is titled The History of The Forty Club by Henry Grierson (founder and Hon Secretary).

" I hadn't mentioned our 1940 match against Wellingborough as there was little play owing to rain but perhaps I may be allowed to mention a little ceremony that took place before the game started. Some months previously, Murray Witham, the games master, had attended a sale at WG Grace's old house at Downend, Bristol, and had secured the front-doorstep on which the great man had trodden many, many times.

Murray brought it back to Wellingborough and it is placed in front of the gate leading to the pavilion. I was invited to 'lay' it when the Forty Club was there, and the boys always step on it as they go out to bat – it is supposed to bring them luck, I believe. It bears the name of the Forty Club and (may I breathe it?) mine. "

Let us hope that as both the XL players and the boys go out to bat on the 19th June, and they step on the stone, they will be as lucky as their predecessors.



Pictured left the W.G.Grace stone and right the Wooliscroft Trophy won by King's School Chester. Richard Evans is seen presenting it to the King's Chester captain



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That Picture

The picture that was included in the last Newsletter of the Forty Club at Bloxham 1939 has probably sparked the most inter action between members. As many pointed out Jack Hobbs is in the front row not the back! However that was only a small part of the dialogue. My thanks go to the following who have contributed to the debate, Mr George Lamb from Oxfordshire (who calls his house 'Mid Wicket'), Donald Steel, Christopher Martin Jenkins, Charles Fry, the son-in-law of Henry Grierson John D Davies, Carl Openshaw, Brian O'Gorman and many more. So from all those contributions we have:

Standing back Row; 5th from the left – Frank Whiting: 6th from the left – Spencer Lester: 9th from the left – Jack Whiting (snr): Far right – Fred 'Bo' Mallet.

Seated; WG Quaiife (seated far left): Jack Hobbs, (seated 3rd from left): 5th from the left – Ray Longdon (Northants/ England rugby player): 6th from the left –VL Armitage, Head Master. Henry Grierson (seated 7th from the left beside the HM):. Andy Kempton is seated with pads on 2nd from right front row and FGL Crawshay (seated far right): .

There have been some great insights from the contributors for example One of the early members of XL was Andy Kempton he was a business partner of Jack Hobbs in his Fleet Street Shop. Kempton was one of 6 wicket keepers on the Oval Staff before 1914 - so found chances limited .

On tour in Devon in 1921 Andy Kempton made 100 every day of the tour. Andy Kempton had a Rolls Royce and ran Surrey Colts for years. He left his Library of Cricket Books to Bloxham School. A great man of Cricket. He played for Honor Oak , Richmond.



Pictured above two Forty Club District Awards, St John's Leatherhead on the left and Myerscough College

NEW CANDIDATES

The Chairman Barrie Hunter has been very busy recently trying to recruit new candidates to the Club. Whilst he has been out and about at his cricket, he has been spreading the word about the Forty Club and encouraging good cricketers to sign up as candidates and hopefully join. In the last 4 weeks alone, he has passed the names and contact details of 10 cricketers to Paul Whittle, DC South, and we hope that South match managers will get the details very soon and include these folk in their games.

Barry Aitken has received an application from Michael Arnold – XL tourists who have been to Italy will remember Michael as a decent Sri Lankan cricketer (and brother of a Test cricketer) who figures large in Italian cricket. Michael is coming to live in England and wants to play Forty Club cricket.

Recruiting new candidates and members is pivotal to the future of the Club, a requirement that is made all the more critical in the south of England by the growth of over 50s, 60s and even 70s cricket. When the lower age limit for membership was dropped to 35, the primary aims were to widen the "playing window" from 10 to 15 years and to introduce younger members. Every match the Forty Club plays must be seen as a recruiting opportunity and we hope that every match manager will take the opportunity to promote the Club, introduce new candidates and encourage them to become new members.

Special days

Cyril hits the Century Mark

This June Cyril Perkins hits the hundred mark,

Our President penned a poem an extract I reproduce with his permission

“There are not many left from team thirty seven

They mostly have gone (we hope all to heaven)

But Cyril's still with us and we'd like to say

From all at The Forty Club, Happy Birthday.”

Charles Fry

President, The Forty Club

Our patron also has a special birthday this month and The President, Chairman and Officers and all the members of the Forty Club both in UK and Overseas extend their best wishes and sincere congratulations to

His Royal Highness Prince Philip

On the Occasion of his 90th Birthday and to Celebrate his 50 years as Patron of this Club.



Scyld Berry relaxing before his bowling stint in the XL (WE) match against Monkton Combe School when he got 6 wickets.



Adam Sedgwick v Oakham School



Congratulations to the opening pair in the XL v Cowbridge Comprehensive School. The captain Adam Wood scored 74 and his younger brother scored his maiden century.

More from Bloxham 1939.

We had been debating who was Walter Quaife. Carl Openshaw had this contribution “W. G Quaife is standing wearing a cap and with a white moustache. He was 67 when he played in this match, but was probably fairly fit since he played the last of his 35 seasons with Warwickshire at the age of 56. Brian O’Gorman then pitched in “And the gentleman with the flat cap is surely not Willie Quaife - who was diminutive - though making 1000's of runs for Warwickshire and playing till over 50 in First Class Cricket .The style of Cap was known as " Free For-ester " and unlikely to have been adopted by a Professional !

Then Barry Aitken had this input “”Since we have been talking about Walter Quaife, I thought I would share this little anecdote with you. My family took me out for lunch today: a small pub in the village of Longstock just outside Stockbridge in Hampshire was selected. The first thing I saw when I walked into the bar was a very good photo of a young Walter Quaife ! He is in his whites, playing a forward defensive with a bat that looked very tall compared with his own height.

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Umpires

Did you know that at least two districts have umpires on the elite lists. The NW District has a First Class Umpire. He is Mark Eggleston (pictured below), and he was the 3rd umpire in the Televised CB 40 match Glamorgan v Essex in May. Mark played for the NW at Myerscough this season. He has been on the list two years now and is now getting Championship matches. The Scotland District can boast Ian Ramage Ian is now umpiring full time and has stood in 17 ODIs after his first Ireland v Kenya in 2008. Ian tells me his proudest moment was standing in the Scotland V England ODI in Edinburgh in 2010. Ian played 37 games and took 55 wickets before deciding to concentrate on his umpiring. Are there any other elite umpires out there?



Extras

Carl Openshaw is compiling a comprehensive record of the Club's playing statistics since the first match in 1937.

He has been working progressively through the years and is currently in mid-1998, having carefully perused around 4000 score sheets. As 200 or more fixtures have been arranged in recent years, he estimates that, allowing for cancelled matches and the occasional unreturned scoresheet, he has approximately 2000 to go. This means that he will not complete the task before the end of the summer, so is now proposing to incorporate the 2011 season and prepare a full and up to date record of all matches for which score sheets have been retained by the end of the year. Carl has discovered the occasional error in the records he prepared a few years ago and has come across a few additional score sheets which he did not have access to at the time. Hopefully the completed version will provide some interesting highlights of the Club's history. We are very grateful to Carl for all his efforts



Typhoon Tyson?

Paul Coffey reports on an incident from the XL match v East Region Academy at Edinburgh Academy.

The weather was very windy, and asking around the team (which constitutes about 400 years of cricketing experience) it was certainly the windiest conditions any of us had ever played in.

At the start of the game, one of the sightcreens toppled over in a severe gust.

There were numerous instances throughout the game where a bowler would abort a run-up due to a heavy gust, or the batsman would back away.

During the XL innings Paul actually got a phone call (another first for him!!!) from the umpire saying that one of the batsman was feeling a bit uncomfortable in the wind.

Paul went out to the pitch and was told by XL member Paul Murray that he was feeling very uncomfortable about playing in the wind and wanted to retire from batting. "I checked with the fielders to see if they were ok to continue and they were fine."

So Paul Murray retired from his innings. It was quite understandable for him to do so, as during the East innings one of their youngsters was nearly blown off his feet preparing to face a delivery. The Club completed a 51 run victory 147-7 and bowl them out for 96.