

9, Redway Road,  
Rushampton,  
London SW15 5DN  
5th October, 2014.

Dear Julian,

Enclosed is my piece on Herbert Thompson - It is  
quite long so I will enjoy reading the printed piece!

Finding out what R.H. Stone was quite  
interesting and I have learnt quite a bit about Sunny  
in that period, so you should have no feeling that I  
have not enjoyed the last three weeks.

Unless you are a Christopher Saunders' mailing list  
you may not know that the Sunny Bibliography is now on  
the JFM website. Many have had problems over books  
not included but most people seem happy. It is not cheap  
and Saunders has asked for £34 each including  
postage. His phone number is 01594 516 030 if you are interested.

With best wishes,

Michael Hoare

Herbert Thompson

Herbert Thompson was born on 6th December, 1869 at West Norwood, London. He enjoyed a strange life as a cricketer as there were significant gaps between his first and last match for Surrey. He was taken on the playing staff at the age of 21 having played for Streatham United C.C.

Once on the Surrey staff he played for the 2nd.XI before the days of the Minor Counties Championship. His first appearance for the county in first-class cricket was in 1894 against Essex at Leyton. The following year he played against Leicestershire at The Oval and scored 44\*, the highest of his career. In 1896 he played in four matches and then followed a long gap when he played regularly for the second XI including 8 Championship matches in 1899, 3 in 1900 and 11 in 1901.

It was not until 1909 that he played again in first-class cricket for the county. After a second XI match he played against Somerset at Taunton taking 5 wickets. "Cricket" reported that this was because D. Hayes was playing for England and that he at the times was head of the ground-staff. <sup>of 59</sup> He played in the next match at Bristol, against Gloucestershire and took 5 wickets in the first innings and 5 for 112 in the second. "Cricket" also stated that he had recently developed the art of "googlie" bowling.

The following year he played in only one match, against Worcestershire, at Stourbridge, when <sup>was</sup> they recorded their first ever victory against Surrey. Once again there followed a large gap and in 1919 he played his final match for the county. He remained on the list of professionals until 1924 having been the county coach from 1914 until 1923. His final contact with the game came in 1928 when for two seasons he umpired first-class cricket. He died in October, 1947 at Caterham in Surrey.

In a career of only 12 first-class matches he scored 138 runs but took 31 wickets, including 2 fives in an innings and 1 ten in a match. Not many players have done as well as a bowler in such a short career.

I feel that the above is much too long so please feel free to make amendments as you feel, I will not be suprised.

*He listed as a ground bowler every year up to 1924 except for the Great War years.*