

Kent County Cricketers
A to Z
Part Two. 1919 to 1939.
(Updated April 2024)

Introduction

Part Two of the Kent A to Z covers the 92 cricketers who made their entry into first-class cricket for Kent between the wars. With 12 Championship titles, 330 wins and only 49 defeats, Yorkshire dominated throughout the two decades but Kent could reasonably claim to be the most successful of the Southern counties, twice ending runners-up and in only three seasons failing to finish in the top half of the table.

During those inter-war years, cricket was becoming increasingly professional. Of the names listed in the county averages in the 1921 *Wisden*, over 57% were amateurs. By 1931 the figure had fallen to 41%; and in the last pre-war season it was down to 33%. Kent, in common with one or two other counties, fought hard against the prevailing trend. Throughout the period, they stuck to their long-established policy of endeavouring to field a minimum of three amateurs in every match. In practice, they were quite frequently unable to do so, especially early in the season but, of the 92 cricketers listed in the following pages, 60, i.e. over 65%, were, in the idiom of the time, ‘Gentlemen’.

Except perhaps in one or two instances, it does not appear to be a case of amateurs drafted in to make the numbers up. Of the 60, only 18 made five or fewer first team appearances; nine were ‘one match wonders’. For comparison purposes, among the 32 professionals, eight made five or fewer appearances; two of them played only once.

As an indication of the Kent management’s determination to preserve the amateur element, whereas more than 65% of those playing between the wars were from the ‘expenses only’ fraternity, in the period covered by Kent County Cricketers A to Z Part One, 1806 to 1914, the figure was lower, a little over 61%. However, it is perhaps worth adding that, in the early days of Kent cricket, the line between amateur and professional was sometimes more than a little blurred.

Acknowledgments & Sources

Once again thanks are due to the Kent CCC Honorary Statistician Howard Milton who, from the outset, has contributed so much to the Kent A to Z project and continues to do so. Similarly, the A to Z would not have been a practicable proposition without the freedom granted by Kent’s (now retired) Honorary Curator, David Robertson to browse the Club’s archives – particularly the Minute Books and the Trial Book. Thanks are due too to his successor, Caroline Ellis, for her help with matters which have arisen since David’s retirement. With his usual generosity, Paul Lewis once again shared the results of his extensive research into the service records of Kent cricketers in the two World Wars.

Another to be singled out for particular thanks is Derek Barnard who made available his extensive archive on the formative years and subsequent career of Douglas Wright, as well as sharing information on the careers of several other players, some resulting from face-to-face interviews with the cricketer concerned and/or relatives thereof, notably in the case of Hugh Dinwiddy.

Others who have aided our research include Mike Braham of Southport & Birkdale Cricket Club, David Frith, David Kelly, Ian Lambert, Nigel Mannouch, Roger Packham, Phil Paine, the late Alan Priest who sent me the results of his research into the career of ‘Father’ Marriott, and Chris Swadkin.

Relatives of players featured in A to Z have been an important source and in this respect special thanks are due to Alex Legge, grandson of the late Lt. Commander Geoffrey Legge RNVR, and Mrs Anthea Unsworth, daughter of the late Lt. Colonel William Leggatt RA.

Former players have played a major role in the A to Z, none more so than Derek Ufton and Bob Wilson, who, although both began their careers post-war, have endured prolonged questioning about players of earlier vintage with unflinching good humour. The late Claude Lewis and the late Howard Levett were likewise rich sources of information on cricket between the wars as was the late Brian Luckhurst on the subject of Arthur Fagg. Mention should also be made of the late Bob Cristofani (Australian Services & New South Wales) who, long years ago in that land of lost content, the bar of Alf Gover's Cricket School, treated the writer to an analysis of the bowling of his fellow leg spinner Doug Wright, based on his experience of playing against him in the Victory Test Series and in the historic England v Dominions match at Lord's which followed.

Among numerous Archivists/Historians who have contributed, mention must be made of those of Aldenham, Charterhouse, Durham, Harrow, Mill Hill, Repton, Rugby, St. Edmund's, Canterbury, Uppingham and Westminster schools, Bradfield, Brighton, Clifton, Eton, Kent, Lancing, Malvern, Marlborough, Wellington and Winchester colleges, Berkshire, Dorset and Norfolk County Cricket Clubs and Harborne Cricket Club,

At all stages, extensive use has, of course been made of the *Cricket Archive* website and, among printed sources, *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack*, the ACS *First-Class Cricket Scores* series and the *First-Class Cricket a complete record* series. Also frequently consulted have been the official *History of Kent County Cricket Club* from Appendix F onwards, the *Kent County Cricket Club Annual 1933-1936 and 1939*, the *Kent County Cricket Club Yearbook 1947-1950*, and the *Kent County Cricket Club Annual 1951* to date.

R.L.Arrowsmith's *Kent, a history of county cricket* (Arthur Barker 1971), has also proved a valuable source on the inter-war years. A little surprisingly only six Kent cricketers from the period covered have so far been the subject of biographies or autobiographies; details will be found in appropriate places in the text.

Among periodicals, the titles most often consulted were *The Cricketer* magazine, under its various titles, the short-lived *Wisden Cricket Monthly*, of national newspapers *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph* and of locals, *The Kentish Gazette* and *The Kent Messenger*. *The Kentish Mercury* was always useful on cricket in Metropolitan Kent.

For biographical information, much use has been made of genealogical websites, mainly ancestry.co.uk and findmypast.co.uk. Others consulted are mentioned in the text.

Because some of the content is based on research carried out many years before the A to Z was considered as a project, it is likely that the names of some who have contributed have been omitted. If so, I apologise for the oversight. The fault is entirely mine,

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Ian Stanley Akers-Douglas (No. 570).

Born: 16.11.1909, Kensington, London. Died: 16.12.1952, Frant, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1929-1938. Kent Cap: 1932.

Educated: Eton College & Christ Church, Oxford.

Parents: Lt. Col. George Alexander Akers-Douglas & Doris Akers-Douglas (née Christopherson).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	48	67	3	1520	123	23.75	2	5	12
Overall	60	86	3	1965	123	23.67	2	8	12

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	61	3	20.33	2-20		
Overall	100	4	25.00	2-20		

Born in Tite Street, Chelsea, Ian Akers-Douglas had a cricketing pedigree. His paternal grandfather was Aretas Akers-Douglas, later First Viscount Chilston, President of Kent in 1885 as well as a Conservative party Chief Whip and Home Secretary in Arthur Balfour's 1902 administration. His mother was a daughter of Stanley Christopherson (q.v.) and niece of Percy Christopherson (q.v.).

An archetypal Public School/Oxbridge batsman of the inter-war period, Ian Akers-Douglas excelled in the off drive and cut and, when set, almost invariably got his runs quickly. However, like many of his kind, he was it seems less happy when the ball was turning or seaming. He was in the Eton Eleven in 1927 and 1928 and in the latter year was rated by *Wisden* as the best schoolboy batsman of the year, averaging over 50 and hitting 42 and 158 against Harrow at Lord's.

Prior to going up to Oxford in 1929, he widened his experience by taking part in a pre-season tour of Egypt with HM Martineau's Eleven, in a party including future county colleagues George Wood and C.H. 'John' Knott. Nevertheless, despite 128 in the Freshmens' match, he was not picked for Oxford's opening game of the season against Kent. Instead he played for Kent against his University, marking his first-class debut with an innings of 33 and a third-wicket partnership of 112 with Frank Woolley (74). Shortly afterwards, he made his debut for the University, against Nottinghamshire, and, on his third appearance in the Parks, against Leicestershire, he scored 54 and 59, the latter in a 137 run opening partnership with Patrick Brett (75*). This was not enough to gain him his Blue but Kent picked him for four more matches, all on home grounds. At Folkestone against Essex he hit 84, adding 180 in two hours with Les Ames. He was also somehow picked for a rather strange 'England Eleven' against Yorkshire at Bramall Lane. The team, captained by Johnny Douglas, included the Nawab of Pataudi and six from Leicestershire. Due to rain, Akers-Douglas did not get to the wicket.

In 1930 he again began well at Oxford with a hundred in the Seniors' match but, despite a brilliant innings of 94 against Leicestershire, he again failed to win his Blue due to, according to *Wisden*, 'uncertain fielding'. If true, this is odd as he was picked as 12th man for the University match. One of 13 amateurs who played for Kent that season, he made five appearances with a top score of 43 against his University in the opening game of the season.

Free of University commitments in 1932, he played in 14 matches for Kent. Beginning with 58* v Essex at Gravesend, he scored 612 runs (avge.36.00) with a top score of 123 (18 fours) v Hampshire at Portsmouth. He also hit 69 against Lancashire at Folkestone and was dismissed in the 40s six times.

Business (stockbroking) restricted the rest of his first-class career. In 1934, his best season, he scored 365 runs (avge.36.50) in ten appearances and, with 100 in 65 minutes against Somerset at Taunton in

May, he narrowly failed to win the inaugural Walter Lawrence Trophy for the fastest hundred of the season. In August Frank Woolley beat him at the post by two minutes. He played two other hard-hitting innings of substance, 71 v Glamorgan at Gravesend and 88 v Hampshire at Portsmouth, the latter compensation for a pair in the previous match at Bristol.

In 1936 he was one of two appointed 'deputy captains' to Percy Chapman (Bryan Valentine was the other) and, although managing only 249 runs in 13 matches, he led the side to an excellent win against Essex on a rain affected pitch at Tunbridge Wells. He also took his team to victory in his final first-class match, v Worcestershire at Tonbridge in 1938.

His wartime cricket included some appearances for the largely professional (or ex-professional) London Counties team and for Eastern Command while serving as a Captain in 145 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment RA (TA). In a charity match at St. Lawrence in aid of Kent and Canterbury Hospital in August 1945, his innings of 51 was top score for Kent v the Rest. In 1946 he toured Holland with Free Foresters.

He served on the Kent General Committee from 1938 to 1947.

An outstanding racquets player, he won the Amateur Championship in 1932, 1933 and 1934 and was runner-up in 1930, 1931, 1935, 1938 and 1946 as well as winning the amateur Doubles Championship (with K.A.Wagg) in 1932, 1933 and 1935. He also won the British Isles Open Championship in 1933 and the Public Schools competition for Eton with Wagg in 1927 and with I.A.de H.Lyle in 1928.

In July 1945 he married Phyllis Rosemary Parsons. In 1952 he was found dead in the garage of his home in Frant, following an accident with a shotgun. His estate was valued for probate at £6,726. 6s 4d.

Cyril George Prat Alliston (No. 542).

Born: 1.11.1891, Fulham, London. *Died:* 21.7. 1973, Southport, Lancashire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium pace bowler.

Kent 1922.

Educated: Repton School.

Parents: Paul Alliston & Augusta Sophia Alliston (née Radgett).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	1	1	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0

Bowling

Did not bowl

Cyril Alliston's one game for Kent, against Warwickshire at Edgbaston in 1922, came shortly after he had taken 6 for 31 for Kent Second Eleven v Bedfordshire at Bickley Park. With Warwickshire dismissed for 108 and 72 Woolley 14 for 91), he did not get a chance to bowl, but batting number nine, he was caught off the bowling of the Honourable Freddie Calthorpe without scoring. This was his only innings. He had been in the Eleven at Repton in 1909 and in three games for Kent Second eleven scored 55 runs, top score 19, and claimed seven wickets (avge. 7.14).

Cyril Alliston belonged to a family extensively involved in the cotton industry. His father was a 'merchant & Manchester trader' with the family firm Alliston & Co, as was his father's brother, and at least three of five half-brothers. The firm was founded by Cyril's grandfather, Sir Frederick Alliston, to exploit and develop a continental cotton printing process.

Born in Margate, Sir Frederick, in addition to being 'an Inspector & wholesaler of cotton goods', was a Sheriff, Alderman and JP for the City of London, Chairman of London County Council and a member

of numerous committees including the body responsible for the construction of Tower Bridge. In 1899, when obliged to retire due to deafness and thus forego his probable year as Lord Mayor, he was presented by the then current Lord Mayor with his portrait in oils. Sir Frederick, son Paul and grandson Cyril all at one time lived in Coper's Cope Road, Beckenham, hence the latter's qualification for Kent.

Initially Cyril Alliston did not join the family firm. When the First World War broke out he was working as a book-keeper in Canada. Enlisting in January 1915, he was commissioned and in June 1915 sailed for England as a Lieutenant with the 49th Battalion, Canadian Infantry, Edmonton Regiment. On 25th March 1916, while serving in the Ypres Salient, he was seriously wounded by shrapnel during a heavy bombardment which killed three and wounded four. A shrapnel ball had lodged against his bladder and for a time he was on the danger list. After a stay of two months in hospital in Boulogne and at Dorchester House, Park Lane (the site now occupied by the Dorchester Hotel), he was granted leave to Canada and in September was discharged as unfit for further service.

Perhaps a little surprisingly, he returned to England only a month later. By the end of the War he was working in the City for the family firm. A prominent Freemason, in 1920 he was granted the Freedom of the City of London, as his father and brother Clement had been before him. In the late 1920s he moved as company representative in the North West.

Before the war and after, he played club cricket for Beckenham and between 1924 and 1927 for Band of Brothers. From 1928 to 1946 he made over 200 appearances for Southport & Birkdale, captain in 1931 & 1944-45 and a Vice President. His 285 wickets included 9 for 26 for Southport v Formby in 1944. His wife Marjorie (née Pert) was a member of the Club as was son Maurice who was also in the Eleven at Repton. On many occasions father and son played in the same side. On retiring to make way for younger players, he took up golf. He was in the Association Football Eleven at Repton in 1908 and 1909. His death was from coronary thrombosis.

Leslie Ethelbert George Ames CBE (No. 559).

Born: 3.12.1905, Elham. *Died:* 27 .2.1990, Canterbury.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg spin bowler, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1926-1951. Cap. 1927.

Educated: Harvey Grammar School, Folkestone.

Tests. 47 for England.

Wisden Cricketer of the Year 1929.

Lawrence Trophy 1936, 1939.

Parents: Harold Ames & Edith Ames (née Broadbridge).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	430	717	64	28951	295	44.33	78	139	512/330
England	47	72	12	2434	149	40.56	8	7	74/23
Overall	593	951	95	37250	295	43.51	102	176	703/418

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	697	22	31.68	3-23		
England	Did not bowl					
Overall	801	24	33.67	3-23		

Few, even arguably Lord Harris, made a greater contribution to Kent cricket than Leslie Ames. Not only on the field, where he was undoubtedly the finest wicketkeeper-batsman of his time and one of the best ever. As an administrator, he took over when Kent CCC was organisationally and financially at a

low ebb. With no formal management training and, by modern standards, a minuscule staff, he turned things round and did more than anyone to create the modern Kent County Cricket Club.

Cricket has improved in numerous ways in recent years but it is questionable if wicketkeeping is one of them. Whereas in the past it was usually the custom to pick for England the best from among the specialist wicketkeepers available, now the specialist wicketkeeper is generally considered obsolete, shunned by most modern coaches in favour of what one pundit termed 'the run scoring stopper'. Missed chances and byes, especially off the spinners, are accepted at top level as part of the learning process so long as the runs keep coming. Where Ames differed from contemporary wicketkeeper-batsman, and most of those in the past, was that as a keeper he would have been worthy of consideration if his natural place in the batting order had been one place above the extras, while he could well have been a regular choice as a batsman for England if he had never crouched behind the stumps in his life.

Les Ames belonged to the quietly efficient, unobtrusive school of wicketkeeping. Always superbly balanced, he saw the ball early, moved quickly, and took it without fuss, histrionics or unnecessary acrobatics. It was perhaps because of his quiet method that for a while many critics, particularly in the north, had difficulty in accepting his supplanting the more flamboyant Lancastrian George Duckworth. Given the reduced county programme, it is unlikely that anyone now will approach his record of three times achieving the wicketkeeper's double of 1,000 runs and 100 dismissals, still less his 64 stumpings in 1932. Or of course, 82 catches and 261 stumpings from one bowler, in his case, 'Tich' Freeman.

Throughout his career, the Kent attack was founded largely on the wrist spin of Freeman, 'Father' Marriott and Doug Wright, and this undoubtedly boosted his tally of stumpings, but he also excelled keeping to pace. Of his 74 catches behind the wicket for England, 58 came from fast or fast-medium bowlers. In Ames' playing days, wicketkeepers were expected to stand up to all bowling except genuine pace. Four of his stumpings were from the bowling of Alan Watt, who delivered at full fast-medium, and four from the brisk medium pace inswing of Bill Ashdown. In Test matches he stumped three batsmen off the bowling of Walter Hammond and one off Bill Voce.

As a batsman he was textbook orthodox, apart from a hint of a flourish in his backlift. On the offside his technique was reminiscent of Walter Hammond, the drive and cut among his favourite strokes. In one respect he differed from the great Gloucestershire batsman; Ames liked to hook. He was one of the few batsmen to hook Larwood for six. Exceptionally quick on his feet, he could be devastating against the spinners and there were few better batsmen around on the numerous turning wickets encountered in the days when pitches were open to the elements. He twice won the Lawrence Trophy for the fastest hundred of the season and the highest of his nine double centuries, 295 against Gloucestershire at Folkestone in 1933, was scored in a little over 240 minutes.

A superb judge of a run, he was considered among the fastest of his era between the wickets and, when not behind the stumps, he was equally quick in the outfield.

Ames was a true Man of Kent with roots traced back six generations to Thomas Ames, a bricklayer, born in 1729 and living in Stanford. He grew up with cricket and played it (and football) from earliest childhood. His father, overcoming the handicap of total deafness, was a left-arm spinner for Elham, much feared by local batsmen. Paternal grandfather, Harold senior, was scarcely less dreaded as the club's umpire. Early encouragement came from a friend of the family, the former Kent and England cricketer Francis MacKinnon (*q.v.*), who lived as a sort of local squire, at nearby Acryse Park. He presented the four-year old Leslie with his first cricket bat. Another useful family contact was the Kent wicketkeeper Jack Hubble (*q.v.*) who every Canterbury Week came to Elham to stay with his brother Lewis, who had a grocery business in the village.

As well as playing for the Elham Boys Team, Ames turned out occasionally for the full Elham village side, usually batting around numbers eight or nine. It was at Harvey Grammar School, Folkestone that he first attracted wider attention, when, at the age of 14, he hit his first century – 104* in 90 minutes v

Dover County School at the Crabble Ground. This earned him another cricket bat from, to give him his proper title, the MacKinnon of MacKinnon.

On leaving school at 17, Ames was apprenticed to a cousin's grocery business in Brabourne and, while learning the trade, decided to better himself as a cricketer by moving from the Elham club, where he felt himself trapped in the nether regions of the batting order, to Smeeth. Here he gained brief, but ultimately significant, experience behind the stumps. The regular keeper unwisely persisted in missing chances from his captain's leg spin and the youthful Ames was drafted in as replacement. He clearly had a flair for keeping wicket, but it was his batting which in April 1924 earned him a trial with Kent. The first trial was unproductive, but a glut of runs for Smeeth, including an innings of 185 against Aldington, brought the chance to play for Ashford against Kent Club & Ground.

The Club & Ground captain was Gerry Weigall (*q.v.*) who was not only the Kent Club coach, but also one of cricket's greatest eccentrics. An odd choice as coach, his quirky, often downright weird, views on cricket and on life were widely known throughout the game. A great seeker after cricketing talent, most of his swans proved to be ugly ducklings or scrawny geese, but in the case of young Ames he got it right. An innings of 46 resulted in an invitation to turn out for the Club & Ground against Hythe.

One of a whole string of hobbyhorses in the Weigall stable was that a professional needed to have more than one string to his bow. Ames was no bowler, so he found himself a reluctant wicketkeeper, using gear borrowed from the man he was about to displace, the second-team wicketkeeper, the ill-fated Arthur Povey. Four dismissals, no fumbles and useful runs brought further opportunities. At the end of the season he headed the Club & Ground batting averages. He was also chosen for four end-of-season Second Eleven matches, with varying results – v Norfolk at Lakenham, 7 & 5, v Wiltshire at Blackheath, 50 & 3, v Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, 7 & 5, v Wiltshire at Swindon, 1 & 4. He opened the batting in the Blackheath match but it seems unlikely that he kept wicket. Povey played in all four games, Jack Hubble in three of them.

Ames was taken on the staff in 1925 and, with Povey not re-engaged, became regular reserve wicketkeeper. Next season he was twice chosen for the first team as a batsman in Tunbridge Wells Week, scoring 35 in his debut match against Warwickshire, eight and 22 against Notts. For the Second Eleven he headed the averages with 765 runs at 54.64. In the opening game of the 1927 season he made his first-class wicketkeeping debut against Worcestershire, where he scored 90, sharing a partnership of 155 in 65 minutes with Percy Chapman (158) as well as stumping two and catching one. In June he hit 111 v Hampshire at Southampton, the first of his 102 centuries (78 of them for Kent). In July he was a rather surprise choice for the Rest v England at Bristol in the second of two Test Trials. Bowled by Larwood without scoring, he allowed only four byes in an England total of 461. In August he reached his 1,000 runs.

Apart from occasional appearances, Jack Hubble retired at the end of the 1927 season. As a result, from the commencement of the 1928 season Ames became regular first team wicketkeeper and carried on until 1939 when, due to the back pain which had plagued him for some years, he was obliged to concentrate on his batting. By the end of 1939 he had passed 1,000 runs in every season since 1927 except in 1936 when he suffered a displaced vertebra. Four times he exceeded 2,000 with his best season 1933 when he amassed 3,058 runs at an average of 58.80.

1933 was also the year in which another hugely talented stumper, the irrepressibly loquacious amateur Howard 'Hopper' Levett, became regularly available. Although in no way comparable with Ames as a batsman, he not only deputised when Ames was on Test Match duty. On occasions both played, Ames fielding while Levett kept. Sometimes the primary aim was to give Ames a chance to rest his suspect back but it also allowed him to enjoy a change of scene in the outfield or at slip. To the lasting mortification of statisticians, several times the pair switched roles in mid-match.

Like the majority of Kent batsmen of his generation, when Ames scored runs they came quickly. As well as his two Walter Lawrence Trophies in 1936 and 1939, he was prominent in many of the epic run

chases which were a feature of Kent cricket between the wars. Against Gloucestershire at Dover in 1937 he hit 70 out of 100 in 36 minutes while in the run fest at Brentwood in 1934, when Kent totalled 803 for 4, his 202* came in 170 minutes.

Ames toured Australia in 1928/29 as deputy to Duckworth without getting an opportunity at Test level. In the following summer he was chosen in place of Duckworth for the Fifth Test match against South Africa at the Oval. It was some way short of a dream debut. Caught at slip before he had scored, he took two catches, including top scorer Herbie Taylor (121), but earlier he had missed Taylor, South Africa's best batsman, off the bowling of Frank Woolley when he had scored seven. In the 1929/30 winter he toured West Indies with MCC and thoroughly redeemed himself, 'keeping immaculately' according to *Wisden*, to a varied attack including Voce, Wilfred Rhodes, Bill Astill and Les Townsend and registering his first two Test centuries, 105 at Queen's Park, Port of Spain and 149 at Sabina Park.

Duckworth was chosen for the 1930 Ashes series in England but Ames took over against New Zealand in 1931, hit a century in the Test at Lord's and, apart from games missed through injury or back problems, was England's regular wicketkeeper until the end of the 1938/39 tour of South Africa. On tour in the sunshine, he kept as well as ever but on returning home, back pain persuaded him to play in future solely as a batsman. Only in 1935 against South Africa did others gain the selectorial nod. At Lord's Ames was played as a batsman with Duckworth's Lancashire deputy Bill Farrimond behind the stumps and for the Fourth Test at the Old Trafford he was dropped in favour of Duckworth. He celebrated his return to the side in the final Test at the Oval with 148* and a fifth-wicket partnership of 179 with Morris Leyland (161).

Ames and Duckworth toured Australia together three times, Duckworth keeping in all five Tests in 1928/29, Ames in all five in 1932/33 and 1936/37. When Ames first displaced Duckworth there was a body of opinion – predominantly located north of Watford and fuelled in part by the writings of the Manchester-based Neville Cardus - convinced that Ames was an inferior wicketkeeper who owed his place to his batting. Although the two became close friends, sections of the press attempted to play up their 'rivalry'. Ames had kept superbly to Jardine's bodyline attack and reputedly missed only one chance throughout the entire 1932/33 series, but, when he failed to stump Bill Woodfull at Old Trafford in 1934, there were derisive cries of 'Where's Duckie?' 'Bring out a wicketkeeper' etc. As far as it is possible to tell after all these years, Ames was the more reliable day in and day out. The Lancastrian, like Godfrey Evans of a later generation, was more likely to bring out the periodic flash of genius as well as perhaps being inclined sometimes to make it look difficult. It was at Duckworth's suggestion that Ames adopted the practice of putting a raw steak inside his gloves as protection against the battering inflicted by the likes of Larwood, Voce, Bowes and Allen on hard Australian wickets.

In addition to his three tours of Australia, Ames toured West Indies in 1929-1930 and 1934-35 and South Africa in 1938-39 when he kept wicket in all five Test matches and hit his last century for England, 115 at Cape Town where he shared a fourth-wicket partnership of 197 with Walter Hammond (181).

Of his eight Test centuries, three were against West Indies, two against South Africa, two against New Zealand and one against Australia. The latter, at Lord's in 1934, was the most valuable of the lot. Coming in with England struggling at 182 for 5, he was eighth out for 120 with the total 409. With Morris Leyland (109), he added 129 for the sixth-wicket. Post-war he was asked about his availability for the 1946/47 tour of Australia but, probably wisely, declined.

During the 1939/45 War Ames served in the RAF, mainly in administration, and reached the rank of Squadron Leader. Over the six years he managed to play a considerable amount of cricket, hitting a hundred for the RAF v the Army at Lord's in 1941 and even achieving a hat-trick in a club match with his rarely-seen leg-breaks. Chosen for the first of the 1945 'Victory' Test matches at Lord's, he was top scorer in England's first innings with 57.

When cricket resumed after the war he carried on where he had left off, exceeding 1,000 runs in every season from 1946 to 1950 inclusive, over 2,000 in 1947 and 1949. 30 of his 102 centuries were scored post-war after he had passed the age of 40. These included two more double centuries, making nine in all.

When he hit his epic hundredth century at against Middlesex at Canterbury in 1950, Kent required 237 to win in 150 minutes. He scored his 131 out of 211 in two hours. Middlesex's John Warr may not have been an out and out fast bowler but he was quick enough to open the bowling for England. During his innings, Ames several times ran down the wicket to straight drive him over his head. The game was notable in another respect. Godfrey Evans was injured in Middlesex's second innings and after a lapse of eleven years, Ames took his place behind the wicket.

In the winter of 1950/51 Ames led a strong Commonwealth team to India and Ceylon (as it then was). Despite more trouble with his back, he hit two more centuries. These were his last. In the opening fixture of the 1951 season on a cold, dank and dismal Gillingham ground, he went out to bat against Nottinghamshire. Barely able to move through back pain, he struggled to seven but was compelled to retire. Exacerbated by an attempt to mow the lawn ten days later, his back became worse and he decided to retire.

He had scored a century against each of the then 16 other counties and all the Test playing countries of his time. He hit a hundred on every Kent ground used during his career except Chatham. Three times he scored two hundreds in a match, twice hit three centuries in succession and shared in 15 partnerships of 200 or more. He was awarded benefits in 1937 (£1,107.) and 1948 (£4,336.).

He led the Players against the Gentlemen at Lord's in 1947, the last of twelve appearances in the historic fixture in which his top score was 201 at Folkestone in 1933. When Bryan Valentine relinquished the captaincy in 1948, it was offered to Ames. He accepted but changed his mind when he discovered that the Kent management, not yet ready to stomach a professional captain, expected him to turn amateur. Although by now able to afford it, he was not prepared to abandon his treasured professional status. Others higher up cricket's hierarchy than the Kent committee had a more enlightened attitude. Two years later he became the first professional (and second Kent cricketer) to be appointed a Test selector.

When Jack Hubble retired, he offered his young successor a partnership in his thriving, Gillingham-based, sports goods business. For Ames this provided a measure of financial security invaluable to anyone who makes his living through sport and, perhaps even more important in view of his subsequent career, management experience. Great as was his contribution on the field, it was as an administrator that perhaps he made his biggest impact on Kent cricket. Manager 1957/59, Secretary/Manager 1960/72, he took over when affairs were in something of a mess and much of the credit for later successes belongs to him. Not only did he play a major role in making Kent the outstanding team of the 1970s. By setting up a sound, financially stable, administrative structure, he ensured the Club's longer-term future.

As well as business acumen and more than one man's share of good old-fashioned common sense, he had a natural gift for communicating with people of all types and social standing. Jim Swanton, not always the easiest of men to please, refers to his 'utter honesty of speech and sincerity of judgement' as his outstanding characteristic. Epitomising all that was best in the professional cricketer of his era, he was only the second professional cricketer elected to the Band of Brothers. His brave public defence of the Kent players who had signed for Kerry Packer did much to defuse the schisms which split the game in less fortunate counties. President in 1975, to the end of his life he continued to play an active part in Kent affairs.

He managed three MCC tours and was one of the first professionals elected Honorary Life Members of MCC. In 1973 he was made a CBE for his services to cricket and in 1988 was awarded an Honorary MA by the University of Kent and Canterbury. On the golf course, as at the wicket, he was a formidable driver as well as being an enthusiastic walker up to the day of his death.

More than 1,000 attended his memorial service in Canterbury Cathedral. His grandson Frank played for Kent Second Eleven 1962-64. In 1930 he married Leonie Muriel File, born in Elham, by whom he had a son and a daughter. She died in 1978 and in 1980 he married Cheshire-born Jane Burgoyne Templeton Arnold, known as 'Bunty'.

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William Henry Ashdown (No. 529).

Born: 27.12.1898, Bromley. *Died:* 15.9.1979, Rugby, Warwickshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1920-1937. Cap. 1922.

Parents: William Ashdown & Ada Smith Ashdown (née Sweetlove).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	482	804	76	22309	332	30.64	38	105	398/1
Overall	487	812	77	22589	332	30.73	39	105	400/1

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	19290	595	32.42	6-23	12	0
Overall	19551	602	32.47	6-23	13	0

Unfairly, and as it has recently turned out, erroneously, best remembered as the only cricketer to play a first-class match before the First World War and after the Second, Bill Ashdown was until recently the only Kent cricketer to hit a triple century for the County. Furthermore, he did so twice. In this era of four-day cricket on flat, covered wickets and with pitch inspectors likely to descend if the ball deviates by more than a millimetre before tea on the third day, the latter record must be in some danger.

In 1914, at the age of 15 and already on the Kent staff, he scored three and 27 for G.J.V Weigall's Eleven v Oxford University in the Parks, showing, in the words of *Wisden*, 'considerable promise'. He also appeared that year in three matches for Kent Second Eleven. In 1947, ten years after retiring as a player, he hit 42 and 40 and took 5 for 73 for Morris Leyland's Eleven against a strong 'Rest' team in the short-lived Harrogate Festival.

As an opening batsman Ashdown was very good indeed and, with greater consistency and perhaps a little more restraint, he might well have reached the very top flight. A well- liked and unselfish cricketer, always ready to put his team's interest first, the nearest he came to representative cricket was a single appearance for Players v Gentlemen at Folkestone in 1933. He never quite overcame an inclination towards rash ventures outside off stump on first arriving at the wicket but, if the slip and gully region was often his undoing, it was also his most profitable territory. His fierce square cut and powerful slashes/drives square of the wicket brought him a lot of runs and fielding near the wicket on the off side could be a dangerous occupation. According to the late Alf Gover, when Douglas Jardine first took over as captain, experienced Surrey pros derived considerable innocent amusement from his (short- lived) reluctance to move deeper in the gully when Ashdown was at the wicket. The front foot cover drive was another favourite and he was an enthusiastic hooker. With the exception of 1932, he passed 1,000 runs in every season between 1926 and 1937, twice over 2,000, and over 1,500 five other times.

As a bowler on the quick side of medium-pace, his stock ball was the inswinger but, on his day, he could also make the ball leave the bat. Often taking the new ball, he three times took 50 or more wickets in a season and did enough to be ranked as a genuine allrounder. In his early days he was a good all-round fielder but ultimately settled as a regular slip.

The youngest of the ten children of a bricklayer, Bill Ashdown was living in Hither Green when he came to Kent for a trial in 1913. Taken on the staff in the following year, he scored six and took a wicket on his Second Eleven debut against Monmouthshire at Folkestone and, less than a fortnight later, became a first-class cricketer before his 16th birthday (see above). In all, he played three Second Eleven matches in that last pre-war season with a top score of eight.

Bill Ashdown joined the Army in 1917 and spent his War in England as a Rifleman with a Reserve Battalion of the Rifle Brigade. Demobilisation came too late for the 1919 season but, back on the Kent staff in 1920, he was perhaps a trifle lucky to get his chance in the first Eleven before he had reached double figures for the Seconds. Batting number nine against Leicestershire at Aylestone Road, his contributions were two and eight with no chance to bowl in a match dominated by Kent spinners Fairservice and Woolley. This was his only first team appearance of the season but in the first of ten appearances for the Second Eleven he scored 59 against Essex at Tonbridge.

More first team opportunities came in 1921, 41 and 50* at Bristol was followed by 52 v Notts at Catford and 79 v Essex at Leyton, but he failed to score in the second innings when given the chance to open for the first time. Against Northamptonshire at Dover he had his first success with the ball, 3 for 36. He was inconsistent, there were four ducks and ten other single figure scores and, with a top- score of 38, he again under-achieved for the Second Eleven.

In 1922 he held his place in the first team throughout the season. With 670 runs (avge.23.10), he was perhaps a trifle fortunate to be awarded his cap but he hit 60 v Worcestershire at Gravesend, 82 v Essex at Tonbridge and also took useful wickets, including 6 for 67 against Northants at Northampton. 1923 brought further advance with 877 runs and 66 wickets, the latter the highest tally of wickets he was ever to achieve.

Next season saw two important career landmarks. At Tunbridge Wells against Leicestershire he opened the batting in both innings, his partner on this occasion Godfrey Bryan. A week later, facing Gloucestershire at Mote Park, his partner was 'Wally' Hardinge. Inevitably, once Kent's full cast of amateurs became available, he had to drop back down the order and on occasions that year lost his place altogether, but the Hardinge/Ashdown partnership was destined to become the most successful in Kent history. By the end of his career Bill Ashdown had participated in 48 century opening partnerships, 26 of them with Hardinge. The first was against Leicestershire at Blackheath in 1925, when the pair put on 238, of which Ashdown hit 108, his maiden first-class century.

By 1926 he was regular opener and had established himself in the county game with 1,696 runs (avge.38.54) including five centuries. Two were against Surrey, 102* at Maidstone, 150* at the Oval, two against Nottinghamshire (with Larwood), 137 at Trent Bridge, 121 at Tunbridge Wells, including Ashdown/Hardinge opening partnerships of 135 in the former and 154 the latter. At the Oval he carried his bat in a total of 303.

1928 was his most prolific year with 2,247 runs (avge.43.21) accompanied by 63 wickets. Among his three centuries were 178 at Northampton and 100* at Tunbridge Wells against Sussex where he again carried his bat. He also hit 97 against Somerset in Canterbury Week. There were 15 other scores over 50 and a record 12 century opening partnerships with Hardinge. In the light of his reputation for early innings rushes of blood, it is interesting that in 49 visits to the wicket he was dismissed for single figures 11 times.

He carried his bat for a third time in 1930, 83* (in 210 minutes) v Gloucestershire at Maidstone when Kent declined from 105 for 2 to 223 all out. In the following season he hit two centuries in a match v Middlesex at Lord's, 121 in a little over three hours and 103 in 135 minutes. After a disappointing season in 1932 he returned to form in 1933 with 1,854 runs (avge 37.08) in all matches with five centuries. With Hardinge often dropping down the order in his final season, Ashdown found himself with no fewer than ten different opening partners. In company with perhaps the least known among them, Colin Fairservice, he put on 217 against Worcestershire at Gravesend (Ashdown 108, Fairservice 110). In September he appeared for Players v Gentlemen in the Folkestone Festival. Batting number seven, he hit 117 and added 204 in 105 minutes for the sixth- wicket with Les Ames (201).

In 1934, despite missing four matches through injury, he exceeded 2,000 runs for the second time, 2,030 (avge.41.42) with six centuries including his record 332 against Essex at Brentwood, still the highest for the County. On a small ground, with a benign pitch and a lightning fast outfield, against an Essex attack lacking its two main fast bowlers, Ashdown and Fagg added a relatively sedate 70 for the first-wicket but the scoring rate accelerated with the arrival of Frank Woolley and Kent were 153 for 1 at lunch of which Ashdown's share was 81*. His hundred came in 140 minutes, his second hundred in 90 minutes and at tea he was 205*. At the close Kent were 623 for 2, Ashdown 307*. Only six maiden overs were bowled during the day, all after tea. Next morning Ashdown was caught low down in the gully for 332 having batted without a chance for six hours 15 minutes with 1 six (an overthrow) and 45 fours, a high proportion of them coming in the arc between cover point's left hand and third man's right. He added 352 with Woolley (172) and 245 (in a little of two hours) with Les Ames (202*).

He also scored 157 v MCC at Folkestone, centuries against Glamorgan at both at Cardiff and Gravesend and 121 v Surrey at The Oval, his fourth against the brown capped fraternity and the third on their home ground.

Ashdown exceeded 1,700 runs for a third successive season in 1935. The high point was his 305* v Derbyshire at Dover where he carried his bat for the fourth and last time. Given the strength of the opposition, this was undoubtedly the better of Ashdown's two triple centuries and arguably the best innings of his career. With George and Alf Pope, Tommy Mitchell and Les Townsend, Derbyshire had most of the formidable attack which next season would bring them the Championship. In an innings described by *Wisden* as 'practically faultless', he batted for six hours 40 minutes and hit 47 fours, the majority off drives and cuts. He scored 102 out of 188, 200 out of 380, 280 out of 518 and 305 out of 560. According to one account, feeling he had been the beneficiary of a bad umpiring decision, he was actually trying to get out after passing his hundred! His only other century that season was 134* v Glamorgan bat Cardiff where he shared century opening partnerships of 101 and 127 with Arthur Fagg.

Fagg was his partner in 1936 when they put on 221 in 155 minutes (Ashdown 117, Fagg 172) against the Indian tourists at St Lawrence. Among five other centuries were 187 (1 six, 28 fours) v Glamorgan at Cardiff and 101 out of 180 in 150 minutes at Trent Bridge from a Nottinghamshire attack including Voce and Larwood who, supposedly past his best, was still good enough to finish with match figures of 10 for 145. Against Somerset on a rain affected wicket at Tonbridge, he scored 132 out of 248-8, a match in which the next highest score was 41.

In his final season, although for the first time since 1932 his average fell below 30 (1,437 runs avge.27.11), he retained his place at the top of the order till the end. Among his three centuries was his fifth against Glamorgan, against whom he averaged 66.71 in eleven innings. He shared two opening partnerships of over 150 with Peter Sunnucks and two of 90 plus with Frank Woolley. In the famous run chase at Dover, when Kent hit the Gloucestershire bowlers for 219 in 71 minutes from 140 balls to win by eight wickets, he kept one end secure and fed the strike to his partners, finishing 62*. When his partners persisted in clearing the boundary he pointed out, with some truth, 'I suppose you realise you are wasting time hitting all these sixes'. A party of members was hastily recruited to speed return of the ball from the pine trees at the Crabble Road end of the ground.

He retired as a player to take over as coach/groundsman at Rugby, succeeding another great Kent name from the past, Arthur Fielder. He established a considerable reputation. One of his pupils, the Oxford Blue John Marshall, described him in *Wisden* as 'the best of coaches and kindest of men'. 'I always feel that he got his relationships with the boys absolutely right and was wonderfully understanding and helpful both in the nets and outside'. During the Second World War he found time for some cricket with Coventry & District, London Counties and the Humber/Hillman works club.

In 1934, in company with Bert Wensley of Sussex, Ashdown emulated the feat of Ned Wenman and Richard Mills one hundred years earlier, by taking on an Isle of Oxney XI at 'double wicket'. The Eleven were dismissed for 153 and the Ashdown/Wensley pairing had scored 186 when the former was out.

He left Rugby in 1947 and from 1948 to 1950 joined the first-class umpires list, officiating in 74 matches including three Test matches. From 1951 to 1961 he was coach with Leicestershire, chief scout in 1965 and scorer from 1966 to 1969 – war service excluded, a record of service to the game of cricket stretching over 55 years. To their everlasting credit, in recognition of his services Leicestershire made him a Life Member. He died at his home in Rugby.

Arthur Harry Ashwell (No. 591).

Born: 2.8.1908, Charing. *Died* 19.8.1985, Bebington, Cheshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1933-1934.

Parents: Harry & Ellen Ashwell.

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	4	5	2	42	21*	14.00	0	0	1

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	139	0				

The son of an insurance agent, Arthur Ashwell was employed as a fitter in the Ashford Railway Works and came to notice due to his success with the Southern Railway Institute team. Joining the Kent staff in 1931 he made his Second Eleven debut that year and played regularly for the Seconds in the following season when he finished with a record of 44 wickets at 19.88 as well as scoring useful runs. He was batting number 11 against Surrey at Folkestone when he reached his top score of 69*.

In 1933 he headed the second team bowling averages with 40 wickets at 17.42 and made his first team debut v Nottinghamshire at Mote Park. Nottinghamshire were dismissed by Freeman and Marriott for 105 and 126 to give Kent an innings victory and Ashwell bowled only five wicketless overs.

He was back in the first team against Hampshire at Portsmouth in 1934 where, in the home team's only innings, he opened the bowling but failed to take a wicket in 20 overs. Two more appearances, v Lancashire at Old Trafford and v Derbyshire at Tunbridge Wells, were similarly wicketless, but at Old Trafford, again batting number 11, he achieved his top score of 21*. He left the staff at the end of the season. In his final year in the Second team he again did well, finishing second in the averages with 21 wickets at 18.76.

Moving to the North West, he played league cricket for Liverpool and for Neston before returning to his old trade as a fitter.

Lt. Colonel Thomas Hugh Pitt Beeching. MBE (No. 528).

Born: 10. 3.1900 Maidstone. *Died:* 31. 12. 1971 Aldershot, Hampshire.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1920-1921.

Educated: Charterhouse School and RMC Sandhurst.

Parents: Hugh Cecil Westall Beeching & Pearl Mainwaring Beeching (née Pitt).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	10	13	0	217	38	16.69	0	0	1

Bowling

Did not bowl

Had he been able to find more time for county cricket, Thomas Beeching might have improved on his relatively modest record at first-class level. Only twice in his first-class career did he fail to reach double figures and, of his eight matches in 1920, all but one were on wickets assisting the bowlers. An aggressive batsman excelling in the drive, at school in 1917 he averaged 81.66 including scores of 81* in 50 minutes v Harrow, 82 v Westminster and 74* in under an hour v Wellington.

The son of a Major in the Royal West Kent Regiment who later managed a paper manufacturing plant, he was cricket captain at Sandhurst and in 1918 scored a century against RMA, Woolwich at Lord's. Gazetted Second Lieutenant in November 1918, he was posted to the Royal West Kent Regiment and served with the Third and First Battalions until December 1920, when he retired voluntarily and was placed on the Reserve of Officers with the rank of Lieutenant.

Chosen in 1920, probably on the strength of his record at Charterhouse and at Sandhurst, on his first-class debut, against Warwickshire at Catford, he scored 20 and 15. Batting mainly in the lower order, he finished his season with 182 runs (avge.18.20), with a top score of 38 at Worcester. He scored 11, 11 and 13 in his two appearances in 1921. Somewhat unusually, he played only one Second Eleven match, against Surrey Seconds at Hythe in 1923.

In civilian life Beeching became a director of the family firm, Beechings, a motor engineering company in Aldershot and in 1937 was appointed Chairman of the Farnham branch of the Motor Traders Association. In 1938 he became a Member of the Institute of Motor Traders, served on the Association's Council and on the Price Control Committee of the South Eastern Division.

In May 1939 Beeching was transferred from the Reserve of Officers to the RASC and in December 1942 landed with First Army in Algeria. Involved throughout the campaign on the vulnerable long supply lines from Algeria to the troops fighting in Tunisia, his services earned him the MBE (Military) in 1943. He served in the subsequent campaign in Italy and in August 1944 was mentioned in despatches. He returned to the UK in July 1945 and was demobilised in October 1945 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Back in civilian life, he returned to Beechings where he became Managing Director until his retirement in 1965.

At club level he played for Band of Brothers, Free Foresters and I Zingari. For BB, he headed the averages in 1921 with scores of 106 v the Royal Engineers at Chatham and 103 & 70* v the Royal Marines at Walmer. An all-round sportsman, he represented Charterhouse at Association football, in the racquets pairs and was Victor Ludorum. He captained the RMC Sandhurst at football. In later life his other sports included smooth bore shooting, golf, skiing and squash. In 1929 he married Elizabeth Harrison at Easthampstead, Berkshire.

George Prior Beslee (No.557).

Born: 27. 3.1904, Cliffe. *Died:* 3. 11.1975, Tonbridge.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1925-1930.

Parents: Harry & Ada Jane Beslee (née Harlow).

First Class Career Record**Batting and Fielding**

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	63	86	25	439	24	7.19	0	0	30

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	4199	133	31.57	4-27		

Although the Beslees are a well-known farming family, long established on the Hoo peninsula, George Beslee was the son of an insurance agent born in Bridge. A big, strong bowler, he performed usefully on occasions but only briefly secured a regular place in the County Eleven. With Kent relying heavily on spin, seam bowlers tended to operate primarily in the support role and Beslee never did quite enough to overcome competition from Charlie Wright, Alan Watt, Stanley Cornwallis (*q.v.*) and various occasional amateurs.

Given a trial in 1923, he was judged 'quite fast, can bat and should improve'. He played his first Second Eleven game in 1924, 1 for 23 & 3 for 24 v Sussex at Hove, and made his first-class debut at Tonbridge in the following season when Patsy Hendren hit 240 in a Middlesex total of 488. Beginning with the early wicket of the adhesive Harry Lee, Beslee toiled through 39 overs for commendable figures of 4 for 80.

Over the next three seasons, despite seldom getting a chance with the new ball, he had his days of success - 4 for 59 at Taunton in 1926, 3 for 16 at Derby & 4 for 55 at Horsham in 1927 - but he was in and out of the side and not until 1929 did he gain an extended run. In that year he claimed 51 wickets (avge.26.35) in 19 matches, five times four wickets in an innings. Coming on in the second innings as second change, he bowled Kent to victory over Warwickshire at Tunbridge Wells with 4 for 27 on the last day and at Leyton finished off the Essex innings on the second morning with 3 for 3.

Unfortunately improved form did not continue into 1930. His first four appearances produced only two wickets and at the end of the season he opted for a career in the Kent Police. For the Second Eleven, he headed the bowling averages in 1926 (19 wickets at 10.78) and 1927 (20 wickets at 12.45) and finished second with 29 wickets at 18.76 in 1929. Until RH Joseph in 2011, no player had taken more than his 133 wickets for Kent without receiving his cap. A talented golfer, he represented the County.

Arthur Frederic Bickmore (No.519).

Born: 19. 5.1899, Tonbridge. *Died:* 18. 3.1979, Tonbridge.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1919-1929. Cap 1920.

Educated: Clifton College & Magdalen College Oxford.

Parents: Arthur Lawrence Bickmore & Lilian Middleton Fanny Bickmore (née Barwell).

First Class Career Record**Batting and Fielding**

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	48	74	6	1589	120	23.36	2	6	31
Overall	64	104	7	2254	120	23.23	2	12	41

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	98	0				
Overall	120	0				

“Eric” (from his second name) Bickmore was born at Yardley Court Preparatory School, Tonbridge where his father was headmaster. Although educated at his father’s school, he won a scholarship to Clifton where he was in the Eleven from 1914 to 1917, leading the averages in 1916 and 1917. Tall, stylish and strong in the drive on both sides of the wicket, he was highly- rated, not only as a batsman but as a brilliant outfielder, almost equally good at short-leg. Against Tonbridge in 1916 he hit 103 and 86*.

Bickmore was in the OTC at Clifton and in January 1917 enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery. In December that year he was posted to an officer training unit but thanks to a bout of the then lethally prevalent influenza, it was not until June 1918 that he was commissioned Second Lieutenant. In August he was posted to the 52nd Lowland) Divisional Ammunition Column and served with the unit through the series of battles which became known as the ‘Hundred Days’. He ended his war at Peruwez in Belgium.

Demobilised in February 1919 he was invited to play for Kent, presumably on the evidence of his record at Clifton, and made his debut in June against Essex at Leyton. On the third of his seven appearances that season he hit 50* against Lancashire at Old Trafford.

Going up to Oxford in 1920, he batted well in the Freshmens’ match but was not picked for the early fixtures and probably owed his Blue to an innings in early season of 83 for Kent at Southampton, where he shared a fourth-wicket partnership of 211 with Frank Woolley (158). Given his chance for Oxford, a run of low scores was interspersed with half-centuries against Sussex at Hove and Surrey at The Oval and, at Lord’s against Cambridge, he was top scorer with 66. The two sides included six current or future Kent cricketers, Bickmore and L.P. Hedges for Oxford, C.P. Johnstone, G.E.C.Wood, A.P.F.Chapman and C.S.Marriott for Cambridge. For Kent he scored over 600 runs and was awarded his cap. At Dover, he hit his maiden century, 104* in 90 minutes against Essex. At Trent Bridge he scored 95 in an opening partnership of 187 with G.J.Bryan (124).

In 1921 Bickmore had a moderate season for his University but was again top scorer (57) at Lord’s when Cambridge won by an innings. Perhaps more significant, given the strength of the opposition, was his innings of 89 (top score) for Kent against Warwick Armstrong’s Australians. With the Oval Test match due to start on the following day, Armstrong treated it as a practice match, batting through to the second afternoon for 676, but used his full Test match attack including Gregory, McDonald and Mailey when Kent batted. Bickmore scored his runs in two hours, adding 154 for the third- wicket with Wally Hardinge (74).

On coming down from University, duties as Joint Headmaster of Yardley Court (shared with his brother Maurice) and subsequently teaching English at Tonbridge School, left less time for cricket but he managed six games in 1922 (all on Kent grounds) and eight in 1923. When hitting his second hundred for Kent, 120 v Essex at Tonbridge in 1922, 215 were added for the second-wicket with James Seymour (159). After 1923 he made only a handful of appearances but, until a knee injury brought his career to an end, he remained a prolific scorer in club cricket, notably for Yellowhammers, Free Foresters and Band of Brothers. He was one of Lord Harris's team which came close to beating the West Indian tourists at Belmont in 1923.

He was highly esteemed in his time at Tonbridge and took great interest in his pupils' later careers. As a glimpse of the *mores* of the period, it may be of interest that, a powerful man, he was reputedly only permitted to beat boys back-handed. In 1925 Bickmore married Lillias Elizabeth Lawson.

Further reading.

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Arthur Blunden (No.583).

Born: 5. 9.1906, East Malling. *Died:* 27. 7.1984, Skinburness, Carlisle, Cumberland.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1931-1933.

Parents: Edwin Blunden & Ellen Blunden (née Smith).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	11	12	4	33	9*	4.12	0	0	3

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	586	18	32.55	4-31		

The second of six children, Arthur Blunden's father was foreman in an East Malling paper mill and in the early years of their marriage the couple lived in *The Ship* in the village where Ellen's father was landlord.

Playing his early cricket for the local club, in 1927 Blunden was chosen for Eighteen of Maidstone & District v a Kent Eleven, a match organised by 'Tich' Freeman to raise funds for local hospitals but cancelled because of rain. Joining the Kent staff in 1928, he took three wickets on his Second Eleven debut against Norfolk at Beckenham that year and in the following season took 5 for 32 against the same opposition at Lakenham. In 1931, immediately following 5 for 80 against Surrey Seconds at Folkestone, he made an uneventful first-class debut (1 for 46 & 0 for 38) against MCC at Lord's. Blunden received no further first team calls that year but finished the season with 30 Second Eleven wickets at 16.23.

At the start of the 1932 season he was given a run of seven first-class matches, beginning well with 4 for 31 and 3 for 21 against the University at Fenner's, but the next six appearances produced only another seven wickets at a cost of 256 runs and two more matches in August resulted in only a further three expensive wickets. For the Second Eleven he again returned respectable figures, 37 wickets at 17.28 which included, in successive matches, 6 for 31 & 4 for 74 v Cornwall at Beckenham and 7 for 40 & 3 for 46 v Norfolk at Tonbridge.

In 1933 his first-class career with Kent ended as it began, against MCC at Lord's where he bowled 30 overs without taking a wicket. For the Second Eleven he had a disappointing season, apart from match figures of 9 for 88 against Cornwall at Truro. In September he left the staff.

Although his overall record in first-class cricket was moderate he claimed some notable scalps – ‘Patsy’ Hendren, Cyril Walters, James Cutmore (twice), Alan Ratcliffe, who scored 201 in the 1931 University match, and Richie Benaud's father-in-law Desmond Surfleet. He subsequently played League cricket for Durham in the North Yorkshire and South Durham League and Wearmouth in the Durham Senior League.

Captain Sidney Boucher RN (No.541).

Born: 17. 9.1899 Rochester. *Died:* 4. 8.1963 Wadhurst, Sussex.

Left-handed batsman, left-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1922.

Educated: Osborne Training College and Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.

Parents: Franklin & Ada Boucher.

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	1	1	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	1
Overall	9	15	0	147	43	9.80	0	0	4

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	45	0				
Overall	613	14	43.78	2-15		

Although he failed in his only appearance for Kent - 0, 0 for 12 & 0 for 33 - against Hampshire at Southampton, Sidney Boucher was a useful all-rounder who represented the Royal Navy in 1923 and from 1926 to 1929. On occasions he opened the bowling for the Navy, batted mainly in the lower order and several times led the side. He played for the Mote and, in 1922, the year of his solitary appearance for Kent, he had match figures of 7 for 47 for Band of Brothers against a Canadian touring team at Chilham Castle. The BB team included Lord Harris, Jack Mason, Dick Blaker and the future Fifth Lord Harris.

In eight first-class matches for the Royal Navy he scored 147 runs (avge.10.50) with a top score of 43 and took 14 wickets at 40.57 apiece.

The son of a solicitor, Sidney Boucher was a career sailor, known in the Navy as ‘Sam’. He joined the battleship *HMS Colossus* (Captain, the future First Sea Lord in World War Two, Dudley Pound) as a Midshipman in 1915 and in the following year served in her with the First Battle Squadron at the Battle of Jutland.

After specialising in physical training between the wars, he served at sea throughout the Second World War, captaining the destroyer *HMS Highlander* 1941-42. He was with the Pacific Fleet at the time of the Japanese surrender as staff officer to the Rear Admiral (D). He was subsequently Senior Officer, Reserve Fleet Portsmouth and, as his last appointment, Director of Physical Training and Sport. He retired with the rank of Captain. In his leisure time, he was a noted shot and fisherman.

Boucher married twice, Phyllis Ellershaw in 1924 and Elizabeth Holt, who survived him, in 1938. On his death his property was valued for probate at £3,726.5s.

Brigadier Godfrey James Bryan MC CBE (No. 531).

Born: 29. 12.1902, Beckenham. *Died:* 4. 4.1991, Harbledown, Canterbury.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1920-33. Cap 1921.

Educated: Wellington College & RMA Woolwich.

Parents: Lt.Col. Lindsay Bryan & Emily Beatrice Bryan (née Johnson).

First Class Career Record**Batting and Fielding**

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	51	83	7	1904	179	25.05	3	9	39
Overall	70	114	8	3192	229	30.11	6	16	46

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	1543	29	53.20	5-148	1	0
Overall	1753	36	48.69	5-148	1	0

The youngest of three brothers all of whom played for Kent – a fourth played for Kent Second Eleven – Godfrey Bryan was an outstanding all-round athlete and something of a cricketing prodigy. He headed his school averages for three successive years, scoring 699 runs (avge.116.50) with five hundreds in 1920. In that year he opened the batting for the Rest v Lord's Schools and for Public Schools v the Army and, in the final game of the season, made his debut for Kent v Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge. Having fielded while the home side totalled 503-9, he opened the batting, scoring 19 and, when Kent followed on, 124. With Eric Bickmore (95), he shared an opening partnership of 187 and reached his century with a six from a deliberate leg side full toss offered up by the veteran John Gunn. The ball cleared the deep fielder positioned for the catch. At the age of 17 and 247 days he was the youngest century- maker in county cricket, a record which remained until 1976. He also took a wicket.

Tall, aggressive, left handed like his brothers, and said to have modelled himself on Frank Woolley, he was considered by some the most naturally gifted of the three brothers. Given the high expectations, his record for Kent is perhaps, a little disappointing. Once settled, he scored his runs quickly. His 179 v Hampshire at Canterbury in 1921 included 3 sixes and 26 fours. With Lionel Hedges (68) 203 were added for the fourth- wicket in two hours. Opening against Warwickshire at Edgbaston in 1924, he was sixth out for 124 in a total 174. When achieving his personal best, 229 in under four hours for Combined Services v the South Africans at Portsmouth in the same year, 116 runs came from boundaries.

He played ten matches for Kent in 1921, when he scored 475 runs (avge. 27.94), and as many as 13 in 1922, but subsequently service with the Royal Engineers precluded regular county cricket. He made only one appearance in 1927 and 1933, two in 1928 and 1929. Although he managed eight games in 1925, his top score was only 39*. His most prolific season was 1924 when, in all matches, he totalled 644 runs (avge.49.53) with two centuries (see above) as well as 69 against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, 50 v Hampshire at Canterbury and 71 for the Army v the Navy at Lord's.

He scored heavily in services and club cricket. In all, he played 18 first-class matches for the Army, scoring 1,059 runs (avge.36.51) with hundreds against both Universities as well as seven half-centuries. Against the Royal Navy at Lord's in 1928, he contributed 93 to a 258- run, third wicket partnership in two hours with Edward Williams (228). For Royal Engineers v Royal Corps of Signals he reputedly hit a century in 19 minutes. In the annual fixture between Royal Engineers and Band of Brothers, he scored three centuries for RE v BB and one for BB v RE.

Like his brothers, he played club cricket for Beckenham and, in 1925, scored 194 out of 298 for 6 for the club against Royal Engineers. His last first-class match was Army v Navy at Lord's in 1935 but in non first-class fixtures he captained the Army against the RAF at Lord's as late as 1951.

Godfrey Bryan's sporting prowess was not confined to cricket. At the RMA Woolwich he won the long jump, 100 yards and quarter mile. He also represented Kent at Rugby.

Much of the latter part of his Army career was spent in the Far East. In 1941 he was engaged on road and railway construction in Malaya and experience with transport systems in tropical climates led to subsequent appointments as Deputy Director, Army Transport, Ceylon (1942), Deputy Director, Army Transport, India (1943-44), Director of Transport, Malaya and N.E.India (1945-46). Later posts included Director of Railway Home Movements, Director of Transport, Middle East Land Forces, Chief Engineer, Home Counties Area, Chief Engineer, Malaya, which earned him his CBE, and Director of Transport, War Office.

In November 1926 he married Gladys Wilkins in Bromley. In retirement he constructed a large, highly complex, model railway system.

John Lindsay Bryan MC (No. 527).

Born: 26. 5.1896, Beckenham. *Died:* 23. 4. 1985, Eastbourne, Sussex.

Left-handed batsman, occasional right-arm leg spin bowler.

Kent 1919-32. Cap 1920.

Wisden Cricket of the Year 1922.

Educated: Rugby School & St. John's College, Cambridge.

Parents: Lt.Col. Lindsay Bryan & Emily Beatrice Bryan (née Johnson).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	119	187	17	6174	236	36.31	12	30	67
Overall	165	260	20	8702	236	36.25	17	40	89

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	239	5	47.80	1-1		
Overall	675	15	45.00	2-18		

Had teaching not had priority – he was associated with St.Andrew's School, Eastbourne for more than 60 years – in the opinion of some good judges Jack Bryan could have reached the very top rank as a batsman. Henry Leveson Gower thought he might have proved 'second to none, not only as an opening batsman but as captain' and he knew Bryan's batting better than most thanks to the 16 matches the latter played for Leveson Gower's Eleven at Eastbourne and his appearances in the Scarborough Festival. He had a strong defence, drove powerfully, once established, and was particularly severe on anything over-pitched on middle and leg. He rarely played the cut but had a highly effective square drive which brought him many runs between square cover and third man.

The eldest of four brothers, all left-handers, three of whom (J.L, G.J. & R.T. *q.v.*) played for Kent, Bryan had a sound technique against the new ball and excelled against genuine pace. Facing Nottinghamshire, at a time when they were able to call upon the services of Harold Larwood, Bill Voce, Fred Barratt and the now largely forgotten Frank Matthews, who was as quick as most, he averaged 45.89 with three centuries He opened the batting in some 70% of his first-class appearances and took part in 13 century opening partnerships, eight of them with 'Wally' Hardinge, the highest 219 v Somerset at Taunton in 1927 (Bryan 128, Hardinge 82). Every one of his 17 first-class centuries (and four 90s) was scored as an opener.

Bryan led the batting averages at Rugby in 1913, scoring over 1,000 runs including a century against Marlborough at Lord's. In the following year he again exceeded 1,000 runs and again headed the averages, scoring a century against MCC and leading his side to victory over Marlborough. Chosen for Public Schools v MCC and for Lord's Schools v The Rest, in the latter fixture he scored 122 against an attack including Arthur Gilligan and Jack Capes (q.v.).

Wisden in 1915 however appeared to have reservations. He was 'a batsman who should make a name' but was 'a left-hander who can wait, wait and keep waiting for a bad ball and then score a run or two. He is by no means interesting to watch' although 'heart-breaking to bowl to'. At schoolboy and club level he was also a more than useful leg-spin bowler and, although lacking the control necessary in first-class cricket, he could be a handy partnership breaker. When he first came into first-class cricket he was rated one of the best of his generation at cover point or in the outfield.

On August 14th 1914 Bryan made his debut for Kent Second Eleven, against Essex Seconds at Hythe. While his personal contribution was a modest nine, his younger brother Ronald (q.v.) made his mark with 3 for 45 & 3 for 13. The brothers also played together three times against the touring Merion Club from the USA, twice for Beckenham and once for Kent Club & Ground, all on Beckenham's Foxgrove Road, ground. In the second Beckenham match, Jack Bryan was top scorer with 83.

Two days after the Club & Ground game against Merion, Bryan joined the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) and, due to his earlier training with the Rugby OTC, by September 18th he was on his way to France as a private soldier with the First Battalion. He thus became an 'Old Contemptible' at the early age of 18½. Within a week he came under fire for the first time and on November 14th, during the First Battle of Ypres, he was wounded by shrapnel in the head and shoulder and evacuated to England.

Recovered from his wounds, in February 1915 he was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the Manchester Regiment, his father's old regiment, and in August sailed from England to join the 1/5th Battalion in Gallipoli where they were serving with 127 Brigade, 42nd East Lancashire Division. Appointed Battalion Machine Gun Officer, his command included the Army's extreme left-hand machine gun, sited just above the beach. His stay however was brief. At the end of October he contracted jaundice and was evacuated to Lemnos.

Following the evacuation from Gallipoli, the 42nd Division returned to Egypt where it was involved in the early stages of the advance across the Sinai Desert. While in Egypt, Bryan played cricket for the Division at the Gezira Club in Cairo.

In February 1917 the Division was redeployed to the Western Front. By this time Bryan had been seconded to the Machine Gun Corps, formed by absorbing Battalion Machine Gun Sections into independent Brigade Machine Gun Companies. His first spell of frontline service in France was interrupted by a bout of 'trench fever', necessitating a stay in hospital in Rouen. Promoted Lieutenant and back on active service towards the end of 1917, he once again found himself in command of the British Army's extreme left-hand machine gun unit, this time on the Belgian coast near Nieuport.

Bryan's unit was heavily involved during the German offensive of March 1918 and, by the time the front was stabilised, Bryan was Acting Captain and second-in-command of his Company. In August 1918 during the 'Hundred Days', while serving with the 42nd Machine Gun Battalion, Bryan was awarded the MC for having, following a 'skilful reconnaissance', broken up a counter-attack with heavy loss and covered the subsequent advance. 'He displayed great ability in the way he handled his guns and his coolness and courage under fire set a fine example to his men'. He ended the war in Belgium, aged 22 and Acting Major in command of his company. He was demobilised in 1919 but retained the rank of Captain in the Territorial Force.

In May 1919, immediately on leaving the Army, Bryan made his debut in first-class cricket, against the AIF for Lionel Robinson's Eleven, a team captained by Jack Mason and containing five other current or future Kent cricketers. In August he played three matches for Kent with a top score of 27*.

Going up to Cambridge in the following year, he scored 83 in the Freshmens' Match, 24 for the Next Fifteen and 97 for Perambulators v Etceteras but with George Wood, Con Johnstone, Percy Chapman (all future Kent cricketers), Gilbert and Hugh Ashton, Jack MacBryan, M.D. Lyon and Norman Partridge available, Cambridge had rather more batting than they could use and he progressed no further. He began with Kent before the University term was over and played in ten matches, averaging over 30. On his second appearance as opener, he hit 125 in 190 minutes against Worcestershire at New Road, sharing a second-wicket partnership of 134 with Jim Seymour (75).

By the end of the 1921 season Bryan had established himself as one of the leading amateur batsmen in the country. Beginning the University season badly with a duck in the first innings, he hit a century in the second innings of the Seniors' Match, 54 and 25 on his first team debut against Lancashire. By the end of the University season he was leading scorer with 935 runs (avge.55.00), including 231 v Surrey at The Oval, two other centuries and 62 in the University match. In the latter, his leg-breaks were used for only three overs but accounted for Lionel Hedges (*q.v.*) and Geoffrey Lowndes, both with full tosses.

Slotting straight into the Kent side as soon as the University term was over, mainly as Hardinge's opening partner, he took part in 13 matches, the most he would ever play for Kent in a single season. 923 runs (avge.46.15) included centuries against Lancashire at Maidstone and Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge, as well as five half-centuries. Possibly his best innings was against Yorkshire at Tunbridge Wells when he scored 82* and carried his bat in an all-out total of 157. At the season's end he was fifth in the national averages with 1,858 runs (avge.50.21) in 40 innings. Only one amateur, Vallance Jupp, scored more runs that season – 2,169 – but he played 60 innings. *Wisden* nominated Bryan as one of their Five Cricketers of the Year.

Seemingly destined for great things as a batsman, from 1922 until he played his last first-class match in 1933, teaching came first. Although playing almost exclusively in late July, August and early September, in 1921, 1922, 1923, 1925, 1928 and 1929, he exceeded 500 runs in Kent matches alone, over 900 in 1921. In six seasons he averaged over 40.

In 1923, his most prolific year after University, he scored 940 runs in all matches, including a career best 236 against Hampshire in Canterbury Week in which he hit 2 sixes, 1 five and 38 fours. With Kent at one time 20 for 3, his first 50 took two hours but in all he batted only 285 minutes. One straight drive went through a (fortunately) open Pavilion window, narrowly missing a waiter and ricocheted into the well-known picture of the 1877 Canterbury Week. A piece of the glass was embedded in the ball and the picture still carries a mark. It was his second successive double hundred. Earlier in the week he had scored 216 for Butterflies v Royal Artillery at Woolwich. In the second match of the Week, against Middlesex, he shared an opening partnership of 96 with his brother Godfrey (J.L. 35, G.J.53). He rounded off the year with 109 for the Rest v the Champion County (Yorkshire) at The Oval, the highest score in a match featuring 18 current or future Test cricketers.

Bryan captained Kent 15 times between 1924 and 1931. Leading the side in his first game of the season at Trent Bridge in 1925, the home side conceded a lead of 51 on first innings but rallied with 377 in their second innings. Against an attack including Harold Larwood and Fred Barratt, Kent needed 327 and got them in 270 minutes for the loss of six wickets. Bryan, who opened, scored 172* (23 fours) sharing partnerships of 137 for the fourth-wicket with 'John' Knott (57) and 109* for the seventh with Jack Hubble (46*).

In 1924 Jack Bryan was chosen for the MCC side to tour Australia under the captaincy of Arthur Gilligan. Although he played one or two useful innings, including 72 against New South Wales, he was unable to break into the Test team. With Hobbs, Sutcliffe, Sandham and Whysall, all opening batsmen, in the side, as well Woolley, Hendren, Chapman and Jack Hearne, it would have needed an

exceptionally long injury list. At the MCG in the second Victoria match, Bryan, the only other amateur in the side, took over the captaincy when, on the Sunday, Johnny Douglas was injured in a car accident. MCC won by an innings.

Despite playing so little early season cricket, Bryan was chosen for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's in 1923, 1924 and 1925. He also represented Gentlemen v Players at Scarborough in 1924. He appeared in every Canterbury Week from 1922 to 1931 and every Dover Week from 1919 to 1925 and from 1929 to 1932. It was at Dover, against Lancashire in 1925, that all three Bryan brothers played together for the only time in a first-class match - (J.L.77 & 1, R.T. 8 & 16, G.J. 0 & 39*).

Associated with the town for most of his life, Bryan played at least one first-class match at Eastbourne in every year but one from 1921 to 1933, 18 in all. He scored over 1,000 runs on the ground including two centuries, 183 for Cambridge University against HDG Leveson Gower's Eleven in 1921 and 182 for Leveson Gower's Eleven against Cambridge in 1925. It was in the latter fixture that, in 1933, he made his last first-class appearance. He played cricket for the Eastbourne Club until 1950 and in his younger days played scrum-half for Eastbourne Rugby Club.

Jack Bryan rejoined the Army in 1939 and served as Adjutant with the Manchester Regiment in France. Like his brother, he was evacuated from Dunkirk and was mentioned in despatches for his work during the evacuation. Back in England, he was promoted to Acting Major and was employed as an Instructor at the Eastern Command Infantry Company Commanders' School. In May 1942 he was transferred to the Territorial Army Reserve of Officers and seconded to the Royal Armoured Corps. On relinquishing his commission he was granted the rank of Temporary Major.

Bryan's association with St Andrew's Preparatory School, Eastbourne began in 1907 when he entered the school as a pupil. After University, he returned to the school as a master and for most of his career was master-in-charge of cricket. In 1927 he married an Eastbourne lady, Irene Innes Pocock. After the war he was appointed Headmaster but, due to his wife's ill health, was obliged to give up the position after a year. Even after retirement he remained absorbed in school affairs.

An extremely active club cricketer, apart from Eastbourne, most of his cricket was for Band of Brothers, Butterflies and Old Rugbians. He was President of the Eastbourne Branch of the Old Contemptibles Association and at the time of his death the oldest surviving Kent cricketer. He was also the last survivor of the 1921 Cambridge Eleven and of the 1924-1925 MCC team to Australia.

Further reading:

Lewis, Paul. *For Kent & Country. Kent cricketers in the Great War 1914-1918*. Reville Press, 2014.

Ronald Thurston Bryan (No. 530).

Born: 30. 7.1898, Beckenham. *Died:* 27 .7. 1970, Pevensey Bay, Sussex.

Left-handed batsman, occasional right-arm leg spin bowler.

Kent 1920-37. Cap 1937.

Educated: Rugby School.

County captain 1937.

Parents: Lt.Col. Lindsay Bryan & Emily Beatrice Bryan (née Johnson).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	40	60	9	1154	89*	22.62	0	7	30

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	22	1	22.00	1-9		

The second of four brothers, three of whom played for Kent, Ronnie Bryan was in the Eleven at Rugby in 1913-1914 primarily as a bowler. Against Clifton in 1914 he took nine wickets in the first innings, 13 in the match, and finished the season joint leading wicket-taker with 30 at 22.50. On his debut for Kent Second Eleven, against Essex at Hythe on August 14th, 1914, he took 3 for 45 & 3 for 13 but when he made his first-class debut, against Warwickshire at Edgbaston in June 1920, he did not get a chance to bowl and, with Freeman a fixture in the side, he was henceforth treated very much as a change bowler. His younger brother Godfrey (*q.v.*) made his first appearance for Kent in August of the same year.

He appeared in five games in 1920 (top score 23) but by then he was working for Lloyds Bank and county cricket was, for the most part, restricted to his annual holidays. He found time for half a dozen matches in 1923 and in 1924, two in 1925 and one in 1928, virtually all in the first two months of the season. Although never as prolific a run-getter as his brothers, he excelled several times when runs were scarce. Against Somerset at Rectory Field in 1924, his 51* was his team's top score in a curious (drawn) game in which both sides scored 188 in their first innings and Somerset declared at 188 for nine in their second. At Old Trafford in the same year when Ted McDonald (6 for 73), in his first year of county cricket, was largely instrumental in bowling Kent out for 162, Bryan top scored again with 47 and was considered to have played the formidable Australian fast bowler better than anyone.

In 1937 Lloyds granted Bryan, now a branch manager, three months leave to enable him to take on the captaincy of Kent, shared with Bryan Valentine. Leading the side for the first three months of the season, he won four, drew four and lost twelve. His personal contribution was 574 (avge.19.13) runs with four half-centuries, including his personal best of 89* v Surrey at the Oval, in what was his penultimate first-class match. Possibly his best innings was 28 against Somerset at Bath when Kent were bowled out in their second innings for 73 by Bill Andrews and Arthur Wellard. There were only two other double figure scores. On his final appearance for Kent, in a one-day match v Northamptonshire at Beckenham in 1945, he scored 52.

Most of his cricket was at weekends for Beckenham, Band of Brothers, Butterflies and Lloyds Bank. A free-scoring but notably unselfish batsman, always willing to give others a chance, he captained both Beckenham and Lloyds. He was chosen for the Club Cricket Conference against the New Zealanders in 1927, West Indians in 1933 and South Africans in 1935. In the latter fixture he scored 27 in a total of 73.

Ronnie Bryan served in both World Wars. He enlisted in the Territorial force in 1915 and, in October that year, although too young for overseas service, was commissioned in the Manchester Regiment, his father's unit. Posted to France in April 1918, he served with the 9th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, 73 Brigade, 24th Division, taking part in the breaking of the Hindenburg Line and the period of open warfare leading up to the Armistice. Following the Armistice, he signed up for further service in the Army of Occupation with the 4th Battalion Royal Sussex. In June 1919 he returned to England for demobilisation.

In the Second World War he was initially on the Territorial Reserve of Officers and in 1940 served in France & Belgium with the 5th Battalion Manchester Regiment, 127 Brigade, 42nd (East Lancashire) Division. Evacuated from Dunkirk, the Division was subsequently deployed on anti-invasion duties until November 1941 when it was converted to an armoured Division and the 5th Battalion Manchester Regiment became 111 Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps. Promoted to (Temporary) Major, Bryan later served on liaison duties with the US forces, for which in 1948 he was awarded the US Bronze Star.

Further reading:

Lewis, Paul. *For Kent & Country. Kent cricketers in the Great War 1914-1918*. Reveille Press, 2014.

Charles Harry Bull (No. 574).

Born: 29. 3.1909, Lewisham. *Died:* 28. 5.1939, Margaretting, Essex.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off break bowler.

Kent 1929-30.

Parents: Harry Bull & Frances Bull. (née Ryman).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	4	6	0	33	23	5.50	0	0	1
Overall	175	308	20	6800	161	23.61	5	30	64

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	64	0				
Overall	120	0				

Charlie Bull had his first trial with Kent at the age of 14, encouraged by his Hampshire-born father who was a cricket club groundsman. Considered by Kent 'very small for his age' he was deemed promising with the rider 'do not lose sight' and, following a further trial in 1924, he was taken on the staff in 1926. Given his chance in the Second Eleven that year, on his second appearance he had a match return of 9 for 35 v Buckinghamshire at Bletchley Park, followed immediately by 8 for 59 v Bedfordshire at Tunbridge Wells.

He struggled in 1927 but in 1928 advanced to allrounder status, heading the averages with over 400 runs including four half-centuries and taking 40 wickets. He was less successful in 1929 but again excelled against Buckinghamshire with a personal best 78 at Bletchley Park and 60, 33 and 5 for 72 at Beckenham. There had however been mutterings about his action, particularly when he gave the ball a hard tweak, and in the Beckenham match he was no-balled five times. Although he subsequently delivered eleven overs when promoted to the first team, he bowled no more in Second Eleven matches.

Given his first team chance in the local Derby against Surrey at Blackheath, he scored a useful 23 as Kent narrowly missed first innings lead but failed to reach double figures in four further attempts and failed again in a solitary first team appearance in 1930. He was promoted to open for the Second Eleven for the whole of the 1930 season but 311 runs (avge.18.29) was disappointing and at the end of the season he joined Worcestershire.

After a qualifying period spent with Dudley in the Birmingham League, he went on to a successful career with his new county, becoming a regular opening batsman, hitting five centuries and four times exceeding 1,000 runs. Against his old county at Gravesend in 1933 he scored 79 in a fourth-wicket partnership of 260 with Cyril Walters (226).

After fielding throughout the opening day of the Essex v Worcestershire match at Chelmsford in 1939, he was killed in a car accident at Margaretting between Chelmsford and Billericay. Wicketkeeper and subsequently well-known umpire, Syd Buller was seriously injured. *Wisden* did not publish an obituary until 1948.

At Worcester in June 1933 he married Phyliss Eileen Arbuckle.

Charles John Capes No. 546).

Born: 5. 1.1898, Forest Hill. *Died:* 16. 2.1933, Ospedaletti, Italy.

Right-handed batsman, left-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1923-1928. Cap 1927.

Educated: Malvern College and RMC Sandhurst.

Matthew Charles Capes & Amy Capes (née Wright).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	33	41	8	534	65*	16.18	0	1	16

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	1381	55	25.10	7-20	2	0

The son of a master printer, Jack Capes was reputed to not much care for the county game and most of his cricket was for Beckenham, Free Foresters and Band of Brothers. He nevertheless did enough to indicate that he might have achieved more had he played more frequently at first-class level.

He was in the Eleven at Malvern in 1914-1915 and in the former year took 51 wickets including 11 for 138 against Repton. In 1915, although war restricted Malvern's programme to just two games, he again did well against Repton with match figures of 9 for 78. He also played for the school at Association football.

In the following year he entered the RMC Sandhurst on a short (six month) course during which he made three appearances for the College Eleven and distinguished himself by taking six wickets against Harrow. In October 1916 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal West Kent Regiment and in May of the following year was posted to the Second Battalion in Mesopotamia (now Iraq), serving for the most part with the 17th Indian Division.

Spells in hospital, first with sand-fly fever, secondly with dysentery, restricted his service but in October 1918, by now a Lieutenant, he was involved with his unit in the attack on Turkish positions at Sharquat where the Battalion suffered 25% casualties. Following the Turkish surrender, he returned to England in April 1919 and resigned his commission in November that year. After demobilisation, he followed his father into the printing business, although he was briefly called back to the Army during the 1926 General Strike.

In 1920 he played his first Second Eleven match, against Surrey at The Oval, and in the following season made three more second team appearances, taking 5 for 49 v Bedfordshire at Bedford and 5 for 12 v Norfolk at Hythe.

He made his first team debut in 1923 against Essex at Leyton, and in half a dozen games claimed three wickets at 49.66 each. He also participated in Kent's five match, end-of-season tour of Scotland, taking 5 for 29 against Perthshire. In five Second Eleven matches he had more success with 60* v Wiltshire at Blackheath and 44 and match figures of 7 for 35 in the return at Swindon. When Lord Harris' Eleven, containing seven players with first team experience, came close to beating the West Indians at Belmont, Capes had figures of 4 for 48 and 2 for 44.

He achieved nothing of note in occasional appearances in 1924-25 and when in 1927 he found time for 14 matches between May and early August, his form probably exceeded expectations. 34 wickets at 19.64 included 7 for 20 v Leicestershire on a rain-affected wicket at Tonbridge, 5 for 45 v Warwickshire at Coventry and 4 for 48 v Surrey at Blackheath.

In his final season he was less successful with the ball, apart from 4 for 53 against Derbyshire at Mote Park, but played several useful innings. In his penultimate first-class match, against Lancashire at Maidstone, he went in with Kent, having followed on, 177-6. Facing the fiery Ted McDonald, he hit several lucky fours at which point McDonald, according to Capes, ‘lost his temper, bowled at me and I had money for jam for the rest of the time.’ He finished 65* with the total 308.

Jack Capes twice toured the Netherlands with Free Foresters, the last time in 1931, two years before his death from tuberculosis. As a hockey player he appeared for the South in several international trials and represented England in 1926.

Further reading:

Lewis, Paul. *For Kent & Country. Kent cricketers in the Great War 1914-1918*. Reveille Press, 2014.

Peter Victor Ferdinand Cazalet (No. 562).

Born: 15. 1.1907, Westminster, London. *Died:* 29. 3.1973, Plaxtol.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent. 1927-1932.

Educated: Eton College & Christ Church, Oxford.

Parents: William Marshall Cazalet & Maud Lucia Mollie Cazalet (née Heron-Maxwell).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	4	6	1	203	150	40.60	1	0	0
Overall	22	36	2	774	150	21.88	1	4	6

Bowling

Did not bowl

Famous as one of the leading National Hunt trainers of his day, at Eton Peter Cazalet had looked likely to make a considerable name as a cricketer. He was in the Eleven in 1925/26 and in the latter year averaged over 50, rounding off his school career with 100* against Harrow at Lord’s. Going up to Oxford in 1927, he began with 0 & 62 against Leicestershire in the Parks, hit three other scores over 50 including 66 against an admittedly under-strength Surrey at The Oval when he shared an opening partnership of 207 in three hours with Aidan Crawley (150). Awarded his Blue, he scored 19 and 0 against Cambridge. Given his chance by Kent in the first match of Maidstone Week against Middlesex, he scored seven.

Although he played in five matches in 1928 he failed to achieve a second Blue, his one innings of substance in the Parks being against the university – 150 for Kent – his only hundred for the County. With Frank Woolley (100), 204 were added for the second -wicket in 100 minutes.

He also represented his university at lawn tennis, racquets and squash. Although by now devoting much of his time to steeplechasing, he played twice for Kent in 1932 with a top score of 21.

His career as an amateur rider was ended by a fall in 1938 but in the following year he took out a trainer’s licence, set up his stables at the family estate at Fairlawne, near Plaxtol, and built it up to become one of the most powerful and influential in the country. Best remembered perhaps as National Hunt trainer to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, he never achieved his ambition to win the Grand National but of his 1,100 winners, more than 250 were in the royal colours.

During the 1939/45 War he joined the Royal Artillery but transferred to the Guards and served in north-west Europe with the Second (Armoured) Battalion, Welsh Guards, the reconnaissance battalion of the

Guards Armoured division. Ending his war in Germany, he left the Army with the rank of Major. He was High Sheriff of Kent in 1960 and Deputy Lieutenant in 1961.

The son of a St. Petersburg-born 'Russia Merchant' who later became a magistrate for the County of Kent and prominent in the hunting field, Peter Cazalet married twice, Leonora Rowley, a step-daughter of P.G.Wodehouse, at St. Giles' Church, Shipbourne in 1932 and, following her unexpected death in 1944 during a routine operation, Zara Sophie Kathleen Mary Mainwaring in London in 1949. On his death Peter Cazalet's estate was valued at £62,654.

Further reading:

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

Frederick Gerald Hudson Chalk DFC (No. 590).

Born; 7. 9.1910, Sydenham. *Died:* 17. 2.1943, Louches near Calais, France.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent. 1933-1939. Cap 1933.

County captain 1938-1939.

Educated: Uppingham School & Brasenose College, Oxford.

Parents: Arthur Chalk & Edith Blanche Clarice Chalk (née Hudson).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	101	169	12	4436	198	28.25	5	24	40
Overall	156	259	20	6732	198	28.16	11	31	62

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	137	2	68.50	2-25		
Overall	409	7	58.42	2-22		

An inspirational captain and a batsman excelling in the off-drive, cover-drive and square cut, Gerry Chalk was the son of a master butcher who, with a partner, owned Chalk & Cox, a chain of shops across South-East London and Metropolitan Kent. When war broke out in 1939, Chalk junior was into his second year as Kent captain and approaching his peak as a player. He probably never played better than in Dover Week in the closing days of that last pre-war season.

At Uppingham he was in the Eleven from 1927 to 1929 and led the batting averages in 1928. In the following year, when he captained the side, he had a moderate season with the bat, but his fielding at cover was singled out for mention by *Wisden*. In 1928 he appeared in two matches for Kent Second Eleven but did little; in four innings his top score was four.

Going up to Oxford in 1931, Chalk scored 26 and 20 in the Freshmens' Match and 31 and 59 on his first-class debut, against Kent in the Parks. Although he hit only one other half-century, he did enough to hold his place and gain the first of his four cricket Blues.

In 1932 he did better, scoring almost 500 runs, opening the batting for most of the season and captaining the side on occasions. Against Lancashire in the Parks he contributed 83 to an opening partnership of 149 with Richard Brooke (123) and against Surrey at The Oval he reached his maiden century, adding 225 in 180 minutes for the second-wicket with Australian Brian (later Sir Brian) Hone (Chalk 130, Hone 108).

He appeared twice against the Indian tourists. In addition to the official tour match in the Parks, he played in their opening fixture, an 'unofficial' two day-match for T.Gilbert Scott's Eleven on his private

ground at Peasmarsh, Sussex. Playing alongside cricket aristocracy including Douglas Jardine, Duleepsinhji, Percy Chapman and 'Tuppy' Owen-Smith, he was joint top scorer (38) with Chapman.

1933 brought further progress. In Oxford's second match of the season, against the West Indian tourists, he scored 149 with 4 sixes and 15 fours, adding 210 in 150 minutes with his close friend Bob Stainton. There followed two centuries in successive matches, 104 v Leicestershire in the Parks when, with David Townsend (118), 178 were added for the third wicket, and 104 again against a strong Free Foresters attack including Freddie Calthorpe, Raymond Robertson-Glasgow and Bill Gresswell. Once more with Townsend (195), 236 were scored for the fifth wicket in 170 minutes.

In July he made his debut for Kent, against Surrey at Rectory Field, and retained his place for the remainder of the season, hitting three half-centuries with a top score of 78 v Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge. His record in all first-class matches was 1,055 runs (avge.28.51).

In 1934, his final year at Oxford, Chalk was appointed captain and, with what *Wisden* described as his 'lively, happy personality', proved an ideal choice. In his 675 runs (avge.35.72), there were two outstanding centuries. In the Parks against a Yorkshire team including Bill Bowes, Hedley Verity and seven other current or future England cricketers, he came to the wicket at 47 for 3 and was ninth out at 236, having hit 135 in 210 minutes with 21 fours. With wicketkeeper Michael Matthews (23), 101 were added for the eighth- wicket.

In his three previous outings against Cambridge s his top score had been an unbeaten 19. This time he hit 108 (16 fours) in 168 minutes and shared a 230 run fourth wicket partnership with David Townsend (193). At the close, Cambridge were 94 for 3, needing another 104. If unable to force a win, Chalk at least had the satisfaction of appearing in four University matches without ever being on the losing side

Back with Kent, he made a dozen appearances in July and August, scoring over 500 runs with four half-centuries. Against Surrey at The Oval he scored 47 & 62*, holding on for the last 30 minutes in the not particularly confidence- inspiring company of 'Father' Marriott, by common consent the worst batsman on the county circuit. In all matches he totalled 1,213 runs (avge.34.65).

On coming down from Oxford, Chalk spent three years teaching at Malvern which severely curtailed his county cricket. He played very little in 1935 and 1936 but in 1937 contrived to play 11 matches in which he scored over 600 runs, including 107 (3 sixes, 10 fours) v Middlesex on a badly worn Lord's pitch, 88 v Hampshire in Leslie Ames' benefit match in Canterbury Week and 62 & 59 v the New Zealanders.

Kent appointed Gerry Chalk captain in 1938 and, under him, the County rose from 12th to ninth with the same number of wins (eight) but two fewer defeats (14). Outstanding at cover or mid-off, the new skipper enlivened the fielding and although his form with the bat was patchy, his 1,140 runs (avge.22.80) in all matches included 167 (1 six, 19 fours) v Worcestershire at Dudley where Kent totalled 602-7. With Arthur Fagg (134), 275 were added for the second wicket.

An MCC team was due to tour South Africa in the 1938/1939 winter and it seems likely that Chalk was attracting wider attention. He was selected for MCC v Yorkshire, MCC v Surrey, MCC v the Australians and Gentlemen of England v the Australians, all at Lord's, and Pelham Warner's Eleven v England Past & Present at Folkestone. Unfortunately, although he shone in the field, in all these fixtures his top score was only 26; he contributed 11 and seven in Kent's meeting with Bradman's side.

In what proved to be Gerry Chalk's final season, Kent rose to fifth in the table with 14 wins, three draws and nine defeats. 1,288 runs (avge.30.66) including three centuries and seven half-centuries, placed him fourth in the Kent batting averages. In June, immediately following his decision to move himself up the order as Arthur Fagg's opening partner, he reached his personal best, 198 v Sussex at Tonbridge, scored in 290 minutes with 23 fours. With Fagg (91), 171 were scored for the first wicket in two hours and with Bryan Valentine (50), 116 for the third wicket in an hour.

His best form came in August. Against Sussex at Hastings he scored 124 (14 fours), adding 215 for the third wicket with Valentine (104). In the first match of Dover Week, he won the toss and unwisely invited the formidable Yorkshire to bat first. By the second day, Kent were following on, 229 in arrears. Against Verity on a spinner's wicket, Chalk played the innings of his life, carrying his bat for 115* out of 215. Of the rest, only Doug Wright (34) got past 20. In the second match, Kent's last county match for six years, following a Lancashire declaration, Kent needed 382 and got them for the loss of five wickets in 65 (eight-ball) overs with an hour to spare. Chalk's farewell contribution was 94 and a 181-run first wicket partnership with Fagg (138).

On the outbreak of War, Gerry Chalk, like quite a few county cricketers, enlisted in the Honourable Artillery Company but transferred to the RAF. He became a commissioned air-gunner in Bomber Command – a comparative rarity – with the rank of Pilot Officer. In June 1941, he was manning the rear turret of a Wellington, returning from a raid on Hanover, when they encountered a Messerschmitt Bf 110 night fighter which made two attacks. Despite being under heavy fire from the Messerschmitt's 20mm cannon, which outranged the Wellington's rifle calibre machine-guns, Chalk scored hits with two long bursts, causing the night fighter to break away with flames coming from the side of the fuselage. For this Chalk was awarded the DFC. Between February and July 1941 he made 20 operational flights.

Gerry Chalk subsequently retrained as a fighter pilot and was posted to 174 (Baroda) Squadron. In February 1943, by now a Flight Lieutenant, his squadron was assigned to escort bombers in an attack on Lille. The operation was aborted due to bad weather, but the recall signal did not reach the eleven Spitfires of 174 Squadron who were 'bounced' by a formation of 30 plus Focke Wulf 190s. The Germans had the advantage of height and Gerry Chalk's Spitfire was one of four shot down in the ensuing fight. He was thought to have crashed in the Channel and was originally posted 'missing' which was amended to 'presumed killed' the following January. Two other 174 Squadron pilots died in the action.

In 1989 a French aviation archaeology enthusiast located Gerry Chalk's remains, still in his Spitfire, deep in a field at Louches approximately 14 miles from Calais. The position of the aircraft and the depth at which it was found probably indicate that it crashed with the engine still running. For reasons at present unexplained, the aircraft was a Spitfire Mark VI, a variant designed for intercepting German high-altitude reconnaissance flights and the first RAF aircraft to incorporate a pressurised cockpit. Only approximately 100 were built.

Gerry Chalk is buried almost in sight of the Channel at Terlirthin British Cemetery, Wimille. His brother-in-law Peter Foster (*q.v.*), who had played under his captaincy at both University and with Kent, assisted with the funeral, held with full military honours, and attended by, among others from Kent CCC, former team mates Leslie Ames, Godfrey Evans and 'Hopper' Levett.

The only representative cricket played by Gerry Chalk was his one appearance for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's in 1939. He disappointed with scores of five and eight, but some of his contemporaries thought he might have been capable of taking a step beyond county cricket. In a heavy scoring era, he probably never made quite enough runs but MCC often showed a preference for an amateur when it came to the 'spare' batsman on overseas tour. Jack Bryan was an example in 1924/25 and Norman Yardley and Hugh Bartlett were both in the party for South Africa in 1938-1939 without managing to establish themselves.

In home Tests it was another matter. England has seldom been so well-provided with quality batsmen, both established and potential, as they were in the years immediately before the Second World War. As for the England captaincy, Walter Hammond was still at his peak and firmly in the saddle although Chalk had age on his side. Leslie Ames, who had seen more skippers come and go than most, seems to have thought he had the right credentials.

As captain, Chalk had the reputation of having the gift for getting the best from his team, however diverse in character, temperament or outlook. He was particularly good with nervous or diffident newcomers. A close student of the game, he had a flair for imaginative field placing and for always manging somehow to keep a bowler fresh. In club cricket he played for Band of Brothers, Oxford University Authentics, Sutton and Uppingham Rovers. At Oxford he gained a Blue for hockey; he also played representative hockey for Surrey.

In July 1941 Gerry Chalk married Rosemary Vera Foster, daughter of Geoffrey Norman Foster (*q.v.*), sister of Peter Geoffrey Foster (*q.v.*) and niece of Harold Edward Westray Prest (*q.v.*). In July 1944 she married Flight Lieutenant Paul Haywood of Wellington, New Zealand. The cricketing connection continued. The ceremony, at St. Michael's, Chester Square, was performed by Canon Frank Gillingham (Essex).

Gerry Chalk's estate was valued for probate at £1,337. 1s.3d.

Arthur Percy Frank Chapman (No. 550).

Born: 3. 9.1900, Reading, Berkshire. *Died:* 16. 9.1961, Alton, Hampshire.

Left-handed batsman, slow left-arm bowler.

Kent.1924-1938. Cap 1925.

Kent county captain 1931-1936.

Tests: 26 for England.

Wisden Five Public School Cricketers of the Year. 1919.

Educated: Oakham School, Uppingham School & Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Parents: Frank Emerson Chapman & Bertha Chapman (née Finch).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	194	269	31	6681	260	26.93	8	29	173
England	26	36	4	925	121	28.90	1	5	32
Overall	394	554	44	16309	260	31.97	27	77	356

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	151	3	50.33	2-24		
England	20	0				
Overall	921	22	41.86	5-40	1	0

For a few years Percy Chapman was the Golden Boy of English cricket, greeted by many as a harbinger of better days to come in the wake of two series of punishment at the hands of Armstrong's Australians. If he never quite fulfilled these high expectations and his final career figures are unremarkable, mere numbers do not perhaps quite tell the story. At his peak, he played some memorable innings and, without being a master tactician, he had a gift for getting the best out of his teams based on, according to Raymond Robertson-Glasgow, 'quick perception, wide knowledge of human nature and a happy disposition which native shrewdness never allowed to deteriorate into mere geniality'. Above all, he led England to Ashes victory at The Oval in 1926 and retained them by a 4-1 margin in Australia in 1928/1929.

Six feet two (188 cm), athletically built, with curly blond (ish) hair, he had a presence described by Ian Peebles as 'towering but cherubic'. Sir Home Gordon thought him 'joyous, infused with vitality and good-humoured, like a humanised Newfoundland dog'. With powerful wrists and forearms, as a batsman he lacked Woolley's classicism, depending less on technique and timing than on a quick judgement of length and sheer physical strength. Like Woolley, he could drive a good-length ball past

or over mid-off, past or over mid-on, straight or square on the off-side. When he flashed outside off-stump – as he often did – the outcome was usually runs over, or either side of, point. Sixes over third man were not unknown. On the leg side he favoured the pull and short-arm hook. When in the mood, he had been known to reverse hands and drive the ball over the slips – a modern touch. Whatever the state of the game, his natural inclination, seldom resisted, was to keep playing strokes, which probably explains why captains seldom batted him much above number six.

One of the finest fielders of his generation, he originally specialised at cover, later at gully or slip where he exhibited a flair for taking improbable catches. Bert Oldfield named him as ‘the greatest all-round fieldsman I have seen’ and even when, all too soon, his batting lost its gloss, he remained inspirational near the wicket.

His was a sporting background. His paternal grandfather, the Rev. W.E. Chapman, played for Spalding against the All England Eleven in 1853 and 1854 and his father Frank, a teacher by profession and latterly headmaster of a preparatory school, played cricket for Berkshire and football for, among others, Lincoln City, Reading and the Casuals. His paternal uncle Charles, a clergyman, gained a cricket Blue at Cambridge and also appeared for Berkshire.

Chapman earned a formidable reputation as a schoolboy. He hit his first century while at Oakham and his first double century shortly after arriving at Uppingham where he was in the Eleven from 1916 to 1919. In 1917 he ended his school season with successive innings of 66, 206, 81 and 114 and an average of 111. In 1918 he was chosen by *Wisden* as one of their Five Public School Cricketers of the Year and in that year, and again in 1919, he was picked for the Rest v Lord’s Schools and for Public Schools v Pelham Warner’s Eleven.

At Cambridge his career was something less than the triumph expected. In 1920, although impressing with his fielding, he did little in the Freshmens’ match and failed when picked for the Next Fifteen. Chosen as 12th man for the opening first-class fixture against Essex, luck intervened when Geoffrey Brooke-Taylor dropped out on the morning of the match. The outcome for Chapman was a century on debut, 118 in 150 minutes, after which his Blue was a virtual certainty. Averaging over 40, he was selected for Gentlemen v Players at both Lord’s and in the Scarborough Festival. In the latter he hit his third first-class century, 101 in a little over two hours, against a Players Eleven consisting entirely of current, or shortly to be, England cricketers.

At the end of the University season he made his debut for his native Berkshire. In 28 appearances in the Minor Counties Championship spread over the next five years, he scored 2,214 runs (avge.65.11) with seven hundreds and nine half centuries. At this level he had on occasions claim to allrounder status. Against Devonshire at Exeter in 1921 he scored 157 to go with bowling figures of 7 for 70.

The 1921 Cambridge Eleven has been judged the strongest ever and, although Chapman averaged 53.26, he finished only fourth in the averages. *Wisden* was not alone in having doubts - ‘There was a feeling that with his exceptional gifts, he should have risen higher’. Nevertheless, as England struggled against the Australians, there were calls for Chapman’s inclusion in the England side, not least from Pelham Warner. In the event, beginning with a first ball duck, in three encounters with the tourists, his top score was 20. Although contributing little except in the field, he was a member of Archie MacLaren’s all-amateur England Eleven which inflicted a first defeat on the visitors at Eastbourne. Once again he was picked for Gentlemen v Players at Lord’s and Scarborough.

In his last year at University, Chapman had a moderate season and came into the University match with a top score of 76. 19* overnight on the first day, in bad light he scored 102 with eleven fours. For the Gentlemen at Lord’s, against a Players attack consisting of Cec Parkin, Alec Kennedy, George Macaulay, Frank Woolley and Jack Hearne, Chapman hit 160 with 1 six and 14 fours.

Apart from the Scarborough Festival, Chapman played no more first-class cricket in 1922 but in the winter he had his first experience of overseas cricket, albeit without Test matches, when he joined an

MCC team touring Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Australia & New Zealand under the captaincy of 51 year-old Archie MacLaren, It was an odd party, consisting of 12 amateurs of widely varying ages and even more widely varying ability, buttressed by two professional leg spinners, 'Tich' Freeman and Harry Tyllesley. Leading scorer by over 500 runs, Chapman impressed everyone, hard-bitten Australian pundits included, with centuries against South Australia, New South Wales, Canterbury and Auckland.

While in New Zealand, Chapman became engaged to Gertrude (known as 'Beet') Lowry, a sister of Tom Lowry, a close friend and team mate of Chapman at Cambridge and destined to be New Zealand's first Test captain. On returning to England, Chapman began studying brewing at Mackeson's brewery in Hythe, while at the same time starting the two-year period required to qualify for Kent. With hindsight, the brewing industry was not perhaps an ideal career choice. Between studies, he began his close association with Hythe Cricket club which lasted for the rest of his life.

There were no Test matches in 1923 but the Chapman reputation was such that, despite being restricted mainly to club cricket, he was selected for two Test Trials and Gentlemen v Players at The Oval, Lord's and Scarborough. Next year, although still not qualified for county cricket, he made a low-key debut for Kent with scores of three and 28 against Oxford University in the Parks and, following success for the Rest in the Test Trial at Trent Bridge, made his debut for England, against South Africa at Edgbaston, where he scored eight.

He did not get a chance to bat in the Second Test at Lord's and, selected for the Third, came close to terminating his career on a permanent basis. Returning from a ball at Henley-on-Thames in the early hours of the morning, his fashionably long raincoat caught in a wheel of his motor cycle and he was found unconscious in the middle of the road. Fortunately there was no permanent damage and he recovered in time to score 68 against the South Africans at Lakenham and take his full part in the end of season Scarborough Festival.

Although he had hardly lived up to his reputation, Chapman was in the party chosen to tour Australia under the captaincy of Arthur Gilligan in 1924/25. In the event, apart from his fielding, his tour brought further disappointment. He played four Test matches – he was dropped for the last – and his 58 in the third Test match impressed the critics, but it was his only half century of the series. In all first-class matches his highest score was 92.

Off the field he was a social success. At a function in Brisbane he consumed 17½ dozen oysters at a single sitting but recovered in time to hit 80 against Queensland two days later. Before returning to England, Chapman married 'Beet' Lowry in North Island, New Zealand and, back in England, the pair became much in demand in London society.

Qualified for Kent in 1925, Chapman came to county cricket with stronger credentials than most young amateurs – six England caps, nine appearances for Gentlemen v Players and 13 first-class centuries - but work, and perhaps to some extent a busy social life, were now beginning to restrict his cricket and it was not until July 1925 that he made his eagerly-awaited debut in the County Championships. Batting number seven, he scored 18 and 49 against Nottinghamshire (with Larwood) at Tunbridge Wells but found time for only Yorkshire at Mote Park and Hampshire and Sussex in Canterbury Week. 49 remained his highest of the season.

When the Australians arrived in 1926, although Chapman was still written up in some quarters as 'England's great hope', he was seriously short of meaningful cricket and had not scored a first-class century since a hundred for Free Foresters at Fenner's in 1923. Until half way through May, he played only recreational cricket for Hythe and clubs such as Band of Brothers but then hit 51 for MCC against the Australians. In his first game of the season for Kent, he hit 159 with 1 six and 22 fours against Hampshire at Southampton and shared a partnership of 297 for the fourth wicket with Wally Hardinge (160) This, his first Championship century, won him six bottles of 1896 Cockburn's port and 50 Corona cigars thanks to a bet with a director of Mackeson's.

His next innings, a hard-hit 89 (2 sixes, 11 fours) for South of England v the Australians at Bristol, a fixture treated as a Test Trial, was even more significant, virtually guaranteeing his place for England, under the captaincy of Arthur Carr. There was little play in the first Test but when England needed quick runs in the Second Test at Lord's, Chapman obliged with 50* in 95 minutes. He went on to hit 42* in about 25 minutes in similar circumstances in the Third Test at Leeds. Consequently, the decision to drop him for the next Test at Old Trafford caused something of a stir. Even more controversial was the team chosen for the decisive final (timeless) Test at The Oval. The tough, forthright and highly experienced Carr was replaced as captain by the amiable but, in terms of leadership, lightweight, Chapman.

Stories of smoke-filled rooms and back-stairs intrigues abounded and still surface occasionally, usually involving Warner, who reputedly had changed direction and now wanted Greville Stevens as skipper. England however won by 289 runs and regained the Ashes, which stifled much of the criticism. Most agreed that, limited experience notwithstanding, Chapman handled the side well, got his field placings and bowling changes about right and, more perhaps than many amateur captains of the period, listened to his senior pros. And when it mattered he struck a rapid 49.

Away from the Test arena, he hit another hundred for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's, a second against Hampshire, in Canterbury Week, and with 1,381 runs (avge.51.14) exceeded four figures in a domestic season for the first time. Once again, all nearly ended in tragedy. Driving down Sandgate Hill, he had a head-on collision with another motorist but, again, luck was on his side. He escaped with a cut face; the other driver was uninjured.

1927 was another season without Test matches but Chapman came in for some criticism by not making himself available to lead England in the second of two Test Trials, opting instead for Kent v Surrey at The Oval. For his adopted county, the year was his *annus mirabilis*, 985 runs (avge.70.35) with three hundreds and five half-centuries. In his first match of the season, he hit 158 v Worcestershire at Folkestone, there was a notable 113 from the Surrey bowlers at Rectory Field and at Mote Park against Lancashire, the eventual Champions, he played one of the truly great innings in Kent history. Coming in at 64 for 4, he hit a hundred in even time, a second in 70 minutes and the last 50 in under 15 minutes. In all he scored 260 with 5 sixes and 32 fours. Ted McDonald, then still rated by many as the best fast bowler in the world, was treated like a Saturday afternoon trundler. With Geoffrey Legge (101), 284 were added for the sixth-wicket in 150 minutes, batting described by Bob Arrowsmith as 'the most remarkable sustained attack on a fast bowler ever witnessed'. In all domestic cricket he again exceeded 1,000 runs – 1,387 (avge.66.04).

At the end of the season there were more mutterings when Chapman declined the chance to lead an MCC side to South Africa but, in the following summer, he did his reputation no harm by captaining England to three innings victories over West Indies. Despite playing more often for Kent than ever before – 14 matches – he scored only 614 runs (avge.38.37) with a single century, 141 v Somerset at Taunton, where 237 were added for the fourth wicket with Leslie Ames (129). Although apart from 50 at Lord's, he did nothing of note in the Test series, he again scored runs for the Gentlemen, 51 at Lord's, 91 at Folkestone, and few disagreed with his selection as captain for the coming Ashes series in Australia.

With four straight wins, the tour was for England one of the most successful in the history of Anglo-Australian cricket. Although perhaps a bowler light to modern thinking, England were clearly the superior side at all points, but the critics were virtually unanimous in placing a large share of the credit on Chapman's handling of the team both on and off the field. Statistically his contribution was modest, 165 runs with a top score of 50, but despite having gained around two stone (12.7 kg.) over the last two years, his fielding was an outstanding feature of the series. Chapman stood down for the Fifth Test at Melbourne, due to influenza officially, but there were other suggestions, including loss of form, a desire to give a chance to other team members and, in later years, tales of a monumental hangover. England lost, due, at least in part, to fielding lapses.

Now promoting sales of whisky for the Distillers Company rather than Kentish beer for Mackesons, in 1929 Chapman found time for only five games for his County, seven first-class matches in all, with a top score of 28. Consequently, when the Australians arrived in 1930, he was again seriously short of cricket and no longer an automatic choice for the England captaincy. There had been four other captains since his last Test appearance.

Needing time in the middle, Chapman warmed up with a half century for MCC v Surrey and followed with 107 out of 156 in 135 minutes against Somerset at Bath. He was duly chosen to captain MCC against the Australians and England v the Rest at Lord's. Both matches were drawn but, although failing with the bat, he fielded brilliantly and was generally considered to have captained well. There were still rumours of selectorial misgivings, due it seems mainly to his social life, and Carr still had his supporters. Nevertheless, Chapman was appointed to lead England at Trent Bridge.

By winning his sixth successive Test match against Australia and keeping Bradman's run-getting within reasonable limits (eight & 131), Chapman regained his place as a national hero. With Larwood injured, there was nothing but praise for his management of a limited attack, he fielded brilliantly despite carrying well over 15 stone (95.25 kg,) and, when England were struggling at 71 for 4 in the first innings, he changed the game in 70 minutes with 52 out of 82 with ten fours.

The victory at Trent Bridge would be Percy Chapman's last in Test cricket. At Lord's, Australia scored 729-6 (Bradman 254, Woodfull 155) and won by seven wickets. In the second innings, Chapman was missed before he had scored but rode his luck, and at least saved the innings defeat with a glorious 121 in 152 minutes (3 sixes, 12 fours). This was the first century by an England captain against Australia since Stanley Jackson in 1905. He also caught Bradman twice, at cover in the first innings, and brilliantly at gully in the second. The next two Tests were drawn. At Leeds Australia scored 566 (Bradman 334) and Old Trafford was restricted to little more than two days play but the knives were out for the captain and, in a bizarre repeat of 1926, Chapman was replaced by Bob Wyatt for the Fifth Test at The Oval.

The committee's decision was apparently unanimous, but no reason was given at the time. Warner had written in *The Cricketer* that Chapman 'over did the silly point position' and 'appeared unobservant and lacking in tactical sense' while most of the press seem to have concluded that the aim was to strengthen the batting. In fact, Chapman was averaging 43.16 in the series with only Duleepsinhji and Sutcliffe above him.

In later years rumours and leaks accused him of misdemeanours ranging from a penchant for getting himself out, failing to contain Bradman, mishandling his bowling and allowing his main bowlers to field on the boundary, to becoming too friendly with his professionals and spending too much time with raffish friends, notably the sporting cartoonist Tom Webster, and Ben Travers, author of the highly popular Aldwych farces.

When England lost by an innings (Bradman 232), much of the press – and several influential Australians including the highly regarded Monty Noble- condemned the change. In all matches he reached his 1,000 runs for the third and last time.

Prior to the selectors' bombshell, Chapman had been asked to lead the 1930/1931 MCC tour of South Africa but, although he was personally popular, the tour, marred by injuries, was not a success. Not for the first time, England's selectors had underestimated South Africa's strength on their own wickets and, after the tourists had lost the first Test, the remainder were drawn. Although still taking improbable catches, Chapman only twice passed 50 and in the Test matches his highest score was 28.

On returning from South Africa Chapman took over the Kent captaincy, although in practice, due to business, the leadership was shared with Bryan Valentine. It was as captain that Chapman would make his greatest contribution to Kent cricket. When he took over Kent were not overly popular on the county circuit; nor did they seem a particularly happy side. Despite never being available for a full season - he

managed 27 matches in 1934, 24 in 1931 and 1935 - it did not take long to bring about a change. To quote Robertson-Glasgow again, 'he brought 'breadth and humour to what was in danger of becoming narrow-minded and parochial'. Under him cricket was fun and Leslie Ames seems to have echoed the opinions of many when he wrote 'you just had to enjoy yourself'.

His overall record as county captain – Won 53, Drawn 49, Lost 38 is perhaps no more than respectable, but Kent finished third in each of his first three seasons and never fell lower than tenth. This latter was in 1935 when, for the only time under Chapman's captaincy, the team lost more (12) than they won (ten). His best season was 1932 - when Kent were for a while genuine contenders and twice led the table – their final record played 28, won 14 (six by an innings) drawn or no result 11, lost 3.

During his captaincy years, what with increasing weight and perhaps to some extent his lifestyle, Kent had only occasional glimpses of the old Chapman as a batsman. In 1931 he struggled for his 662 runs (avge.18.38) in all matches, his top score for Kent 59 and his only hundred 114 for an England Eleven v the New Zealanders in the Folkestone Festival but he regained form in 1932. In all matches he scored 951 runs (avge.29.71) and, although interspersed with 11 single-figure dismissals, there were ten half-centuries, many of them struck with something of the old panache. Among them were 96 in 95 minutes against the Indian tourists at Canterbury, 55 out of 72 in 65 minutes against the Champions Yorkshire at Tonbridge and a sixth- wicket partnership of 132 in 90 minutes against Middlesex at Lord's (Chapman 69, Hardinge 63).

Although never playing so well again, he averaged over 20 (in all matches) in every season until 1936 and his final century – 107 v Somerset at Maidstone in 1935 - was scored out of 130 in 85 minutes with 2 sixes and 16 fours. Three of his eight centuries for Kent were against Somerset. Almost to the end he remained outstanding in the field. Three times in Kent matches alone he averaged over a catch a match, 28 in 27 matches in 1934, 27 in 23 in 1933.

In 1936, officially sharing the captaincy with both Valentine and Ian Akers-Douglas, he played only 13 matches in which his top score was 49*. In the Folkestone Festival he captained a strong England Eleven against India and the Gentlemen against the Players. In the following year, he relinquished the captaincy and played only once for Kent, against the New Zealanders, but, again captaining an England Eleven against the tourists at Folkestone, he gave more than a glimpse of the old Chapman. Batting number ten, he scored 61* in an hour and shared a ninth- wicket partnership of 121 with Bryan Valentine (102).

In the spring of 1938 Chapman toured Egypt with HM Martineau's team and during the season said farewell to county cricket with two appearances for Kent, the last against Worcestershire at Dudley where he hit a robust 36. At Lord's he hit final first-class half-century, 78 with 1 six and 13 fours for MCC against Oxford University. In 1939 he ended his first-class career with three matches against the universities, two for MCC, one for Free Foresters.

During the War years Chapman served briefly with the Honourable Artillery Company but was discharged on medical grounds. According to one somewhat unlikely account, he was discharged because boots could not be found to fit him. Some of his time was spent working with mobile canteens, serving remote anti-aircraft sites. He continued to play cricket, mainly in charity matches, for the British Empire XI, Cross Arrows, Forty Club, Aldershot District, and various scratch elevens as well as, briefly for Formby in the Liverpool & District Competition.

The closing years of Chapman's life are the stuff of tragedy. There was a divorce in 1942 and the melancholy story of his decline from merely drinking too much to full-blown alcoholism, exacerbated by the ageing athlete's curse of arthritis, is detailed in David Lemmon's biography published in 1985. By the end, he was an embarrassment to his friends – and probably to himself. He died in hospital following a fall. His estate was valued for probate at £16,574.4s.

Further reading.

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Lemmon, David, *Percy Chapman, a biography*, Queen Anne Press, 1985.
 Robertson-Glasgow, R.C. *Cricket Prints: some batsmen and bowlers, 1920-1940*. T.Werner Laurie, 1940.

John Clifford Christopherson (No. 582).

Born: 1. 6.1909, Blackheath. *Died:* 8. 1. 1999, Walton-on-the-Hill, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium pace bowler.

Kent.1931-1935.

Educated: Uppingham School & Pembroke College Cambridge.

Parents: Henry Clifford Christopherson & Louisa Christopherson (née Valentine).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	3	4	0	29	14	7.25	0	0	0
Overall	16	29	2	486	75	18.00	0	2	5

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	Did not bowl					
Overall	32	1	32.00	1-5		

A nephew of Stanley and Percy Christopherson (*q.v.*) and cousin of Neville (Secretary of Kent CCC 1950-59, President 1962), John Christopherson was in his school eleven from 1926 to 1928 where he was a contemporary of Gerry Chalk (*q.v.*). At Cambridge, he scored 63 in the 1929 Freshmens' match but with competition from batsmen of the quality of Bryan Valentine, Maurice Turnbull and E.T.Killick, he did not get into the University side until 1931. In 1930 Christopherson scored exactly 100 against Norfolk at Canterbury on his second appearance for Kent Second Eleven and in May of the following year made his first team debut for Kent, against Derbyshire at Derby, where he scored nine in his only innings.

Awarded his Blue in 1931, Christopherson contributed a modest nine and seven in the University match, a high scoring affair in which there were double hundreds from Alan Ratcliffe and the Nawab of Pataudi. Apart from his top score of 75 at Hove, probably his best effort was at Fenner's where against a Nottinghamshire attack including Larwood and Voce, he scored 29 and 49, sharing opening partnerships of 53 and 89 with George Kemp-Welch.

He scored 71 against Norfolk at Lakenham on his final appearance for Kent Second Eleven in 1933 and played two more first team games for Kent, in 1934 and 1935. His club cricket was for Free Foresters, Grasshoppers and Reigate Priory. His final first-class match was at Reigate for H.D.G.Leveson Gower's Eleven v Oxford University in 1936. In 1932 he played for the Gentlemen of Surrey against a touring South American side.

During the 1939-45 war he batted with considerable success for Kidderminster in the Birmingham League and appeared for Birmingham League Elevens in several wartime charity matches. In a successful business career, John Christopherson became a director of the chemical manufacturer Albright & Wilson at Oldbury and served during the War as a Lieutenant in the Oldbury Home Guard recruited mainly from Albright & Wilson employees.

Colin Gibson Cole (No. 597).

Born; 7. 7.1916, Sittingbourne. *Died*: 22. 7.1994, Borden.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, fast-medium bowler.

Kent.1935-1938.

Parents: George Ewart Cole & Bessie Cole (née Gibson).

First Class Career Record**Batting and Fielding**

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	27	43	14	228	23*	7.86	0	0	15

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	2110	61	34.59	6-62	2	0

Graduating through the nursery, Colin Cole made his first appearance for Kent Second Eleven at The Oval in June 1933. Generally used as second or third change, he did little until his penultimate game of the year when, given the new ball, he took 4 for 65 against Norfolk at Tonbridge. Next year 32 wickets made him leading Second Eleven wicket taker, albeit somewhat expensively at 28.09. In 1935, immediately following his best Second Eleven performance to date – 6 for 58 and 3 for 98 v Staffordshire at Wolstanton - he received his first team call up, against Champions Yorkshire at Tonbridge, where he claimed two tailend wickets for 84. At intervals, he played three more matches, Derbyshire at Chesterfield, Middlesex at Maidstone (where he did not bowl) and Derbyshire at Dover which brought him four more wickets for 179 runs.

A good season for the Second Eleven in 1936, which saw him finish top of the averages with match returns of 11 for 120 v Staffordshire at Wolverhampton and 8 for 97 v Wiltshire at Swindon, earned a first team recall for the final three matches in 1936. Against Yorkshire at Dover he dismissed all but one of the visitors' top six for match figures of 8 for 129. At Lord's v Middlesex, he took 5 for 63 and, although spinners did most of the bowling against the Indians at Canterbury, he claimed the distinguished wickets of Vijay Merchant and C.K.Nayudu.

Beginning 1937 in the first team, Cole never quite became a fixture in the eleven but he played in 17 matches and had days of success, generally when used as first change to Alan Watt and Les Todd. Against Middlesex at Tunbridge Wells he took 6 for 62, including the wickets of Bill Edrich and Denis Compton, and in the second game of the week, against Leicestershire, he twice dismissed the New Zealand Test batsman Stuart Dempster. He faded somewhat towards the end of the season and his final record of 38 wickets at 38.07 was disappointing. For the Second Eleven at Hove, a non-Championship fixture, he had match figures of 12 for 95, bowling unchanged with Norman Harding to dismiss Sussex for 67 in their second innings.

In 1938, with the faster Harding now available as third pace bowler, Cole was back in the Second Eleven. Two first team appearances brought just one expensive wicket and he left at the end of the season. His career record of 61 wickets at 34.59 included an unusual number of notable scalps in addition to those already named. Among Test batsmen were Herbert Sutcliffe (twice), Morris Leyland, Wilf Barber, Arthur Mitchell, Norman Yardley, Cyril Washbrook (twice), Denis Smith (twice), Errol Holmes, Norman Mitchell-Innes, Jack Iddon, Morris Nichols (twice) and Walter Keeton.

In 1947 he was invited to practice with the First Eleven and could probably have resumed his career had he wished but chose the greater security of working in an office. In 1948 he played one match for the Second Eleven but his post-war cricket was largely confined to Bowaters in Sittingbourne, for some years as captain.

In 1954 he married Cicely Francis Bensted.

MajorGeneral Eric Stuart Cole CB CBE (No. 605).

Born: 10. 2.1906, Imtafa, Malta. *Died:* 19. 12.1992, Wandsworth, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, fast-medium bowler.

Kent.1938.

Educated: Dover Grammar School.

Parents. Eric & Doris Cole.

First Class Career Record**Batting and Fielding**

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	3	5	0	43	14	8.60	0	0	3
Overall	10	15	0	147	36	9.80	0	0	13

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	309	7	44.14	4-78		
Overall	912	25	36.48	4-78		

A competent lower order batsman and a bowler capable of moving the ball away from the bat both in the air and off the seam, Eric Cole made his debut in county cricket, against Lancashire at Old Trafford in 1938, at the comparatively advanced age of 32. He had played for Kent Second Eleven five years earlier and made his first-class debut – Free Foresters v Cambridge University – in 1931.

Cole had his first experience against county cricketers while serving in the Middle East as a Lieutenant in the Royal Corps of Signals. Between 1930 and 1934 he appeared ten times for Egypt and twice for the Gezira Sporting Club (pretty much the same thing) against H.M.Martineau's Eleven on their annual tour of the country. Martineau's teams were invariably strong, including players such as Bryan Valentine, Ian Peebles, Freddie Brown, 'Hopper' Read and C.H. 'John' Knott (*q.v.*) who, in 1931, scored 227 v Egypt at Alexandria (Cole 6-167). In twelve matches against Martineau's team Cole claimed 45 wickets, including 7 for 45 at Cairo in 1931 and 6 for 46 at Alexandria in 1934. He also hit one century, 145 for the Gezira Sporting Club in 1932.

While on home leave in 1933 he made his debut for the Army, v West Indians at Portsmouth, and in the second of five games for Kent Second Eleven in that year bowled 36.4 overs against Devonshire at Blackheath for figures of 7 for 89. In 1935 he scored 64 and took 5 for 32 v Staffordshire at Wolstanton. Despite serving most of the time overseas, in all he made 14 appearances for the Army in England between 1933 and 1939, five of them ranked first-class, alongside other Kent soldier cricketers including G.J.Bryan, C.P.Hamilton and W.M.Leggatt (*q.v.*). He took 5 for 17 v the Royal Navy (not first-class) at Lord's in 1933.

On his first outing with Kent's first team at Old Trafford in 1938 Cole, by now a Captain, took the wickets of John Hopwood, Winston Place, Bill Farrimond and Dick Pollard for 78 and in the second innings dismissed a fifth England cricketer, Jack Iddon. Subsequent appearances, against Derbyshire and Worcestershire in Tonbridge Week, were less successful, bringing only two more costly wickets.

The son of a Royal Sussex Regiment bandmaster, Eric Cole had a long and distinguished career. Commissioned in 1925, during pre-war service in Egypt and Palestine he designed a transmitter/receiver for use in desert conditions. Later, during the war in the Western Desert, the techniques used gave the Eighth Army –and particularly the Long Range Desert Group – crucial advantages in radio communications over their German and Italian opponents.

On the outbreak of war, Cole went to France with the BEF as adjutant to First Division Signals and subsequently rose to Second-in-Command 1 Corps Signals. During the evacuation from Dunkirk Cole

was acting Chief Signals Officer 1 Corps and was wounded on the beach. For his work in maintaining communications, he was mentioned in despatches. Back in England, he became involved in designing signalling equipment for amphibious and airborne forces which led in January 1942 to his appointment as Chief Signals Officer, Combined Operations HQ, where he was responsible for the laying out the signals network for Operation Overlord.

After D Day, he went to France as Chief Signals Officer, 1 Corps and later as CSO, Sixth Airborne Division. In September 1944 he was posted to Italy as Deputy Chief Signals Officer (British), Allied Forces HQ. For his work there he was appointed CBE. In April 1945, by now a Lieutenant Colonel, he was sent to Athens (as Acting Brigadier) with British forces in Greece.

Post-war appointments included Chairman Joint Communications Board, Washington, Deputy Chief Signals Officer, SHAPE, and Director of Telecommunications, War Office 1958-61. He was appointed CB in the 1960 Queen's Birthday Honours List and retired from the Army in 1961. He was Colonel Commandant of the Royal Corps of Signals 1962/1967.

On leaving the Army he joined Ultra Electronics as Manager, Telecommunication Division and in 1964 moved on to Granger Associates where he became a Director/Consultant. He was a founder and later Vice President of the Army Amateur Radio Society. He excelled in other sports, notably as a boxer – he became Army lightweight boxing champion - and as a golfer. From 1971 to 1973 he was President of the Army Golfing Society. In 1961 he became President of the Radio Society of Great Britain.

In 1941 he married Doris Hartley, an artist, who died in 1986. There were no children. His portrait is in the National Portrait Gallery. At the time of his death he was Kent's oldest surviving county cricketer.

Sidney Alfred Cope (No. 555).

Born: 12. 8.1904, Hastings, Sussex. *Died:* 14. 8.1986, Dartford.

Left-handed batsman, left-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent.1924.

Parents: Herbert Vincent Cope & Eleanor Cope (née Clackson).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	1	1	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	1

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	27	1	27.00	1-27		

There is probably more to the story of Sidney Cope than has so far surfaced. The son of a railway porter, he impressed the coaches sufficiently in the Nursery to be taken on the staff in 1924, more so when he took 7 for 94 and 5 for 75 against Bedfordshire at Plaistow Lane, Bromley, on only his third Second Eleven appearance.

This led to first team selection against Gloucestershire at Maidstone, where he took 1 for 27 in seven overs but was not called on in the second innings when the visitors were bowled out for 92. Back in the Second Eleven, he continued to take wickets – 5 for 85 and 3 for 64 v Norfolk at Lakenham, 8 for 96 v Wiltshire at Blackheath – and although wickets eluded him in the final two fixtures, he ended leading Second Eleven wicket taker with 32 at 20.12.

In his second season, without doing anything outstanding, he claimed 14 wickets (avge. 26.00) in four Second Eleven appearances but Kent dispensed with his services.

He subsequently had a trial with Warwickshire who pronounced him 'temperamentally unsuited to a cricket career'. Nevertheless on his death certificate he appears as 'professional cricketer (retired)'.

Wykeham Stanley Cornwallis (later 2nd Baron Cornwallis) KCVO, KBE, MC. (No. 526).

Born: 14. 3.1892, Linton Park. *Died:* 4. 1.1982, Ashurst Park, Fordcombe.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent.1919-1926. Cap 1923.

County captain 1924-1926.

Educated: Eton College & RMC Sandhurst.

Parents: Fiennes Stanley Cornwallis, First Baron Cornwallis & Mabel Lady Cornwallis (née Leigh).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	105	128	47	953	91	11.76	0	1	35
Overall	106	129	47	964	91	11.75	0	1	35

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	3785	117	32.35	6-37	5	0
Overall	3830	118	32.45	6-37	5	0

Despite a relatively modest record in first-class cricket, the Second Baron Cornwallis was a successful and popular captain. Although prone to injury – he was not in the Eleven at Eton - on his day he was a genuinely fast bowler with a low, slinging action which, pre-1914, brought him success for Eton Ramblers and in Army cricket.

A professional soldier, Stanley Cornwallis was commissioned in the Second Dragoons (Royal Scots Greys) in 1911. When war broke out three years later, he served in the Fifth Cavalry Brigade and had his first encounter with the Germans in a dismounted action on 22nd August near Mons. His unit was heavily engaged in covering the main body of the BEF in the retreat back to the Marne and subsequently in the advance to the Aisne. By now commanding a squadron, in September he was wounded by shrapnel in the head, arm and leg while engaged on reconnaissance of German positions on the Aisne. Recovered from his wounds, he was appointed Bombing Officer and, again in the dismounted role, he fought in the Second Battle of Ypres when the Germans made the first use of gas on the Western Front. In February 1916 he was awarded the MC for his part in the seizure and holding of the crater following the explosion of a mine near Vermelles.

In 1917 he was promoted captain and mentioned in despatches for his work in bridging captured trenches for the cavalry during the Battle of Arras. He subsequently served at Fifth Cavalry Brigade HQ and as GSO 3 at Cavalry Corps HQ where he remained until June 1919. He was mentioned in despatches for his work at HQ and, on returning to England in 1919, became an ADC to Sir Douglas Haig.

In August of the first post-war season, success in club cricket and a hat-trick in a charity match led to an invitation from Kent to play against Sussex at Hove. Cornwallis voiced doubts about accepting and it was Haig himself who advised him 'This is one of those things you must say you have done once Cornie'.

Making his debut at Hove against Sussex, 'Cornie' in fact played four matches for Kent in 1919, albeit he bowled in only three of them, His six wickets were costly at 35.50 each but they included some distinguished names, beginning with Robert Relf and followed by John Tyldesley, Percy Holmes, David Denton and Roy Kilner.

Over the next four seasons he made a further 31 appearances for Kent (plus one for the Army v the Royal Navy at Lord's) which brought him 54 wickets at 31.79 apiece. Against Lancashire at Tonbridge in 1920 he took 5 for 40, which included three more England batsmen, Harry Makepeace, Ernest Tyldesley and Jack Sharp. Facing Warwick Armstrong's formidable Australians at Canterbury in 1921, his four wickets cost 150 but his victims were Herbie Collins, 'Nip' Pellew (twice) and Jack Gregory. Captaining Kent against the West Indian tourists at Canterbury in 1923, he took 6 for 37 from 11 overs in the second innings to clinch a 171run victory.

At Southampton in 1921 the cricket was interrupted by a brutal intrusion from the darker side of t/he wider world. Playing against a Hampshire side including his younger brother, Lieutenant Oswald Cornwallis RN, who was appearing in his first and only first-class match, Stanley Cornwallis had bowled ten overs when the news came that their elder brother, Captain Fiennes Wykeham Mann Cornwallis MC, heir to the title, had been killed in an IRA ambush. He died, together with two other officers and one of the officer's wives, while returning in civilian clothes from a tennis party. The murderers went undetected, or at least unpunished. The Cornwallis brothers took no further part in the match and are shown on *Cricket Archive* as 'absent hurt'.

Occasional success notwithstanding, Cornwallis's appointment as official captain in 1924 seems, given his fitness record, an odd choice by present day standards. He seldom batted more than a couple of places above the extras, had only once bowled more than 150 overs in a season and up to then had never exceeded the 16 wickets he took in 1920. Nevertheless, during his three -year reign he was a liked and respected leader, his side finishing fifth in 1924 and 1925, third in 1926, their highest placing since 1919.

In all he captained in 72 matches, winning 37 and losing 13. Using himself sparingly - during his captaincy he only six times bowled more than 20 overs in a match - his best season was 1924 when he claimed 25 wickets (avge.28.96). Against Essex at Gravesend that year he took 6 for 63 in 23 overs and 5 for 47 from 13.3 overs in the following season, when Gloucestershire were bowled out for 129 at Mote Park.

Told in his first match by his captain Lionel Troughton 'All you have to do when you bat for Kent is hit hard, high and often' he seldom stayed long but he had his moment of glory against Essex in the 1926 Canterbury Week. Coming in at 189 for 7 with Kent 78 in arrears and George Collins retired with sunstroke, he hit 91 mainly by off-drives, adding 130 with Hardinge and 77 with a revived Collins.

During his reign, Cornwallis was never it seems shy of consulting his senior professionals, especially the senior pro Jim Seymour (*q.v.*). When Seymour died in 1930, in a charming letter of condolence to Mrs Seymour, Cornwallis wrote 'Only I can know what his encouragement and staunch friendship was worth to me when I was captain'.

In June 1926 Cornwallis wanted to see the Test match at Lord's against Australia and expressed his intention of passing the captaincy on to Seymour for the match against Northamptonshire, due to be played at Dover over the same three days. This drew a sharp slap on the wrist from Lord Harris, who in a letter pointed out that 'I do not consider that the very liberal discretion which the County Committee extends to the Captain goes so far as to authorise the revolutionary introduction of the selection of a professional to be Captain when an amateur is procurable' - 'whether an amateur has, or has not, experience or capacity as a Captain is immaterial. The Committee has never shown the remotest indication of any intention to put a professional in as captain, and I do not consider that I have any more authority, as Chairman of that Committee, than you, as Captain of the XI., to ignore that indication of the Committee's sentiments'.

Cornwallis saw his Test match. At Dover, the team was captained by Jack Deed who, at that stage had played 16 first-class matches. The other amateur present, Alan Hilder, had appeared in ten. Seymour, who was in his final season, had at that point played 538.

Retiring from county cricket at the end of the 1926 season, Cornwallis succeeded to the title in 1935 and in 1948 became President of Kent, emulating his father who was President in 1890. Simultaneously Cornwallis was President of MCC, served for many years on the MCC committee and was awarded the honour of Life Vice-Presidency. He played club cricket for a variety of clubs including Band of Brothers, Free Foresters, I Zingari and Linton Park. He was a member of the Benevolent board of BB.

In August 1940 the RAF 'ace' Bob Stanford Tuck DFC landed by parachute near the Cornwallis home at Horsmonden, having abandoned his blazing Spitfire after an encounter with a Junkers JU 88. Shortly after he hit the ground, an estate car arrived to take him to the house where, with a doctor already on the way, a hot bath awaited him. Introduced to his host, Tuck thanked him for his hospitality and, according to legend, was told 'Not at all, drop in any time my boy'. Tuck fell asleep for seven hours and awoke to learn that £5,000 had already been raised locally for a new Spitfire. From this incident there grew, largely at Cornwallis' instigation, the Kent County Spitfire Fund which led ultimately to the formation of a complete fighter squadron, No 131 (County of Kent).

After leaving the Army in 1920, Cornwallis contributed hugely to the affairs of the County - Vice-Chairman of Kent County Council 1931-1935, Chairman 1936-1938 and Chairman of the Kent War Agricultural Committee 1939-1946, work which earned him his KBE in 1948. In 1968 his contribution as Lord Lieutenant of Kent from 1944 to 1972 was rewarded by a KCVO. Pro-Chancellor of the University of Kent and Canterbury 1962-1972, his directorships included Whitbread Fremlins, Royal Insurance, Southern Television and Albert E.Reed (paper). He was a prominent freemason.

He married twice, Cecily Etha Mary Walker at St Margaret's Westminster in 1917 and, following her death in 1943, Esme Ethel Alice Walker (née d'Beaumont) in 1948. There were two children, one son, one daughter, by the first marriage.

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Thomas Alan Crawford (No. 579).

Born: 18. 2.1910, Hoo. *Died:* 5.12. 1979, Westminster, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg spin bowler.

Kent 1930-1951.

Educated: Gresham House, Tonbridge School & Jesus College, Cambridge.

Parents: William Motion Crawford & Sarah Jane Crawford (née Brown).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	13	16	1	150	32	10.00	0	0	2

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	13	0				

Commencing with his Second Eleven debut in 1928, Tom Crawford served Kent cricket for 50 years. A highly regarded Second Eleven captain from 1950 to 1955, several who played under him considered he would have been an excellent choice to lead the first team during Kent's black period in the early 1950s. He played an important role in the development of Douglas Wright. It was Crawford who

persuaded Mr and Mrs Wright to allow their son to forsake a career in the Law and begin work at the Aubrey Faulkner Cricket School.

As an administrator, he served for a total of 21 years on the General Committee as well as for long spells on the Finance and Canterbury, Young Players' and Cricket Sub-Committees. President in 1968, he was elected Chairman in 1969 but was obliged to stand down after one year due to ill- health. He was a Trustee from 1974 until his death.

Crawford was in the Eleven at Tonbridge in 1927 and 1928, in the latter year hitting centuries against MCC and IZ. At Cambridge he took 4 for 13 in the 1931 Freshmens' match but came no nearer a Blue. By then he had played for Kent Young Amateurs, Kent Second Eleven and had four first team appearances for Kent to his credit, beginning with 28 on debut at Bristol in 1930.

Although never doing anything to suggest he justified a place in a full-strength side, all of Crawford's 13 first team appearances were in the early weeks of the season, four in 1930, six in 1932, two in 1937 and one in 1951. All but three were in away games, when traditionally many of the best amateurs were otherwise engaged. His highest score was 32 against Derbyshire at Derby in 1937, top score in an all-out total of 100.

A farmer on the Hoo Peninsula, Tom Crawford found time to play 131 Second Team games between 1928 and 1955 as well as many for the Club & Ground. Never a consistent performer, coming in six or seven in two day games is not conducive to building an innings and, on assuming the captaincy, he batted with the tail. Nevertheless, starting with 59 * in the second innings of his debut match against Wiltshire at Swindon in 1928, he passed 50 12 times, including one century, 175 against Wiltshire at Salisbury in 1931. The runs were scored in a team total of 291; only two other batsmen reached double figures, Arthur Fagg (50) and Arthur Blunden (17).

Even Kent's second team was seldom short of leg-spin in the 1930s but he took 6 for 19 and 4 for 37 v Devonshire at Blackheath in 1930 and 5 for 42 v Surrey Seconds at Folkestone in 1935. As a close catcher he set a fine example to younger players.

During the Second World War he served in the Home Guard and was wounded during an air raid.

Widely judged an ideal captain for aspiring cricketers, Crawford's side was unbeaten for two years, winning the Minor Counties Championship in 1951 and finishing second in 1952. In recreational cricket, his clubs included Band of Brothers and Free Foresters.

In 1936 he married Grace Margaret Robertson. Troubled by ill- health in later years, he collapsed and died at the Savoy Hotel in London.

Aidan Merivale Crawley MBE (No. 565).

Born: 10. 4.1908, Benenden. *Died:* 3.11.1993, Banbury, Oxfordshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1927-1947. County cap. 1930.

Educated: Harrow School & Trinity College, Oxford.

Parents: Rev Arthur Stafford Crawley MC & Bar & Anstille Katherine Crawley (née Gibbs).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	33	52	3	1560	175	31.83	2	8	12
Overall	87	141	6	5061	204	37.48	11	24	44

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	84	1	84.00	1-11		
Overall	565	15	37.66	2-40		

For sheer versatility and achievement in the wider world, few cricketers could match Aidan Crawley. The son of the Canon of St George's Chapel, Windsor, he was one of eight members of the family to play first-class cricket – Aidan, his father, two uncles, a brother, two nephews and a grandson. His son played for Middlesex Second Eleven.

On coming down from Oxford in 1930, Crawley worked as a journalist on the *Daily Mail* including stints as lobby correspondent, hunting correspondent and overseas special correspondent. Disenchanted with the *Mail's* owner Lord Rothermere, he left when it was decreed that nothing unfavourable could be written about the dictators or the Emperor of Japan. He had worked briefly as an actor with a touring company in the Far East and went on to some pre-war success as a maker of documentary films.

In 1936 he joined 601 Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force, qualified as a pilot and in 1938 was lucky to survive an air crash. Following the outbreak of war, he flew Hurricanes and Blenheim 1 night fighters from Tangmere before switching to undercover operations with the Balkan Intelligence Service as Assistant Air Attaché in Ankara, subsequently in Sofia.

Following the arrival of the Germans in Bulgaria, he returned to flying Hurricanes with 73 Squadron. A flight commander, he was shot down and taken prisoner while attacking motor transport at Gambut in the Western Desert. Transported to Italy, he was sent from there to Stalag Luft III and subsequently to Oflag XXIB in Poland. A fluent German speaker, he escaped, travelled through Berlin and Munich and almost reached the Swiss border before recapture. Subsequently, back at Stalag Luft III, he served as camp interpreter and information officer. For his activities while a POW, he was appointed MBE in 1946.

A pre-war member of the Labour Party, he was elected MP for Buckingham in 1945, rising to PPS to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies and subsequently Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Air. After losing his seat in the 1951 election, he began a new career in television, presenting the innovative series *Viewfinder* and in 1955 becoming editor-in-chief of ITN. There followed a return to Parliament as Conservative MP for South Derbyshire until 1967, when he became chairman (later president) of London Weekend Television. A prolific author, his works include a biography of Charles de Gaulle, an account of his time as a POW, a study of post-war Germany, a novel and a remarkably candid and amusing autobiography.

A hard-driving batsman and a fierce hooker of fast bowling, he was in the Eleven at Harrow from 1924 to 1926 and in the latter year was chosen for Public Schools v the Army at Lord's. At Oxford he was in the University team from 1927 to 1930, having thus played in the then prestigious 'Lord's Week' in seven successive seasons.

Although only once passing 50 against Cambridge, he was a prolific scorer. Making his first-class debut for his University v Harlequins in 1927, he scored half-centuries in each of his first three matches and in his fifth reached his maiden century, 150 v Surrey. In 1928 he exceeded 1,000 runs for the University, averaging over 50 with five centuries. In 1929 without having been to bed after an end of term ball at Magdalen College, he drove to Wellingborough to play against Northants in company with his similarly sleep deprived opening partner Alan Barber. Fortunately rain delayed the start but, barely able to touch the ball in the first half hour, he went on to reach his personal best, 204 in 195 minutes with 10 sixes, including three in succession from the England off-spinner Vallance Jupp, and 22 fours.

In 1927 Crawley made the first of three appearances for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's and also his Kent debut, against Worcestershire at Dudley. He did little in three games for Kent that year and played only twice in 1928. Against Derbyshire at Mote Park that year he scored 109 but managed only three

more runs in his remaining three innings. In 1929, following innings of 79 and 81 for Oxford against the South Africans, he was selected for the Rest v England Test Trial and narrowly missed an England cap when he was among the 12 chosen for the Lord's Test match. He played no county cricket that year but in 1930 appeared in six Kent matches, hitting 175 (2 sixes, 26 fours) at Southend. The runs were scored out of 259, against an Essex attack including two England fast bowlers, Kenneth Farnes and Morris Nichols. Business commitments prevented him from touring South Africa with MCC in 1930/1931.

After University, his cricket was restricted but he averaged 42.23 in seven matches for Kent in 1931 with a top score of 90 against Derbyshire at Canterbury. In 1932 he hit over 500 runs in 13 games with three half-centuries, 54 v Derbyshire at Tonbridge, 62 v Hampshire at Portsmouth and 78 v Sussex at Maidstone. Apart from one match in 1934, Crawley played no further cricket for Kent until 1947 when he scored 44 against Nottinghamshire at Gravesend.

In 1948, while MP for Buckingham, Crawley made four appearances for Buckinghamshire in the Minor Counties Championship. As well as for MCC, he played for Harrow Wanderers and Free Foresters. President of MCC in 1973, Crawley was the first chairman of the National Cricket Association and one of the originators of the Village Championship. He also excelled at polo and tennis.

His personal life was marred by tragedy. His American wife, the author and journalist Virginia Cowles, whom he married in 1945), was killed in a road accident in 1983 and five years later their two sons Randall and Andrew died in an air crash.

Further reading:

Crawley, Aidan. *Leap Before You Look: a memoir*. William Collins & Sons, 1988).

Barry Stephenson Cumberlege OBE (No. 547).

Born: 5. 6.1891, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. *Died:* 22. 9. 1970, Sandgate.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1923-1924.

Educated: Durham School & Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

Parents: Charles Farrington Cumberlege & Esther Faithfull Cumberlege (née Fleet).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	6	11	2	365	76	40.55	0	3	2
Overall	14	23	3	763	172	38.15	1	4	5

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	1	0				
Overall	13	0				

Better-known on the Rugby field where he gained eight international caps, Barry Cumberlege was the sixth of nine children (eight boys, one girl), the son of a bank superintendent who had played two first-class matches for Surrey in 1872. As a cricketer, the younger Cumberlege was four years in the school Eleven and had already played twice for Durham in the Minor Counties Championship before going up to Cambridge in 1910.

In his first two years at university, although scoring prolifically for his college, he progressed no further than the trials but, given his chance in 1913, he scored 66 in the second innings of his debut match against Sussex. It was suggested however that, in a year of much competition for the final two places, he won his Blue largely on the strength of an innings of 172 for Free Foresters, his highest in first-class

cricket, against the University. After scoring 12 and six against Oxford he played no more first-class cricket until his Kent debut in 1923. Between 1911 and 1912 he appeared nine times for Northumberland and in 1922 returned to Durham for a solitary match (non first-class) against MCC.

On coming down from Cambridge he had a short spell as a schoolteacher but joined the Army shortly after the outbreak of war and, in September 1914, was commissioned into the Army Service Corps. Later that year, he was posted to France and served with a Motor Transport Company of the Third Cavalry Division Supply Column, subsequently with Second Anzac Corps and later as OC the New Zealand Divisional Motor Transport Company. Appointed (Acting) Major in March 1918, he ended the war with 22 Corps Supply Column. Demobilised in April 1919, he retired with the rank of Major. He was mentioned in despatches and awarded the OBE for his war service. During the Second World War he was a member of the Royal Observer Corps.

Post-war, qualified by residence in Folkestone and in 1923, now a mature cricketer, he achieved, in a short playing career, a consistency previously lacking. Against Warwickshire at Edgbaston on debut he scored 46 and 34, followed by 31 and 57* in the next match against Northants at Rectory Field. In the latter innings he saw Kent home to a six-wicket victory with an unfinished fourth wicket partnership of 116 with Frank Woolley (76*). On his third and last appearance that year he scored 51 and 26 v the West Indians at Canterbury.

In the first of the three games in 1924, his final season, against Essex at Leyton, he hit 76, adding 133 in 80 minutes for the eighth wicket with Charlie Wright (68). For Kent he only once failed to reach double figures. With his orthodox technique founded on a sound defence, he might well have achieved greater things had not Rugby football taken precedence. At club level, he played cricket for Blackheath and Band of Brothers.

As a Rugby footballer, he played four years (1910-1913) for Cambridge University at scrum-half before switching to full-back where he gained all his eight England caps and was a member of England's Grand Slam winning side in 1921. He also played for Northumberland, Barbarians and Blackheath. He later distinguished himself as a referee, officiating in 16 internationals. He was also a forthright, and much respected, press critic.

A Deputy Underwriter at Lloyds, in July 1920 he married Canadian-born Louella Louisa Gillis who died in 1950. In December the same year he married Phyllis Tidd who survived him by one year. There were no children. He was a regular competitor at Rugby International Golfing Society meetings.

Further reading:

Lewis, Paul. *For Kent & Country. Kent cricketers in the Great War 1914-1918*. Reveille Press, 2014.

Lt. Colonel Jack Gale Wilmot Davies OBE (No. 594).

Born: 10. 9.1911 Broadclyst, Devonshire. *Died.* 5. 11.1992 Cambridge.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler.

Kent 1934-1951. Cap 1936.

Educated: Tonbridge School & St John's College, Cambridge.

Parents: Langford George Davies MB & Lily Barnes Davies (née Green).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	99	167	7	4059	168	25.36	3	21	55
Overall	153	262	12	5982	168	23.92	4	30	87

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	5874	197	29.81	7-20	4	1
Overall	7843	258	30.39	7-20	6	1

Jack Davies was an allrounder in the widest possible sense, one whose interests and accomplishments stretched far beyond the playing field. The old amateur/professional set up had many obvious faults, and a few not so obvious, but English cricket is surely the poorer for having so little room for men of his calibre within the structure of the modern game.

The son of a doctor who died when son Jack was aged ten, Davies had a distinguished career at Tonbridge both as a sportsman and academically. As a cricketer, he was in the Eleven from 1927 to 1930, captain in the latter year when he was leading scorer with 780 runs, leading wicket-taker with 30 wickets and was chosen for the two customary representative matches at Lord's, Public Schools v the Army and Lord's Schools v the Rest. The 1931 *Wisden* praised his fielding but thought his batting 'rather too careless to be really brilliant'.

Going up to Cambridge on a Classical Scholarship in 1931, he was chosen for the second match of the season, against Yorkshire, and began with 34 and 44* but was not called on to bowl despite a Yorkshire total of 376 for 6. Rapidly acquiring a reputation as one of the best cover points in the country with an accurate, fast return to the wicket, he seemed set for a Blue when, in the last game before the University match, against Leveson Gower's Eleven at the Saffrons, he sprained an ankle. His replacement, Alan Ratcliffe, hit a double hundred against Oxford.

Study came first in 1932 and Davies did little in four appearances for the University – his top score was ten - but he gained his Blue in the following year. He played only one innings of substance, 89 against Sussex at Fenner's, but his flighted off spin brought him 24 wickets (avge.27.66) including 5 for 47 when Cambridge inflicted a 19-run defeat on a near full-strength Yorkshire. In 1934, his last year at Cambridge, Davies scored over 500 runs, including his maiden century, 133 v Surrey at The Oval.

For followers of Cambridge cricket however, probably the high point of his 1934 season was six days in early May. On Thursday May 3rd he ran out the young Len Hutton who, on his first-class debut, tried and failed to get off the mark with a push to cover. On Wednesday May 9th he bowled Don Bradman for a six-ball duck, his first in England. According to contemporary accounts, the ball was straight, Bradman played for the turn and was bowled off stump. Everyone wanted to see Bradman and the Fenner's crowd, even perhaps some of his team mates, were not pleased. Bradman thought the ball had slipped out of the bowler's hand and the bowler himself felt 'I ought to fetch him back and tell him I hadn't meant to bowl that sort of ball at all'. To add insult to injury, at the time Davies was wearing dirty plimsolls (an early and very down-market forerunner of trainers).

To have inflicted a duck on Bradman gives Davies membership of an exclusive club. Among the 15 members, Davies was the only off-spinner and one of seven Englishman. The others were 'Gubby' Allen, Evelyn Baring, Alec Bedser (twice), Bill Bowes, Eric Hollies and Bill Voce - all but Baring and Davies in Test matches. There was one West Indian, Herman Griffith, and seven Australians, Walter Dudley, John Ellis, Eddie Gilbert, Frank Gough, Lincoln Hynes, John Stackpoole and Tim Wall. Only Davies, Gough and Hollies were spinners.

Despite his success against Bradman, in the University match Davies came on as fourth change with Oxford 318 for 3. When eventually he was given the ball, he bowled his side out of trouble with 5 for 43 including the wickets of the Dark Blues' two centurions, David Townsend (193) and future Kent skipper Gerry Chalk (108). In the second innings, with Oxford struggling to save the game, he bowled unchanged for almost three hours for figures of 42-15-81-3. He left Cambridge with a first-class honours degree in classics.

Jack Davies' main roles in life were far removed from cricket and it may be appropriate to examine them before dealing with him as a Kent cricketer. On leaving Cambridge, he took a degree at the National Institute of Industrial Psychology and, on the outbreak of war, he was seconded to the War Office, where he moved at reputedly record speed from Corporal to Lieutenant Colonel. From 1942 to 1946 he was Chief Psychologist, Directorate of Personnel Selection and was largely responsible for developing the War Office Selection Boards which later formed the basis of many selection systems adopted in post-war civil life. In 1946 he was appointed OBE.

On leaving the Army he joined the United Nations where, from 1946 to 1952, he served in the Bureau of Personnel Secretariat in New York and on the Staff Training Section. He retained his UK links by working as Executive Assistant to the Human Factor Panel of the Attlee Government's Committee on Industrial Productivity.

In 1952 he returned to the UK to become Secretary of the Cambridge University Appointments Board, where he remained for 16 years. In 1968, his career path changed again when he joined the Bank of England. From 1969 to 1976 he was Executive Director with responsibility for staff matters, management services, training etc.

Davies made his first appearance for Kent Second Eleven in 1932, against Cornwall at Truro. He played a further four Second Eleven matches that year and three in 1933, when he hit his first century, 101* v Buckinghamshire at Gravesend.

Hard on the heels of the 1934 University match, Davies made his debut for Kent in first-class cricket, against Yorkshire at Maidstone where he took three good wickets, Hutton, Wilf Barber and century-maker Ken Davidson, and top scored in the second innings with a robust 66 (10 fours). He repeated the score in his next match, v Lancashire at Dover.

From 1935 until the outbreak of war Davies played a few games every season when professional commitments allowed, five in 1935, ten in 1936, eight in 1937, seven in 1938 and five in 1939. At this stage probably too inclined to play shots for consistency against county bowling, his best season was 1937, 444 runs (avge.27.75). Against Leicestershire at Tunbridge Wells, with the ball turning and lifting, he top scored in both innings with 89 & 80, the only Kent batsman to pass 50 in the match.

With no other regular off spinner in the pre-war Kent side until the arrival of a young Ray Dovey (q.v.), Davies claimed 24 wickets in 1936 including 7 for 20 against Essex on a helpful pitch at Tunbridge Wells and 22 in 1937. In Canterbury Week that year, Hampshire, chasing 325, were 225 for 4 when Davies blighted their hopes with 5 for 14 in five overs.

War Office duties kept Davies in or near the London area for most of the war and he made frequent appearances in charity matches for Army and other services teams, for Buccaneers, the itinerant British Empire Eleven and various scratch Kent Elevens. In 1944 he captained a combined Kent & Surrey team against Essex & Middlesex at Lord's.

In August 1945 he appeared in two matches in a short, hastily arranged, first-class programme. In the famous England v Dominions game he scored 56 on the last day as England slid slowly to a 45-run defeat. Coming in the wake of sumptuous centuries from Martin Donnelly and Keith Miller plus two from Walter Hammond and a flurry of strokes from the likes of Learie Constantine, Bill Edrich, Harold Gimblett and Cec Pepper, there could easily have been a touch of anti-climax, but with his off drive and wristy strokes either side of cover, Davies' innings lost nothing by comparison with what had gone before. In his second match he hit 76 for Over 33 against an Under 33 team including Arthur Fagg, Tony Mallett and Norman Harding.

Matured as a cricketer and still among the best fielders in the country, Davies' inclusion in the opening MCC fixtures of 1946, against Surrey and the Indian tourists, probably signified interest in high places

but he failed with the bat and took only two wickets. He did however, hit a much-praised 71 and took 4 for 37 for Combined Services against the Indians at Portsmouth.

1946 was the nearest he ever came to a full season with Kent – 19 matches – 1,114 runs (avge.37.13) in Kent matches alone, with three centuries and five half-centuries. Despite having to share off spinning duties with Dovey, he also claimed 40 wickets (avge.24.42). As opening partner for Les Todd, the sixth tried by mid-June, he took part in three century opening partnerships including 219 against Middlesex at Lord's (Todd 162, Davies 128), as well as one of 94 and three others over 80. When scoring his personal best, 168 (24 fours) v Worcestershire at New Road, he shared a 129-run second-wicket partnership with Leslie Ames (68). In July he was chosen for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's.

Henceforth work occupied more of his time but Davies still found time for some county cricket. A half season in 1947 brought over 600 runs and 38 wickets and he remained a useful member of the side whenever he was available for two more years, passing the 400 mark in both 1948 and 1949. He missed the whole of 1950 and played his five final games in 1951.

There were no more centuries after 1946, but in the 1949 Canterbury Week he hit 99 at a run a minute and took three wickets when leading Kent to an innings victory over Hampshire. Four times he scored over 80 and participated in two further century opening partnerships, 120 (Davies 85, Phebey 67) v Surrey at Blackheath in 1949 and 143 (Fagg 91, Davies 66) v Yorkshire at Mote Park in 1951.

In 1947, although only 35, Davies played for Old England against Surrey in a charity match at The Oval. Of the rest of the side, Charlie Parker and Bill Hitch were over 60 and only Alf Gover (39) was under 40. As well as MCC and Buccaneers, he played club cricket for Blackheath, Cryptics, Yellowhammers and Old Tonbridgians. His last match of note was for the latter in the 1967 Cricketer Cup. After he gave up county cricket, every year from 1953 to 1961 he turned out for MCC against his old university. In 1960, his 49th year, he led the side and scored 74.

On retiring from the Bank of England, Davies became extensively involved in cricket administration. He was Treasurer of MCC (1976-1980), President 1985 and was made an Honorary Vice-President in 1988. He was elected Treasurer of Cambridge University Cricket Club in 1958 and, on retirement, settled in the town and represented Cambridge on the TCCB. He remained devoted to Cambridge cricket for the rest of his life and became a father figure to generations of Cambridge cricketers. In one of his obituaries he was described as 'the main force in Cambridge cricket for more than 40 years'.

For many years he wrote on cricket, predominantly Cambridge cricket, for *The Cricketer* and covered Cambridge matches for the *Daily Telegraph* until as late of 1990.

Predictably, Jack Davies excelled at other sports. He played Rugby for Blackheath and for Kent and won the Syria Cup, the Rugby fives championship, three times.

A man of great personal charm who concealed his formidable intellect beneath an engagingly diffident manner, on his death, his estate was valued for probate £213,066

Sydney Ernest Day (No. 544).

Born: 9. 2.1884, Blackheath. *Died:* 7.7. 1970, West Malling.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1922-1925.

Educated: Shirley House, Blackheath & Malvern College.

Parents: Sydney Townshend Day & Evelyn Ada Day (née Godden).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
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Kent	11	17	4	245	45*	18.84	0	0	4
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Bowling

Did not bowl

Sydney Day was unable to get into the Eleven at Malvern and never approached the class of his brothers Arthur and Sam (q.v.) but he achieved success as a batsman with the Mote and Band of Brothers. He made a few first-class appearances for Kent between 1922 and 1925 and played two distinctly useful innings. At Dudley in 1923, Kent needed 332, the highest total of the match. Coming in at 228 for 5, Day (45*) saw his side through to a one wicket victory, adding 23 for the last-wicket with Wright. This was his personal highest. At Trent Bridge in the next fixture when, after following on, Kent subsided for 97 against Len Richmond (5 for 40) and Fred Barratt (3 for 34) he was top scorer with 31*.

On leaving school, Sydney Day joined the Royal Insurance Company in 1902 and remained in the insurance industry throughout his working life. Like most of his generation however, his career was interrupted by the outbreak of war. On 18th September 1914 he enlisted in the 18th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, a so-called University & Public Schools Battalion. Lionel Troughton (q.v.) and Ted Dillon (q.v.) enlisted in the same unit.

Day was commissioned in the latter half of 1915 and embarked for France in April 1916 where he was initially posted to 17th Battalion Royal Fusiliers, 5 Brigade. After training, he was transferred to the Brigade Trench Mortar Battery with whom he took part in the later stages of the Battle of Somme and in the Battle of the Ancre. On the second day of the latter, he suffered a bullet wound near Beaumont Hamel and was evacuated to England. Admitted to Lady Meynell's Hospital for Officers, his wound turned septic but healed fairly quickly. He had however suffered severe weight loss and required a period of recuperation.

Although he does not seem to have had any relevant qualifications or experience, at the beginning of 1917 Day was transferred to the fast-growing Inland Waterways & Docks section of the Royal Engineers. Declared fit for home service and promoted Temporary Lieutenant, apart from a spell on light duties following an operation for appendicitis, he remained with the IWD for the remainder of the War, serving variously at Sandwich, Dover and the Army's wartime port at Richborough. He left the Army in 1919 with the rank of Temporary Captain.

Like his brother Sam, Sydney Day was a talented Association footballer at what was then known as outside-right for the Corinthians, Kent AFA and for Old Malvernians. A JP in his home town of West Malling, he served on the Kent CCC General committee for a total of eleven years between 1946 and 1958 and was President in 1955.

Further reading:

Lewis, Paul. *For Kent & Country. Kent cricketers in the Great War 1914-1918*. Reville Press, 2014.

John Arthur Deed (No. 551).

Born: 12. 9. 1901, Bessels Green House, Sevenoaks. *Died:* 19.10.1980, Ide Hill.

Left-handed batsman.

Kent 1924-1930. Cap 1928.

Educated: Malvern College & Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Parents: Herbert Alfred Deed & Mabel Matilda Deed (née Swindale).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	62	99	17	1863	133	22.71	2	5	16

Bowling

Did not bowl

A Chartered Accountant like his father, Jack Deed was in the Eleven at Malvern in 1919 and 1920. At Cambridge he got no nearer a Blue than the Trials in 1922 and 1923, but in the latter year he played his first game for Band of Brothers and was one of Lord Harris' team (BB in all but name) that came close to beating the West Indian tourists at Belmont. Although he had been playing good class club cricket, it came as a surprise to the cricket world when, opening the batting on his debut for Kent Second Eleven at The Oval in May 1924, Deed scored 252 against Surrey Second Eleven. This led immediately to a place in the first team but in four innings for Kent that year his top score was four.

More inclined to graft for his runs than the majority of amateurs of the period, Deed played intermittently for Kent over the next six seasons but rarely gained a place when the side was at full strength. Of his 62 matches, only eight were after mid-July, i.e. before the full array of the County's amateur batting talent was on show. He played only twice at Canterbury, never in Cricket Week. On the other hand, the accusation so often made that the 'jazz hats' picked their fixtures, could not be levelled at Deed. 61% of his matches were on away grounds, 14 of them against the northern counties where many of the amateurs were, allegedly, reluctant to venture.

Jack Deed played another long innings for the Second Eleven in 1925, 190 v Bedfordshire at Tunbridge Wells, but did not pass 50 at first-class level until June 1926 when he scored 93 in 280 minutes against Leicestershire at Aylestone Road and shared a 182 run fifth-wicket partnership with George Collins (110). His season's record was 472 runs (avge.26.22). His most prolific year was 1928, 637 runs (avge. 27.69), with one hundred and two half-centuries.

Deed hit two first-class centuries during his career, both against Warwickshire at Edgbaston, 103 in 1928 and 133 in 1930, the latter scored in 210 minutes and described in *Wisden* as 'very painstaking'. He was perhaps suspect against genuine fast bowling. Harold Larwood dismissed him on five occasions, four times before he had reached double figures.

As well as continuing to play for West Kent, Old Malvernians and Band of Brothers, Deed toured the Netherlands with the Dragonflies in 1925 and Egypt with HM Martineau's Eleven in 1937.

With C.G.W. Robson he won the Public School Racquets Doubles Championship at Queen's Club in 1920 and later represented Kent at the game. He was Manager and Treasurer of Old Malvernians Football Club.

He served on the Kent CCC General Committee for 21 years between 1952 and 1974, on the Cricket Committee from 1963 to 1974 and was President in 1965. He remained active and involved, despite suffering severely in later life from arthritis. A prominent Freemason, he was a partner in Evans, Fripp, Deed & Co, a Director of John S.Deed & Sons and of Rollins & Co. In 1949 he married Helen Scott in Battle, Sussex.

Hugh Pochin Dinwiddy OBE (No. 589).

Born: 16. 10.1912, Kensington, London. Died 31.10.2009, Bognor Regis, West Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg spin bowler.

Kent 1933-1934.

Educated: Radley College & Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Parents: Conrad Hugh Dinwiddy & Winifred Osborn Dinwiddy (née Pochin).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	10	14	3	188	45	17.09	0	0	8

Overall	15	24	3	258	45	12.28	0	0	9
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Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	35	0				

Hugh Dinwiddy was in the Eleven at Radley from 1928 to 1932 and captained in his two final years. His father, an officer in the Royal Artillery, was inventor of the Dinwiddy range finder, designed for use against aircraft. As a Lieutenant (acting Major), he died from wounds in September 1917 while serving on the Western Front with the 13th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.

The bereaved family moved to Tunbridge Wells and in 1930 the young Dinwiddy was invited to play for Kent Young Amateurs. This was largely on the strength of his performances for Radley that year when he headed both batting and bowling averages, with 542 runs and 30 wickets.

He played two more years with Kent Young Amateurs and in 1933 went up to Cambridge where 21 and 30* in the Freshmens' match was not enough to gain a further trial. Cambridge had an abundance of cricketing talent that year, with one current and two future Test players, plus six other county cricketers, among them Kent's Jack Davies (*q.v.*).

In July 1933 Dinwiddy was invited to play for Kent Second Eleven. A bad start – 0 against Wiltshire and two and four against Surrey at Folkestone – was followed by scores of 51 & 50* v Cornwall at Truro, 98 & 34* v Devonshire at Exeter and culminated in 218 in the return with Devon at Blackheath. The outcome was a first team place. Beginning again with a duck at New Road, he hit 45 against Surrey at Rectory Field, when he added 73 in an hour with Wally Hardinge, and 43 v Leicestershire at Mote Park. In five matches he totalled 146 runs (avge.29.20).

Hugh Dinwiddy began the 1934 University season with 80 in the Seniors' match which earned him chances against the Australians and Notts (with Larwood and Voce). Unfortunately his top score was only six and, with Graeme Parker and Hugh Bartlett now in the Light Blue team, no further opportunities came his way. For Kent, in five appearances he only twice reached double figures with a top score of 24, but for the Seconds he again came off against Devonshire with innings of 60 and 74 at Blackheath.

A single Second team match in the following season concluded his county career. He played three more matches for the University in 1935 with a top score of 29. Although a cricket Blue eluded him, he did better on the Rugby field with Blues in 1934 and 1935 and an England trial. As a club cricketer he played for Band of Brothers, Bluemantles and Radley Rangers. He played club cricket until 1956.

After Cambridge, where he read English, he taught at Ampleforth and on the outbreak of War joined the Royal Navy. In 1942, as Petty Officer Dinwiddy, he opened the batting for the Royal Navy at Lord's against an Army attack containing three current and two future Test cricketers. He was caught at the wicket for three off Alf Gover who had deprived him of his 50 at Blackheath nine years previously. Commissioned as Sub-Lieutenant in 1943, he commanded a Tank Landing craft on D-day.

Post war returned to teaching at Ampleforth and subsequently at Beaumont, where he was master-in-charge of cricket. In 1956 he moved to Uganda where he was involved in the establishment of Makerere University, lecturing mainly on literature and ending as Warden. His services were recognised by the award of the OBE.

After retiring in 1970, he returned to the UK (West Sussex) where he continued to write and lecture extensively on Ugandan affairs and education in Africa. At the time of his death he was Kent's oldest living cricketer. In 1948 he married Yvonne Catterall at Westminster.

Raymond Randall Dovey (No. 607).

Born: 18. 7. 1920, Chislehurst. *Died:* 27. 12.1974, Tunbridge Wells.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace/off spin bowler.
 Kent 1938-1954. County Cap 1946.
 Educated: Eltham College.
 Parents: George Alfred Dovey & Annie M Dovey (*née* Randall).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	249	391	72	3768	65*	11.81	0	5	76
Overall	263	404	74	3841	65*	11.63	0	5	79

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	20490	751	27.28	8-23	25	2
Overall	21392	777	27.53	8-23	25	2

With his neat, bespectacled appearance and dignified, unruffled bearing, there was a touch of the Jeeves about Ray Dovey, especially perhaps in the absence of any visible display of emotion whether he took a wicket or was hit for six. Sure enough, his father George was butler to the Tiarks banking family.

Dovey joined the Kent staff in 1936, originally as an off spinner, but given Kent's limited bowling resources, as his career progressed and following the early death of Norman Harding (*q.v.*), he found himself cast as stock bowler in a dual role, often opening the bowling, usually with Fred Ridgway, and then coming back with off spin.

Bowling off a short run and never more than a brisk medium pace, he could move the new ball into the right-hander both through the air and off the seam and he had his days of success on the uncovered pitches of the period. If memory serves, his arm was higher when using the new ball but it is of course not now possible to determine how many wickets he took as a seam/swing bowler and how many as an orthodox off spinner. Nevertheless, although the majority of his wickets almost certainly came from finger spin, he took the new ball in some 25% of his matches and some of his best performances were in matches in which he did so, notably his two (statistically) best, 8 for 23 & 5 for 52 v Surrey at Blackheath in 1950 and 8 for 38 v Glamorgan at Swansea in 1951.

As a spinner he was accurate, economical and seldom collared, but generally needed a helpful wicket to give serious trouble to good batsmen.

Despite being short-sighted, Dovey was a capable lower order batsman, difficult to shift. He hit five half-centuries, averaged double figures in every post-war English season but two and exceeded 500 runs in a season in 1947, 1951 and 1952.

In his first year on the staff Dovey was largely confined to Club & Ground cricket and in his one Second Eleven appearance, v Wiltshire at Canterbury, although Kent used six bowlers, the debutant was not one of them. In the following year he played five matches for the Seconds, bowled 95 overs, took nine expensive wickets and at Gravesend received a foretaste of future hard days in the sun as Norfolk amassed 526 for 7 (Dovey 2 for 104).

In his first match of the 1938 season, against Surrey Seconds at Folkestone, his first innings 6 for 55 (including Geoff Whittaker, Arthur McIntyre and Alec Bedser) may have been a factor in his selection, aged 17, for the first team against Surrey at Rectory Field. He bowled only nine overs, failed to take a wicket and was not called on again that year. but his 42 wickets for Kent Seconds made him leading Second Eleven wicket-taker. His wickets cost 20.42 each, which led Sir Home Gordon, writing in the Kent Annual, to include him, rather unkindly, with other Second Eleven bowlers judged to be 'very costly'. In truth, he came a creditable 37th in the 'Second Class Averages' for the season published in

Wisden the following year. He was also leading wicket-taker for Club & Ground, with 25 at a less 'costly' 15.16.

Called into the first team for the second match of 1939, v Worcestershire at Gillingham, he took 2 for 38 & 2 for 52 and 2 for 14 & 2 for 77 in the next at Trent Bridge but, dropped for the next five fixtures, he found it hard going when recalled and his final record was a disappointing ten wickets in five matches at 31.30 although his victims included 'Doc' Gibbons, George Gunn junior, Charles Lyttelton and Bill Voce (twice). For the Seconds, he took 6 for 59 v Wiltshire at Swindon and his Second team record for the last pre-war season was a respectable 36 wickets at 19.38.

During the Second World War Ray Dovey served with the RAF and reached the rank of Sergeant. Much of his service was with Balloon Command and in 1941 he played for the Command against London Fire Service at Lord's. In 1944, while stationed in South Wales, he appeared in seven one-day charity matches for Glamorgan.

Despite his pre-war county experience and having played with and against numerous first-class cricketers in wartime matches, including Walter Hammond, as well as having served in the same unit as the highly experienced Surrey allrounder Bob Gregory, Ray Dovey left the RAF plagued by serious doubts about his ability as a county cricketer. Only after a second trial was he persuaded to sign up for the 1946 season.

Not chosen for the first three county fixtures, he was summoned into the first team against Derbyshire at Chesterfield after just one Second Eleven and two Club & Ground matches. Beginning with 4 for 44 from 25 overs including the wickets of one Test batsman, Denis Smith, and one future Test batsman, Donald Carr, he retained his place for the rest of the season. Five times he took five wickets in an innings, notably 5 for 62 & 5 for 51 when Somerset were beaten at Bath, 5 for 44 when Kent beat Leicestershire at the Nevill and 5 for 52 when Kent won at Hastings. Only Doug Wright took more than his 89 wickets (avge.19.05), nobody bowled more than his 800.3 overs and he was awarded his County Cap.

Although Kent fielded two other off spinners, Jack Davies and Brian Edrich, over the next eight seasons Ray Dovey was a regular member of Kent's First Eleven. In terms of economy he would never approach the record of his first full season -the nearest was the following season when his 94 wickets cost 25.23 each – but his ability to maintain line and length and keep one end tight was invaluable at a time when Kent were, more often than not, outgunned by the opposition. In no season between 1946 and 1954 did he concede more than 2.6 runs per over – 2.17 per over in the batsman's summer of 1947.

In every season between 1946 and 1954 he bowled more overs than any other Kent bowler, in most years far more. Five times – 1947-1948 and 1950-1952 – he delivered over 1000 overs a season, 1221.1 in 1951. In the winter he was a highly respected football referee, which no doubt kept him fit in the days before strict close season fitness regimes became the norm.

In 1950, for the only time in his career Ray Dovey took 100 wickets (102 avge 25.48). In the opening game of the season, against Gloucestershire at Bristol, the home side, chasing 201 in 125 minutes, were 155 for 4 when Dovey changed the game with 5 for 32 in nine overs. In the final over, with 15 needed, he took the eighth wicket with his third delivery, the ninth with his fifth but Tom Goddard survived the final ball. He went on to take 4 for 52 & 5 for 64 when Kent beat Middlesex at Lord's and 5 for 40 in a losing cause v Northants on a deteriorating pitch at Gravesend.

When in July 1950, Surrey, who would finish joint Champions, arrived at Rectory Field, Blackheath, Dovey had 12 times in his career taken five wickets in an innings but never managed more than five. Now, with 8 for 23 & 5 for 52 on a rain-affected wicket, he bowled Kent to victory by 156 runs, their first win in the then traditional fixture for 16 years. He had opened the bowling in both innings, as he had in the two previous matches, but the *Wisden* match report, 'Dovey made the ball turn into the batsmen so sharply that many of his victims fell to leg-side catches' gives little clue as to his method.

On occasions he batted usefully. When Kent were bowled out for 146 by the West Indians at Canterbury, Dovey's 38 was top score, and he top scored again with 38* in an unfinished seventh-wicket partnership of 64 with Brian Edrich (32*) v Leicestershire at Loughborough.

In the following winter Dovey was one of three English cricketers flown out to join an injury-smitten Commonwealth team touring India and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). Brought in as a replacement for Jim Laker, he failed to gain selection for any of the unofficial 'Test' matches but took 21 wickets with 4 for 48 against a Universities Eleven at Calcutta (Kolkata) his best effort.

In 1951 Dovey narrowly missed his hundred wickets (98 avge.30.09). With support for Ridgway a problem throughout the season, he opened the bowling in 19 of Kent's 30 matches although *Wisden* thought 'his methods were not best suited to the new ball'. This was no doubt true up to a point but, when partnered with Ridgway, he took 4 for 42 at Northampton, 5 for 58 v Worcestershire at Gravesend, 7 for 44 at Kidderminster and 8 for 38 at Swansea where, sent in as nightwatchman, he also top scored with 48 in Kent's second innings.

At Blackheath, with Jack Martin as his new ball partner, the pair suffered as Essex totalled 435 for 5 declared (Martin 1 for 105, Dovey 0 for 98). On the final day, with the visitors needing 125 in 45 minutes, they almost pulled off an improbable victory. Essex finished 13 for 7, Martin 3 for 4 from nine overs, Dovey 4 for 8 from eight. During the season, Dovey dismissed opening batsmen for single figures 11 times, among them Dennis Brookes, Phil Clift, Graeme Parker and the vastly experienced Les Berry.

He also hit two half-centuries in Dover Week, 65* (top score) v Northamptonshire, adding 75 in an hour for the eighth wicket with Wright (39), and 50 v Gloucestershire when, again with Wright (14*), 65 were added for the ninth wicket.

Again missing his hundred wickets by a whisker in 1952, (99 at 27.75) Dovey finished second highest wicket-taker to Wright and third in the Kent bowling averages. Although taking the new ball in only eight matches, once again some of his best returns came when doing so. Against Hampshire at Southampton, he bowled unchanged with Jack Martin to dismiss the home side for 135 (Martin 4 for 61, Dovey 6 for 67). Five of Dovey's six wickets came from catches by Arthur Fagg. Captain Bill Murray-Wood leant rather heavily on his two bowlers, Martin bowled 32 overs, Dovey 31, Unfortunately, Derek Shackleton and Vic Cannings did even better, disposing of Kent for 32 in 17.1 overs and 91 in 24.4. Kent lost by 156 runs.

Arguably Dovey's best performance in 1952 was against Surrey at The Oval where, coming on as second change, he took 7 for 82 as Surrey totalled 325. *Wisden* lauded 'his versatility with swing and spin'. In the second innings, when Surrey chased 188 in 92 minutes and won by eight wickets in the final over, Dovey, brought on late for 4.2 overs, had both the not out batsmen, Tom Clark and Stuart Surridge, missed in the outfield. Although there were no more five-wicket returns, he took four wickets in an innings nine times.

Missing half a dozen games in July and August due to injury. Dovey finished 1953 with 46 wickets at an expensive 39.73 each, the first time in his post-war career that he had failed to reach 50. Once again no Kent bowler bowled more than his 715.3 overs, but only by the narrowest of margins. Wright bowled just one ball fewer. Used to open the bowling in 16 of his 23 matches, he took 4 for 16 v Glamorgan at Folkestone and 5 for 28 when Kent beat Worcestershire at Maidstone. He also took part in his only century partnership, 102 for the seventh-wicket (Ufton 83*, Dovey 42) v Northamptonshire at Gravesend.

1954 proved to be Ray Dovey's last season. With 72 wickets at 25.95 apiece, it also turned out his most economical since 1950. Wicketless until the last week of May, he bowled unchanged with Alan Shirreff to dismiss Gloucestershire for 110 at what was then the Lloyd's Bank ground, Beckenham and is now the County Ground (Shirreff 6 for 55 Dovey 3 for 51). Although he only twice took 5 in an innings, 6 for 30 v Leicestershire at Gillingham and 5 for 59 v Hampshire at Southampton, he claimed four five

times including 4 for 39 in his benefit match v Hampshire in Canterbury Week. The match itself was a rather featureless draw but his benefit amounted to £3,536. At the end of the season he left Kent to become coach at Sherborne School.

During a relatively short career, Ray Dovey claimed over 50 wickets against six of the then sixteen other first-class counties, the most against Middlesex, 62 at 27.51 each. The most economical was Hampshire, 56 at 19.64. The batsmen he dismissed most frequently were Syd Brown, Tom Dollery and Desmond Eagar, nine times each. There were some notable names among batsmen dismissed five times or more - Dennis Brookes, Denis Compton, Laurie Fishlock, Neville Rogers and Jack Robertson.

While coaching at Sherborne he made 57 appearances for Dorset in the Minor Counties Championship between 1955 and 1959, taking 249 wickets (ave. 16.29). He headed the Dorset bowling averages in each of his last four seasons. Five times he took ten wickets or more in a match including 7 for 11 & 3 for 37 v Berkshire at Blandford in 1956, 7 for 33 & 6 for 33 v Wiltshire at Salisbury and 5 for 57 & 7 for 54 v Oxfordshire at Blandford in 1959. During his time with Dorset, the team included several former first-class cricketers including Test cricketers Harold Gimblett and Cuan McCarthy.

On leaving Sherborne in 1959, Ray Dovey returned to Kent as coach at Tonbridge School where he became something of a legend. For 15 years he combined coaching with running the school shop.

In September 1940 he married Catherine Nicholson Hoare Anstruther (1920-2004). There were two sons and one daughter. On his death he left £5,315.

Frank Dutnall (No. 524).

Born: 30. 3.1895, Canterbury. *Died:* 24. 10. 1971, Burnley, Lancashire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1919-1920.

Parents: William Dutnall & Amy Down Dutnall (née Hopkins).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	4	5	0	26	16	5.20	0	0	1

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	9	0				

Frank Dutnall was younger brother of William Dutnall (*q.v.*) and son of the landlord (also William) of the *Cross Keys* in Oaten Hill, located a short distance from the St. Lawrence ground. He was working as a coal merchant's clerk when given a trial at the Tonbridge nursery in 1911. Judged a 'promising batsman', in the following season he scored 13 and four in his Minor Counties Championship debut alongside his elder brother, against Surrey Second Eleven at The Oval. Following three further second team appearances that year and seven in 1913, he joined the staff in 1914. At this stage his highest score in the competition was 36 but, in his fourth match, against Surrey Seconds at St. Lawrence, he scored 108*. Thereafter, the runs did not exactly flow but in the final pre-war match, against Essex at Hythe, he hit two half centuries.

After the outbreak of War, Dutnall worked as a civilian clerk in the Cavalry Record Office until March 1915 when he enlisted in the Buffs. He subsequently returned to the Cavalry Record Office as a 'specially enlisted clerk' with the rank of Private until June 1916 when he was discharged. Although fit for service and with a character described as 'very good', there seems to be no record of further service.

He re-joined the Kent staff for the first post-war season but with Kent running no Second Eleven in 1919, for aspiring pros cricket was confined largely to Club & Ground matches and, in Dutnall's case at least, for St. Lawrence, with whom he became a regular until he moved North in the 1920s.

There was however one unexpected call- up for the first team, against Middlesex at Maidstone in 1919. Batting number nine, he scored two and fared only marginally better (three not out) when a Kent v 20 Young Players of Kent match was staged as the second fixture of Dover Week. He did however claim the wicket of the Club captain Lionel Troughton.

Dutnall began the 1920 Minor Counties season with 90 against Essex at Tonbridge and an opening partnership of 197 with brother William (65), now playing as an amateur. In the return at Leyton, they put on 79 together. He averaged over 30 for the season and took 5 for 41 against Surrey Seconds at Hythe but, with a top score of 16, he failed to capitalise when given three more first team opportunities.

No further first team chances came in 1921 but it proved to be his best in Second Eleven cricket with 570 runs, 135 against Cambridgeshire at Fenner's, two 90s and six other scores over 50. At the end of the season he opted for a career in the Lancashire League. In his first season with Enfield he displayed largely neglected all round talent adding 49 wickets to his 574 runs. He subsequently played for Burnley, Lowerhouse and Church.

In later life he worked as an athletics outfitter and a brewery representative. In 1925 he returned to Canterbury to marry Emily Jones. On his father's death in 1927, his mother joined her son and daughter-in-law in Burnley and died there in 1932.

William Dutnall (No. 548).

Born: 29. 8.1888, Canterbury. *Died:* 18. 3.1960, Canterbury.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1923.

Parents: William Dutnall & Amy Down Dutnall (née Hopkins).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	1	2	0	3	3	1.50	0	0	0
Overall	2	4	0	33	30	8.25	0	0	0

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	Did not bowl					
Overall	69	0				

Like brother Frank (*q.v.*), William Dutnall was considered 'a promising batsman' when he came for a trial in 1906 but, although he played 12 Second Eleven matches between 1908 and 1914, all apparently as a professional, he was never on the staff and in 1911 was working as a clerk in the local gas & water company.

Post-war, he appeared as an amateur although general opinion seems to have been that he was good enough to have earned his living from the game had he chosen. Up to 1909 his top score in Second team cricket was 47, but in that year he hit 153 v Surrey at The Oval. In 1911, when Kent played their first-ever Minor Counties Championship match, it was against the same opponents on the same ground, and, again opening the batting, he set them on their way with 107, adding 146 for the third- wicket with Lionel Troughton (146).

Although medically graded 'C' due to compacted toes on both feet, he joined the Army in 1917 and served in the UK as orderly room clerk with First Anti-Aircraft Artillery Brigade, a mobile unit based at Abbey Wood. While serving, he made his first-class debut in 1919, scoring 30 and 0 for the Army v Cambridge University at Fenner's. In 1917 he obtained his CO's permission to marry Edith Minnie East at St. Dunstan's Church, Canterbury.

On demobilisation he joined the Post Office Telephone service and until 1929 played for Kent Seconds as an amateur. Playing for the Club & Ground side against Bromley and District at Bromley in 1920, he scored 132 in an opening partnership of 297 with Bill Ashdown (147). In 1923 he made his one first-class appearance for Kent, v West Indians at St Lawrence, when he was dismissed for three by the great Learie Constantine and 0 by another Trinidadian, George John.

For some years he served on the General and Young Players committees. Like his brother, he played a great deal of club cricket for St. Lawrence, carrying on until he was 50.

On his death his estate was valued at £3,007.5s.5d.

Alfred John Evans MC and Bar (No. 535).

Born: 1. 5.1889, Highclere, Hampshire. *Died:* 18. 9.1960, Marylebone, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast medium bowler.

Kent 1921-1928. Cap 1927.

County captain 1927.

Tests: One for England.

Educated: Winchester College & Oriel College, Oxford.

Parents: Alfred Henry Evans & Isabel Aimee Houssemayne Evans (née du Boulay).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	36	53	1	1303	143	25.05	4	6	41
England	1	2	0	18	14	9.00	0	0	0
Overall	90	148	6	3499	143	24.64	6	18	94

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	605	19	31.84	3-64	0	0
England	Did not bowl					
Overall	3062	110	27.83	7-50	4	1

A man of wide interests, varied talents and many accomplishments, A.J. 'Johnny' Evans is probably best remembered, (a) for having escaped from both German and Turkish prisoner-of-war camps and written one of the best books of the POW genre and (b) for his only appearance in Test cricket when, against Warwick Armstrong's Australian juggernaut at Lord's in 1921, he failed with the bat and dropped two catches. He was in fact a distinguished reconnaissance pilot, won his first MC before being taken prisoner and, as a cricketer, a high-class batsman, strong in the drive, a more than useful fast-medium inswing bowler and a normally reliable slip catcher. In his younger days he frequently opened both batting and bowling.

The son of a master at Winchester, a noted fast bowler who played for Oxford University, Hampshire and Somerset and founded Highclere Preparatory School, Johnny Evans was in the Eleven for three years and in 1908, while still at school scored, 50 for Hampshire v Derbyshire at Derby in the second innings of his first-class debut. On going up to Oxford in 1909 he was awarded his Blue as a Freshman and scored 79 & 46 against Cambridge, sharing a 115- run opening partnership with M.G.Salter.

Remaining in the Oxford side for three more seasons, he finished off the Light Blue innings in 1910 with 4 for 7 in four overs and in 1911, as captain, led his side to a 74 run victory. He also headed the Oxford bowling averages with 32 wickets. In 1912 he hit his maiden century, 107 for the University v the South Africans. In that year he was picked for Gentlemen v Players at both Lord's and The Oval, where he top scored with 64* in the second innings. At that stage of his career he had scored 1,610 runs at 24.76 with one century and nine half-centuries and claimed 80 wickets at 26.20.

On coming down from university, Evans played little first-class cricket, none in 1913 and only two matches in 1914. He had been offered a teaching position at Eton and, as part of the offer, spent time in Germany learning the language. In the end he spent less than a year at Eton, opting instead for a career in industry with Edward Lloyd & Co. (later Bowater Lloyd) paper manufacturers in Sittingbourne. He was living in Rodmersham when war came and he was among the first 30 officers recruited into the embryo Intelligence Corps. Before the end of August, with the rank of Second Lieutenant, he was in France.

In September, while riding a motor cycle, he was involved in a collision with a car and was returned to England. In February 1915 he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps and served as an observer with 3 Squadron, a pioneer unit in the field of aerial photography. The next 18 months were spent flying on unglamorous but vital, not to say dangerous, observation and counter battery operations. In September 1915 he was awarded the MC for continuing to observe while under attack from a German aircraft during the Battle of Loos. Shortly afterwards, he was mentioned in despatches. In October 1915 he began flying training and qualified as a pilot.

Evans continued on observation, photographic and counter battery tasks during the Battle of the Somme and on July 4, flying a Morane Parasol two-seater with his observer Lieutenant Long, engaged and shot down a German aircraft. On landing, the Morane was found to have suffered irreparable damage. Two days later he and his observer were taken prisoner when his aircraft suffered engine failure over the German lines.

A fluent German speaker, he promptly escaped from his first prison camp only to be caught when about to cross the Dutch border. Sent to Ingolstadt, the World War One equivalent of Colditz, after two unsuccessful dashes across the frozen moat he eventually succeeded in June 1917 by jumping from a moving train while in transit to another prison. He reached Switzerland after an 18-day walk to the border. As an escapee, he was forbidden to return to France, but instead was posted to Palestine in command of 142 Squadron, a bomber rather than an observation/photographic unit.

In March 1918 he again found himself a POW after another engine failure, this time while returning from a bombing mission on the Hejaz railway. Once again he escaped but was recaptured close to starvation when Arabs, who had initially befriended him, sold him to the Turks. The Bar to his MC, awarded in 1919, was in recognition of his escaping exploits. His book *The Escaping Club* was a best seller.

Repatriated when peace returned in 1919, he scored 68 for Gentlemen of England v the Australian Imperial Forces at Lord's and 63 for Gentlemen v Players. In 1920 he made his last appearance for Hampshire (against Kent). A surprise choice for MCC v the Australians at Lord's in 1921, he attracted selectorial attention with 69* and a week later made his debut for Kent, hitting 102 against Northants at Wantage Road.

Picked for England on the strength of his performance for MCC, he was afflicted by nerves and fell victim to Ted McDonald who had also dismissed him in the second innings of the MCC match.

Back working in the paper industry, over the next few seasons he was restricted to only four appearances for Kent and most of his cricket was for clubs such as Band of Brothers, Free Foresters and Harlequins.

In 1927 Kent appointed Evans captain in succession to Stanley Cornwallis. By the end of June the team had won five, three by an innings, drawn four and lost four. After a slowish start, the new captain hit centuries at Derby, Southampton and against Lancashire at Mote Park where, dismissed without scoring on the first morning by his nemesis Ted McDonald, in the second innings he hit a brilliant 143 against the full Lancashire attack. He also hit three half-centuries but a full programme of county cricket for the first time at the age of 38 was probably asking too much and his form declined in July and August. Although the team finished a respectable fourth, he resigned at the end of season.

Evans played another eight games in 1928, hitting 78 against Hampshire at Dover and two half-centuries against Derbyshire at Chesterfield. His final first-class innings came at the end of the season, 124 for Oxford Harlequins v the West Indians at the Saffrons when, with C.H. 'John' Knott (261*), 255 runs were added for the seventh-wicket, 160 of them in 55 minutes.

Business and other commitments restricted his career with Kent. Of his 36 matches, only nine were on away grounds and only three in the North of England, two in Derby, one in Chesterfield. He never appeared on a Lancashire or a Yorkshire ground.

Between 1939 and 1945 he was employed as a lecturer on interrogation techniques and methods of avoiding disclosure of information. Attached to HQ 21st Army Group, he landed in France in July 1944 where he was engaged on locating and releasing prisoners of war. Post-war, he worked with a group attempting to trace missing airmen in East Germany and subsequently did valuable work of a very different kind in re-establishing sporting interests among young Germans.

A prolific author, he wrote about his World War Two experiences in *Escape & Liberation 1939-1945*. As well as novels and crime fiction, he wrote on economics, edited an edition of Herodotus and in *Shakespeare's Magic Circle* developed the theory that the Earl of Derby was the author of the plays. He seems however to have written nothing about cricket.

A natural athlete, Johnny Evans gained half-Blues at Oxford for racquets in 1909 and golf in 1910. He also painted. His brother Ralph played for Hampshire, Cambridge University and Free Foresters; three cousins also played first-class cricket. In October 1919 he married Marie Rose Galbraith.

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Thomas Godfrey Evans C.B.E. (No. 610).

Born: 18. 8. 1920, Finchley, London. *Died:* 3. 5.1999, Northampton.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1939-1967. Cap 1946. Second Eleven Cap 1939.

Tests: 91 for England.

Wisden Five Cricketers of the Year, 1951.

Educated: Kent College, Canterbury.

Parents: Arthur Gordon Lockwood Evans & Rose Elizabeth Evans (*née* Allen).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	258	451	15	9325	144	21.38	4	43	451/103
England	91	133	14	2439	104	20.49	2	8	173/46
Overall	465	753	52	14482	144	21.22	7	62	816/250

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	215	2	107.50	2-50		
England	Did not bowl					
Overall	245	2	122.50	2-50		

There are differing views on where exactly Godfrey Evans ranks in the pantheon of Kent wicketkeepers but that he was among the all-time greats is undisputed. To Sir Alec Bedser, who owed 61 of his wickets (ct. 52/st.9) to Evans, he was 'easily the best keeper I know of to have represented England'. On Evans' death, Sir Don Bradman wrote 'as for Godfrey, probably the greatest wicketkeeper of them all'. To Derek Ufton, his long-term deputy, 'as a keeper he was out of this world'. Trevor Bailey, who played alongside him in 52 of his Test matches, wrote of him as 'quite simply the finest wicketkeeper I have seen. At his best, he was capable of making catches and stumpings which no other man would have considered chances'. Bill O'Reilly, never a gentle critic, 'by far the most energetic keeper I have ever seen. – prepared to do his own job but also to relieve the in-fieldsman of some of theirs. His leg-side keeping has reached a standard seldom attained by any other keeper'.

His stance, with weight forward on his toes, offended some of the purists but it suited him and he was not the only great wicketkeeper to deviate from the orthodox. While he may have lacked the day-in day-out consistency of his Kent predecessor Leslie Ames or his successor Alan Knott, anyone who saw him keeping to Doug Wright on a turning wicket, or standing up to Bedser on a green top, is privileged to have witnessed wicketkeeping elevated to a level far beyond mere technical skill.

Fuelled in part perhaps by his trademark lunch interval ritual of a shower and a relaxing short siesta, above all he is likely to be best remembered for his energy, his ebullience and ability to, as his *Wisden* obituary put it, 'flog life from tired limbs of team-mates at the end of the hottest day'. Some held that he was a better wicketkeeper for England than for his County, and it certainly seems that there could be lapses of concentration when the crowd was sparse, especially perhaps on away grounds. John Arlott perhaps went a bit too far, as he was apt to now and again, when he suggested that on such occasions he 'missed the easy chances and took the impossible ones'. Jim Swanton was probably about right 'he might not be at his best on a wet day at Weston-super-Mare'.

Godfrey Evans' Charterhouse-educated father had a varied career. At the time of the 1911 Census he was aged 25 and 'Secretary to his father', who was, in turn, 'Secretary to Public companies'. At the time of son Godfrey's birth his father was a 'Builder (Master)'. Three years later he was returning from Venezuela and his occupation appears as 'engineer'. In his memoirs *Behind the Stumps* (Hodder & Stoughton, 1951) Evans refers to his father as an electrical engineer who spent most of his time overseas, not only in South America but in the outer reaches of what was then the Soviet Union. At the time of his death he was apparently a farmer.

The boy's early childhood was marred by tragedy. When he was six months old, his mother moved with his elder brother and sister to Cliftonville where she died in 1923. Following a road accident, she had become permanently bedridden. With father frequently out of the country, the boy, still only three, went to live with his grandparents at Sheldwich in a Grade II listed house named, appropriately as it turned out, Lords.

After a short spell in a boarding school in Deal, Evans entered Kent College, Canterbury, aged eight where he played his first serious cricket and at the age of 12 had his first experience behind the stumps. Eventually captain of cricket, football and hockey, it was at a match in 1936 against the Choir School, Canterbury, that Percy Alec MacKenzie, who was playing for the latter, urged Evans to apply for a trial. Canterbury-born, MacKenzie (later Squadron Leader MacKenzie DSO, DFC), had trialled for Kent and, in 1938 and 1939, played 22 matches as a professional for Hampshire.

By the time he came for his formal trial in 1937, Evans had finished school and was employed in a car agency in Acton. He was also attending the nearby Indoor Cricket School run by the Middlesex &

England pace bowler Jack Durston. Recognising the young man's talent, Durston persuaded him to give priority to his keeping, judging him too impetuous to make it as a batsman alone. At his trial the verdict was 'a good wicketkeeper, might train as a batsman' and he was taken on the staff.

Although mainly confined to Club & Ground matches in 1937, he made his Second Eleven debut, against Middlesex Seconds at Canterbury. Picked presumably as a batsman - Lt. Herbert Biggleston. RA (killed at El Alamein in 1942) was behind the stumps – he batted number ten and was lbw to Bill Nevell (later Northants) for three. The Middlesex team included Syd Brown, who would serve with Evans in the RASC, Jack Robertson, Len Muncer and Harry Sharp. The latter had coached him at the Durston school.

In 1938 Godfrey Evans became a regular in Kent's Second Eleven, playing in ten Minor Counties Championship matches and keeping in about half of them. His final record was 533 runs (avge.26.65), caught 14/stumped 5, with four half centuries and a top score of 75, v Gloucestershire Second Eleven at Bristol.

At around this time Evans took out a professional boxing licence. He won all three of his fights as a welterweight, two of them by second-round knock outs, but, probably fortunately all things considered, the risks were pointed out and he was persuaded to stick to cricket.

In July 1939 he made his first-class debut, against Surrey at Blackheath. Played as a batsman with 'Hopper' Levett keeping wicket, he was dismissed by Alf Gover for eight, caught by Laurie Fishlock on the fine-leg boundary, but won praise in match reports for his work in the outfield. With Levett called away on Territorial Army duty, Evans was retained in the side for the next match, against Derbyshire at Gravesend, where he made his debut as first team wicketkeeper. Starting disappointingly, bowled for a duck by George Pope, his first victim came in the third over of the Derbyshire innings, a leg-side dive and one-handed catch at full stretch to an inside edge from skipper Robin Buckston off Norman Harding. This set the pattern for dozens of similar predatory leaps and dives over the next 13 years. It is somehow typical of Evans' career that, in a run-of-the-mill county match, his first catch was caught on camera and featured in at least one national Sunday newspaper.

In a season brought to an early end by war, he played three more first team games, kept wicket in two of them and held three more catches, Cyril Washbrook and two more county captains – Jack Holmes (Sussex) and Tommy Higson (Lancashire). For the Second Eleven he caught seven, stumped four and scored 633 runs (avge.35.16) with two centuries, 164 v Gloucestershire at Tewkesbury and 109 v Middlesex at Canterbury, the latter a non-Championship fixture.

Evans spent the first wartime winter working in a bakery owned by the father of his close friend and fellow budding Kent cricketer, John Pocock (*q.v.*) and in June 1940 the two joined the RASC (now Royal Corps of Transport).

During the war years, Sergeant Evans, as he eventually became, was fortunate to serve most of time in England and, with the support of several senior cricketers serving in the forces, notably Squadron Leader Arthur Gilligan, he was in considerable demand for wartime cricket. He played some dozen charity matches at Lord's including four for 'England', once against West Indies and once against the Dominions, and represented the Army six times. He played in the famously photographed, V1 flying bomb-interrupted, Army v RAF match at Lord's in 1944. The Army were batting at the time and Evans was in the pavilion when the bomb exploded in Regent's Park.

Keeping wicket frequently with and against first-class cricketers in wartime cricket undoubtedly enhanced his reputation. Pelham Warner, in the 1945 revised edition of his *Book of Cricket* (Sporting Handbooks), refers to Evans as 'already hailed as an England player'. At this early stage of his career he already included two noted Australians, Keith Miller and Keith Carmody, among his victims.

A posting to Scotland and then to Versailles in the closing weeks of the war, followed by a subsequent move to Germany meant that Evans was not available for the Victory Test series in 1945 but, demobilised early in 1946 due to an administrative error about his age, he moved straight into the County side as first-choice wicketkeeper. He would remain so until he retired.

Although he had played no serious cricket in 1945 and might have been judged a touch ring-rusty, there was some surprise when Billy Griffith and Haydn Davies were the keepers chosen for the first post-war Test Trial and when Paul Gibb was England's keeper for the first two Test matches against India. In the latter case, England had a longish tail and Gibb's reputation as a batsman was possibly a factor.

Near faultless performances for England v The Rest at Canterbury (a second Test Trial), and for Players v Gentlemen at Lord's, brought selection for the first of his 91 Test matches, the rain-ruined third at The Oval, and for the subsequent 1946/1947 MCC tour of Australia & New Zealand. This was the first of eight tours, three to Australia & New Zealand, one to Australia when he missed the New Zealand leg, two to West Indies and two to South Africa.

Awarded his county cap as early as June 29th, Evans ended his first full season of first-class cricket with 58 catches, 12 stumpings and 737 runs (avge.19.39) with five half-centuries, his first, 52 in his third match, at Northampton, and his highest 72 v Hampshire in Canterbury Week.

In Australia Evans, like several before and since, took time to adjust. In fixtures before the first Test, he missed two catches and a stumping from Bradman in the South Australia match and failed to stump the great man again in the match against an Australian Eleven at Melbourne. Nobody, least of all Evans himself, was particularly surprised when Gibb was chosen for the First Test at Brisbane. Thereafter, Evans was back to his best. In his first Test of the series, the second at Sydney, he claimed his first Test victim, Miller, caught off the leg spin of Peter Smith, and did not concede a bye while Australia totalled 659 for 8 in 11 hours 40 minutes, in heat rising to 100^oF. In the next Test at Melbourne, played in cooler weather, there were no byes in Australia's first innings of 365 and none in the second innings until the total reached 200, 1,224 runs without a bye. At the end of the season O'Reilly wrote that wicketkeeping was the one department in which England were not outclassed. On the New Zealand leg of the tour Evans hit his maiden first-class century, 101 (1 six, 15 fours) in 80 minutes v Otago at Dunedin. With Jack Ikin (102*), 171 were added for the sixth wicket.

Despite formidable competition, from 1947 to 1959 Evans would remain England's first-choice wicketkeeper, keeping in 85 of the next 106 Test matches. In all, he missed nine Test matches through illness or various injuries and he was unavailable for the 1951/52 tour of India (five Test matches) when Dick Spooner deputised. Until 1959, only twice was he left out of the side when fit – in the last two Tests of the 1948/49 Series in South Africa, when he lost his place to Billy Griffith, and the last two against South Africa in 1951 when another amateur, Yorkshire's Don Brennan, took over.

Evans played in the first two Tests against India in 1959 but in the second at Lord's, although he took two catches from the bowling of Brian Statham, a stumping off leg-spinner Tommy Greenhough and allowed no byes, he reputedly missed four stumpings off Greenhough in the space of 15 minutes and this proved to be his last appearance for England. Roy Swetman was chosen for the remainder of the series.

Although statistically Evans' most successful Test series as wicketkeeper was South Africa in 1956/57 when he claimed 20 dismissals (ct.18/st.2), he was generally at his peak in the full glare of an Ashes series. In Australia in 1950/51 he never missed a chance according to Trevor Bailey, and only one in 1954/55. The Australian Johnnie Moyes wrote of his performance in 1950/51 series as 'magnificent from start to finish' - 'outshone Tallon and must surely rank with the greatest of England wicketkeepers'. He missed only four of the 35 England v Australia Test matches played during his England career - Brisbane 1946/47 (Gibb selected), Brisbane 1954/55, (ill, Keith Andrew deputised), Sydney and Melbourne 1958/59 (injured, Swetman deputised). In all, he made 76 dismissals (64/12) in England v Australia Tests, his best, 1953 in England, 16 (11/5) and 1954/5 in Australia 13 (all caught).

The one serious blemish on Evans' Ashes record was the Fourth Test match at Leeds in 1948 when he missed three stumping chances as Australia scored 404 for 3 to win against the odd, on a badly-worn pitch. The fortunate batsmen again included Bradman; Evans was never to take his wicket. At the time there were muttering in sections of the press and Derbyshire's hugely talented (and unlucky) George Dawkes was widely touted as a possible successor. Nevertheless, Evans held his place and kept brilliantly in Australia's only innings in the Fifth Test at The Oval with two catches, one stumping and only four byes.

Among the fittest of the England cricketers of his day, from 1946 until his retirement from full-time cricket in 1959, Evans only once played fewer than 20 matches in a full English season. This was in 1955 when a broken finger in the Third Test match at Old Trafford brought his season to an early end. For the remainder, his first-class appearances ranged from 31 in 1949 and 1952, to 21 in 1950 when he played no cricket after breaking a thumb in Canterbury Week. In terms of dismissals, his most successful season was the batsman's summer of 1947 with 93 (ct.68/st.25).

Evans played 24 matches for Kent in 1946 but, with the calls of representative cricket becoming more frequent, thereafter he only four times managed more than 20 Kent matches a season – 23 in 1949 and 1951, 22 in 1952 and 20 in 1959. Three times his dismissals in Kent matches alone rose above 50, 62 (52/10) in 1946, 60 (46/14) in 1947 and 54 (41/13) in 1949.

Largely because it fails to allow for factors such as quality of bowling and of pitches, the number of byes conceded is no true guide to a wicketkeeper's quality but in the light of suggestions that Evans was a better keeper for England than for Kent, it may be of interest that he conceded byes at a rate of 7.65 per match in Tests and 8.29 for his County. In 1958, the last season in which he played throughout a Test series, he averaged 3.40 byes per Test match and 4.47 for his County.

He never dismissed ten batsmen in a match but caught eight and stumped one against the New Zealanders at Canterbury in 1949 and caught five and stumped three against Derbyshire at Canterbury in 1947. He dismissed seven four times, v Somerset at Maidstone in 1947 (all caught), for Players v Gentlemen at Lord's in 1949 (5/2), for England v South Africa at Lord's in 1955 (6/1) and for England v West Indies at Trent Bridge in 1947 (all caught).

Between 1947 and 1958 Evans was picked for every Players v Gentlemen match at Lord's except one (1955). He also appeared in the fixture eight times in the Scarborough Festival. In 20 matches he caught 35, stumped 20 and scored 598 runs (avge.23.92).

As a batsman, Godfrey Evans had a wide range of strokes but tended to play them too early. To quote A.G.Moyes again 'he can bat, but too often helps the bowlers to dismiss him'. During his career there were, excluding not outs, 70 ducks, including three pairs, 212 other single figure scores and another 157 between 10 and 19. He does not seem to have had a special weakness against any particular type of bowler. Those who dismissed him most frequently were Derek Shackleton (20), Ray Lindwall, Miller and Jack Young (10), Sam Cook and Sonny Ramadhin (9).

He exceeded 1,000 in all matches in 1947, 1949, 1950 and 1952 but only in the latter season did he do so in Kent matches. In that year, spurred on, at least in part, by a £100 bet with Kent Second Eleven captain Tom Crawford (*q.v.*) that he would not score 1,500 runs in a season, he hit 1,613 (avge.28.80) with three centuries, including his personal best 144 v Somerset at Taunton, and seven half-centuries. In addition to his seven centuries, during his career he was three times dismissed in the 90s and twice finished 98*. Of his four centuries for Kent, probably his best was his first, 101 (17 fours, 140 minutes) at Leicester in 1951. Coming in at 22 for 5, Evans was last out with the score 158. 63 were added for the last wicket with Fred Ridgway (8*).

Two of his centuries were for England. The first, his first hundred on home soil, was 104 (17 fours, 140 minutes) against Ramadhin and Alf Valentine on a strange, under-prepared Old Trafford pitch in 1950.

Batsmen struggled from the first ball, spin bowlers taking all but three of the wickets. With Trevor Bailey (82*), he added 161 for the sixth wicket. His second, 104 (16 fours, 140 minutes) was against India at Lord's in 1952, scored out of 159 for the sixth-wicket with Tom Graveney. It should have had been a hundred before lunch. He was 98* at the interval and at the time sections of the press blamed the slowness of the Indian fielders in changing over but a clear personal memory is of the Indians all in position and umpire Frank Chester, nearing the end of his distinguished career, taking an unconscionably long time to get to the bowler's wicket.

That Evans could get his head down on occasions was demonstrated in the Fourth Test at Adelaide in 1947 when, batting to his captain Walter Hammond's instructions, he helped Denis Compton (103*) steer England to a draw, batting 95 minutes without scoring and finishing 10*. When his Test career ended in 1959, Evans played the remainder of the season – long enough to achieve his 1,000th dismissal - but took the decision to retire from both Test and county cricket.

That winter he embarked on a short tour of South Africa with a Commonwealth team and he played occasional first-class matches until 1969, for MCC (twice), South v North at Blackpool in which he hit a match-winning 98* in 53 minutes, and for the International Cavaliers for whom he also played many, mainly televised, Sunday games.

In 1967, with Alan Knott on Test match duty, he returned to Kent for the match against Yorkshire in Canterbury Week. Given an enthusiastic reception, when he went out to bat the Yorkshire team joined in the applause with Fred Trueman wielding an imaginary broom to clear his path to the wicket. He scored ten and six, kept wicket in his best style, held two catches (Ken Taylor from the bowling of Alan Brown and Ray Illingworth from Alan Dixon) and allowed only eight byes.

His last first-class dismissal was in 1969 for the Cavaliers v Barbados at Scarborough, Clive Blades caught from the bowling of South African pace bowler Pat Trimborm. He continued to keep on odd occasions with much of his old skill for almost another decade.

As a wicketkeeper, Evans excelled against all types of bowling. Of those off whom he made ten or more dismissals, six were fast, six fast medium, four leg spin, four off spin and four slow left- arm. In addition there were three bowlers, Freddie Brown, Alan Dixon and Ray Dovey who regularly used two methods. The most dismissals were from the bowling of Doug Wright, 138, 92 caught, 46 stumped, six of them (5/1) in Test matches. The others who benefitted most are Fred Ridgway 109 (107/2), Ray Dovey 72 (60/12) and Alec Bedser 61 (52/9). Of the latter, 24 were caught and two stumped in Test matches. His most frequent victims were all batsmen of high quality, Bill Edrich 14 (9/5), Miller 13 (10/3), Bailey 9 (8/1), George Cox 9 (all caught) and Neil Harvey 9 (all caught).

In 1960 Evans was awarded the CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List and was made an Honorary Life Member of both MCC and Kent CCC.

Evans' benefit in 1953 raised a then record £5,259. He was also granted a testimonial in 1959. On giving up professional cricket he became involved in the jewellery business and knew enough to win £1,000 on the subject in a television quiz show, half of which he immediately donated to one of the Rev. David Sheppard's inner-city youth projects. By now resplendent with mutton chop whiskers, he became a pub landlord in Hampshire before finding his *metier* assessing odds on sporting events with Ladbrokes. He was highly successful, despite a near disaster when he gave odds of 500 to 1 on the 1981 Leeds Test match.

Like several other England cricketers, he appeared in the 1953 film *The Final Test* and he was also in an episode of the TV comedy *After Hours* as well as in the cricket-themed sitcom *Outside Edge*, based on Richard Harris' play and a radio episode of *Hancock's Half Hour*.

In 1941 Evans married Jean Tritton, daughter of an electrical engineer, in Maidstone. There was one son, Howard Leslie named after Evans' fellow Kent keepers Levett and Ames. They divorced and in 1973 he married Angela Peart in Midhurst. There was one daughter.

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Arthur Edward Fagg (No. 585).

Born: 18. 6.1915, Rattington Street, Chartham. *Died:* 13. 9.1977, London Road, Southborough.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1932-1957. Cap 1934.

Educated: Sussex Road School, Tonbridge.

Parents: Arthur Edward Fagg & Amy Fagg (*née* Hicks).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	414	767	44	26070	269*	36.05	55	123	411/7
England	5	8	0	150	39	18.75	0	0	3
Overall	435	803	46	27289	269*	36.04	58	128	425/7

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	47	0				

Kent have had few more consistent batsmen than Arthur Fagg. Five times he scored over 2,000 runs in a season and in five other seasons exceeded 1,500. Writing of Fagg in the 1951 Kent Annual, Howard Levett summed him up as having ‘all the qualities of a good all-round batsman, good against all types of bowling on all types of wickets’ adding ‘His quickness to dispose of anything short of a length, no matter how fast, is an object lesson to us all’.

At one time Fagg was considered Herbert Sutcliffe’s most likely successor and some, admittedly mainly in the Southern press, thought him a better prospect than Len Hutton but, prolific as he was for Kent, he never succeeded at the next level. For no obvious reason he was never picked for Players v Gentlemen or for MCC against the tourists and was not the luckiest of cricketers but his is a moderate Test record and if a final judgement is necessary, it must surely be one of rich promise never entirely fulfilled.

Once established in 1934, he passed 1,000 runs in every peacetime season until 1955 but three – 1937 when he missed an entire season recuperating from rheumatic fever, 1946 when, doubtful about his fitness, he played only two matches and 1954 when injury and fluctuating form cut his season almost by half. His most prolific year was 1938 when only Walter Hammond and Eddie Paynter scored more than his 2,456 runs (avge. 52.25) and only Hammond (15) and Don Bradman (13) hit more than his nine centuries.

As a batsman he had no obvious technical faults, excellent technique against the new ball, played it late and did not appear unduly troubled by pace. Among Englishmen, there have been few better exponents

of the hook stroke nor many better judges of when to play it. Although gathering a high proportion of his runs on the leg side, when in the mood he cut and off-drove as well as most.

Quick on his feet in his early days, increasing weight slowed him down and, at least in the latter half of his career, he was generally rated better against pace than against good quality spin. Nevertheless, some of his best innings were on rain-affected pitches, notably against Gloucestershire at Gillingham in 1938 when he carried his bat for 37* as Kent were bowled out by Tom Goddard for 127, and at The Oval in 1950 when, following overnight rain, he again carried his bat as Kent succumbed to Jim Laker and Tony Lock for 134, Fagg 71*; nobody else reached 20.

Despite playing alongside the likes of Frank Woolley, Leslie Ames and Colin Cowdrey, in eight seasons he was Kent's leading run-scorer and four times headed his County's averages.

He shared 48 century first-wicket partnerships, 17 with Leslie Todd, 10 with Bill Ashdown, eight with Arthur Phebey. Five of them exceeded 200, the highest 283 v Essex at Colchester (Fagg 202*, Peter Sunnucks 82). In all, he participated in 12 partnerships in excess of 200, five of them with Woolley. He hit 58 centuries, 55 of them for Kent.

Fagg hit six double centuries as well as eight other scores between 156 and 190. His first double hundred was 257 v Hampshire at Southampton in 1936, his highest the last, 269* in seven and a half hours on a bland Trent Bridge pitch in 1953. He is probably best remembered for his two double centuries in a match against Essex at Colchester in 1938. Essex had smoothed his path by releasing four main bowlers for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's but, on a pitch on which Doug Wright had a spell of 4 for 6, he hit 125* before lunch and was sixth out for 244, scored in a little under five hours. He shared century partnerships of 133 for the third wicket with Todd (39) and 137 for the fifth with captain Gerry Chalk (61). By close of play on the second day he was 104*, scored out of 142-0, and when Chalk declared on the third morning, he was 202*, having reached his second double hundred in 170 minutes. Over the two days, he had given no chances and hit 58 fours.

Fagg came to Kent as a wicketkeeper/batsman but with Leslie Ames firmly entrenched and a deputy of Levett's quality, opportunities behind the stumps were severely limited. On the few occasions when he kept for the first team he seems to have performed well enough. After Ames had scored 295 against Gloucestershire at Folkestone in 1933, Fagg kept in the second innings and stumped Tom Goddard and Charlie Parker to complete Freeman's hat trick and Kent's innings victory.

Although described as a good outfield in his early days, he quickly settled as a specialist slip. For most of his career he seems to have caught most of what came his way – 425 catches (and seven stumpings) in 435 matches is a powerful recommendation. He averaged more than a catch a match in nine seasons but as early as 1938, Sir Home Gordon was commenting in *The Cricketer* on his reluctance to bend, a characteristic which became more pronounced with time and to which was added in later life an evident disinclination to chase. Although the runs kept coming, by the late 1940s he was looking older than his age and *Wisden* in 1950 suggested he found 'increasing weight a handicap'.

Some doubt still lingers as to Arthur Fagg's place of birth. Most sources show Chartham but the *ancestry.co.uk* genealogy website gives his birthplace as the nearby small village of Chartham Hatch. The birth certificate shows merely 'Chartham RD', which is not very helpful, but the *fadedgenes.co.uk* local history website displays his family tree stretching back to 1760 and this shows him born in Victoria Cottage, Rattington Street, Chartham and christened at the nearby St. Mary's parish church. His father, also Arthur Edward, was a grocer's assistant when his son was born although in 1911 he was, like his father before him, an attendant at Chartham Hospital, known at the time as Chartham Asylum.

Fagg was with the Beverley Club when, according to an often repeated account, he was spotted in the nets at St. Lawrence by the Kent groundsman Joe Murrin. According to legend, on asking if he scored many runs, Murrin was told he was not considered worth a place. This story seems a trifle odd as Fagg was offered a trial in 1931 and rejected but, asked shortly afterwards to fill a last-minute Club & Ground

vacancy, he hit a half-century and was taken on the staff. Still not 16, on his third appearance, against Bexley, he arrived at the wicket with the scoreboard showing 16 for 4, remarked to the umpire (and head coach) 'Punter' Humphreys 'surely there is no reason for these chaps to get out' and went on to score 131.

He finished top of the Club & Ground averages and shortly after his 17th birthday scored 110 for the Second Eleven v Cornwall at Truro. Apart from a minor hiccup in twice acquiring a pair against Buckinghamshire at High Wycombe in successive seasons, progress was rapid. In July 1932, with Percy Chapman, 'Tich' Freeman and Frank Woolley all at Lord's playing in Gentlemen v Players, Fagg, aged 17 and 25 days, was called into the first team against Warwickshire at Mitchell & Butler's ground, Birmingham. Doug Wright made his debut in the same match. Rain having washed out the first day and much of the third, Fagg's contribution was limited to 15 runs and two slip catches but he played three more first-class matches that year. This increased to a dozen in 1933, with a maiden half-century, 50 v Warwickshire at Edgbaston. For the Seconds, he hit a double hundred against Surrey at The Oval while still two weeks short of his 18th birthday.

By the end of 1934 he was a first team regular, had a first-class hundred to his credit (111 v Somerset at Taunton), had scored his 1,000 runs (1,233 avge.32.44) and been awarded his County Cap. Leaving aside 1946, when he was reluctant to commit, he would remain a fixture in the side until 1957.

Fagg's Test career never took off. Picked for the second Test against India at Old Trafford in 1936, he began by taking the first wicket (Mushtaq Ali) via an unusual run out. A drive by Vijay Merchant struck the bat of non-striker Mushtaq and was deflected to Fagg who threw down the wicket. When he batted, he was bowled by Mushtaq for 39 after helping Hammond (167) to add 134 in 95 minutes for the second-wicket. This would remain his highest score in Test cricket. In his second Test, at The Oval, he scored 8 and 22 but did better when the tourists came to Canterbury - 172 scored out of 388 in 240 minutes with 1 six and 17 fours. With Ashdown (117), 221 were added for the first-wicket and 140 for the fourth with Ames (145).

Chosen for the MCC tour of Australia and New Zealand, a week before sailing he married Edith Violet Leavers (1914 - 2008) in a civil ceremony in Brighton. A promising start, 35 against a Combined Eleven at Perth, a match in which he kept wicket, was followed by a run of low scores against the stronger states but, against an Australian Eleven at Sydney, he scored 49 and put on 116 for the second-wicket with Ames (76).

Travelling on to Queensland, he hit 46 against a Country Eleven at Ipswich and at Brisbane, with back-to-back Test matches only a week away, scored a timely 112 v Queensland, compensating for a first innings duck. 295 were added for the first-wicket, his partner Charles Barnett going on to 259. It was enough to get Fagg into the Test team.

For the first Test, at Brisbane, Stan Worthington was chosen as Barnett's partner with Fagg number three and in the first innings he was a touch unlucky to be brilliantly caught for four by Oldfield from a genuine leg-glance. In the second innings he batted competently for 27, one of three English batsmen in the innings to depart 'stumped Oldfield'. Promoted to open in the Second Test at Sydney, he was caught at slip for 11. He was not picked for the third.

With three Tests played, only Barnett of the younger batsmen had cemented his place in the side and, after 60 against Tasmania at Launceston and 28 & 10* against a Combined Eleven at Hobart, Fagg may well have harboured hopes of a recall. It was not to be. Struck with rheumatic fever, by mid-April 1937 he was back in England and missed the whole of the following season.

Back to county cricket in 1938, after a slow start Fagg was in the best form of his career culminating in July with 1,016 runs (avge.128.00) in a calendar month. As the runs accumulated, demands from the sporting press for an England call-up increased but, although he was one of eight batsmen in the 13-man squad for the final Test match at The Oval, he was not in the chosen Eleven. We can only speculate,

if so inclined, on what it might have done for Fagg's England career if he had got in on that most benign of pitches. A further, even better, opportunity to play on batsman-friendly wickets passed when he declared himself unavailable for the MCC tour of South Africa due to a suspect back. During the series, batsmen scored a record 5,686 runs with 17 centuries.

With a dozen batsmen competing for the position of Hutton's partner, Fagg's reluctance to tour on fitness grounds must have seemed likely to have ruled him out for Test cricket but he had another good season in 1939 and, helped perhaps by a fine 77 v Gloucestershire at Maidstone on a pitch on which Hammond himself had struggled, he was a surprise choice for the Second Test at Old Trafford, replacing Harold Gimblett, who most pundits thought had batted well in the first Test at Lord's.

In what proved to be his last Test match, Fagg played on to the ill-fated Leslie Hylton for seven and, although only Denis Compton scored more than his second innings 32 (bowled Constantine), he was dropped for The Oval Test. With Hammond more or less a fixture at slip, Fagg was moved around and took a well-judged catch in front of the sight screen to dismiss the West Indies skipper Rolph Grant but it might be significant that his replacement, Walter Keeton, was rated among the top outfielders in the country.

Declared unfit for military service, during the war years Fagg worked in market gardening and in 1942 became coach at Cheltenham College, combining both activities with Civil Defence duties as an Air Raid Warden. He also played a great deal of cricket, appearing in charity matches on some 40 different grounds. Between 1940 and 1943 he made at least 46 appearances for London Counties, a team made up almost entirely of first-class cricketers, which undertook an extensive programme of one-day charity matches. Other teams played for between 1939 and 1945 included the British Empire Eleven, Coventry, Linden Park, West of England and a variety of scratch Elevens.

Between 1940 and 1945 he scored at least eight centuries, four of them for London Counties. Although not called on for the Victory Tests, in July 1945 he hit 100 for Coventry in a two-day match against an RAAF team eight of whom, including Jack Pettiford, played in the Victory series. In September he scored 131 for Under 33 v Over 33 at Lord's. The match, between two strong teams including nine past or future Test cricketers, was one of 11 awarded first-class status that season.

Before the start of the 1946 season Fagg informed Kent that he did not consider himself fit for three-day cricket. Nevertheless, in July he ventured to turn out against Lancashire at Mote Park. Beginning with a 167-run first-wicket partnership with Todd, he scored 86 & 75 and followed with 109 in Kent's final match of the season, against the Indian tourists at St. Lawrence.

According to his *Wisden* obituary, Fagg was 'already moving like a veteran' when, after some persuasion, he returned to county cricket in 1947. Nevertheless, after a quiet start, he flourished with 2,203 runs (avge.43.19) and 41 catches in 29 matches. His five centuries included three in successive matches, 123 v Hampshire and 184 v Middlesex in Canterbury Week and 163 v Sussex at Hastings. He also scored 121 v Yorkshire at Hull, particularly welcome as, up to the outbreak of war, his top score against the White Rose county was 42 and, even with three not outs, his average a modest 16.93.

15th in the table, 1948 was Kent's worst season since 1895 but for Fagg it brought 2,423 runs (avge.53.84) with eight centuries and four 90s. Only Hutton and Compton scored more runs, only these two and Bradman, more centuries. After two near misses - 97 & 102* v Leicestershire at Melton Mowbray, 99 & 106 v Warwickshire at Edgbaston - he again hit two hundreds in a match, Essex once more the sufferers, 136 & 117* at Mote Park; he carried his bat in the second innings.

At Dover he hit his fourth double hundred, 203 v Middlesex, and during the season shared ten first wicket partnerships with Todd, the highest 230 (Fagg 167, Todd 104) v Northamptonshire at Tunbridge Wells. Against Sussex at Hastings, he put on 229 for the second-wicket with Ames (Fagg 138, Ames 120). He was not entirely forgotten in high places. In June he was selected for the Rest v England Test

Trial at Edgbaston. One of eight opening batsman chosen, in his only innings he was dismissed by Alec Bedser for 3 and was not among the 11 batsmen selected against Bradman's Invincibles.

With Todd retiring in 1950, Ames in 1951 and latterly Cowdrey's England calls, Fagg became the backbone of a fragile Kent batting side. Between 1948 and 1955, he was leading scorer in every season but two and in all matches in that period hit 29 centuries, including three double centuries, eight 90s and 57 other half-centuries. In 1950 and again in 1951 he scored over 2,000 runs with six hundreds and in both seasons contributed over 20% of the runs scored for the County. He totalled over 1,500 in 1952 and not until 1954 did his average fall below 30.

Arthur Fagg's final first-class century was 106 against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells in 1955, a year in which he also passed his 1,000 runs for the 13th and last time. He also held 37 catches in 29 matches. Moved to the middle order in 1956, he played several useful innings – 44 (top score) as Kent subsided from 140 for 2 to 170 all out at Old Trafford, 90 in just under four hours to shore up a sagging innings at Grace Road – and finished only 23 short of his 1,000.

In 1957 Fagg was appointed Second Eleven captain and hit his final century in Kent colours, inevitably perhaps, against Essex Seconds at Sittingbourne. His team won five, lost four, drew 13 and he was credited with having improved the running between the wickets. He missed, however, almost half of the Second Eleven season through playing for the first team. With a top score of 45*, he made ten first-class appearances, seven of them as captain. He had led the side on odd occasions in the past but this time he had a run of four successive matches and another of three. The results were three drawn and four lost. He retired at the end of the season.

From 1959 until his death Fagg was a first-class umpire and within a very few years became recognised as one of the best of his profession. In 1967 was appointed to the Test match panel where he remained until 1976 when, due to ill-health, he retired.

On the second day of the Test match at Edgbaston in 1973, subjected to persistent and loudly vocal dissent by members of the West Indian team, including captain Rohan Kanhai, he threatened to leave the field. He was absent when play began the following morning, his place taken by the Warwickshire coach Alan Oakman but, having made his point, he appeared after one over. Such was the regard in which he was held, he received a large measure of support for his action from both the cricketing community and the broader public.

Arthur Fagg exceeded 1,000 runs against every other first-class county except Derbyshire and Worcestershire. He was most prolific against, Essex 2,362 runs (avge.54.93), followed by Sussex 2,130 (avge. 40.18), Leicestershire 1,968 (avge 45.76), Hampshire 1,821 (avge.37.93) and Lancashire 1,815 (avge.31.84). Only against Derbyshire (17.75) and Leicestershire (28.88) does his average fall below 30.

Apart from Derbyshire (two half-centuries, top score 87), he hit a century against every other county, eight (and eight half centuries) against Essex. In addition to his two double hundreds at Colchester in 1938 and two hundreds at Maidstone in 1948, he scored 109 at Ilford in 1949, 106 at Clacton in 1950, 178 at Blackheath in 1951 and 118* at Clacton in 1952. He also scored 111 for Surrey & Kent v Middlesex & Essex in the Kingston-upon-Thames Festival in 1947. He hit six centuries against Leicestershire, five each against Hampshire and Sussex. While he had averaged only 16.93 against Yorkshire in pre-war seasons, post-war he found runs easier - 863 runs (avge.41.09) with two hundreds, one 90 and five other half-centuries. Against Surrey he totalled 1,717 runs (avge.33.66) over his full career, 479 (avge.25.21) during Surrey's seven Championship years.

To evaluate a player who did not shine at Test level, a useful rule-of-thumb guide can be his record against each season's Champions. In Fagg's case he achieved a respectable 1,724 runs (avge.29.22) with two centuries -184 v Middlesex in the 1947 Canterbury Week and 103 v Surrey at Blackheath in 1952. There were six half centuries.

Among Kent grounds, Fagg enjoyed most success at Mote Park, 2,312 runs (avge.41.28) with five centuries, one 90, 12 other half-centuries and 10 century partnerships. He scored 2,241 runs (avge.33.44) and hit five centuries at Canterbury and exceeded 1,000 at Blackheath, Dover, Gravesend and Tunbridge Wells. Away from Kentish venues, his most profitable were Trent Bridge, 1,030 runs (avge.60.58) with three centuries, Hastings, 1,314 runs (avge.50.53), four centuries and Southampton, 1,004 runs (avge.40.16), three centuries.

Although he lost his wicket twice to Fred Trueman and once each to Harold Larwood and Ray Lindwall, the bowlers who dismissed Fagg most frequently were mainly fast-medium to medium pace. Laurie Gray, Reg Perks and Derek Shackleton claimed his wicket 13 times each, Cliff Gladwin, George Lambert and Albert Nutter (Lancashire & Northants) nine. Of genuine fast bowlers, the most successful were Brian Statham and Bill Voce with seven dismissals each. Among spinners, all but one left-arm, Jack Young claimed his wicket 12 times, followed by Tony Lock & John McMahon (Surrey & Somerset), seven each, Sam Cook, Tom Goddard, George Paine (Warwickshire), Bill Roberts (Lancashire) and Jack Walsh six each.

In his biography of Colin Cowdrey, *The Last Roman* (André Deutsch, 1999) Mark Peel suggests that Fagg 'nursed a lingering resentment' that Cowdrey had been chosen ahead of him for the 1954/1955 tour of Australia. It would be distinctly odd if, at that late stage of his career, Fagg still had genuine Test cricket ambitions but he may well have had issues over the captaincy. When Bill Murray-Wood was relieved of the post in 1953, and again when the young and inexperienced Cowdrey succeeded Wright in 1957, there was a body of opinion in the County who saw Fagg as the better choice. His on-field record as skipper – won one, lost eight drawn five – hardly supports his case but he had a great deal of experience in his favour. Stories of Fagg complaining when captains failed to consult him and still grumbling when they did so, probably did not help.

Like several other professionals of the period, Arthur Fagg had the reputation of having a built-in reluctance to spend money. Fagg himself claimed to be acting on the advice of Frank Woolley, another who, according to legend, preferred not to disturb his wallet unduly. True or not, long before the days of sponsored cars, Fagg ran his own while most pros relied on lifts or public transport. While often giving lifts to team mates, he charged them the rail fare and was known sometimes to drop his passenger at his station rather than on his doorstep. Although it is not easy to identify the match, in Stephen Chalke's *Runs in the Memory* (Fairfield Books, 1997) John Pretlove recounts being given a lift from Maidstone to Worcester and, being an amateur, charged the first-class fare.

In 1947, the year of his post-war return to county cricket, Fagg began working at Edward Sharp & Sons, Maidstone, makers of Sharp's Toffee. In 1951 he chose (or was given, records are not clear) the Warwickshire match at Maidstone for his benefit which eventually raised £3,485, some of which he invested in a wholesale fruit business. On his death, Arthur Fagg's estate was valued for probate at £5,131.

His wife Edith continued to watch Kent at Canterbury to within a year or so of her death. There were three sons, one of whom, Colin, played three games for Kent Second Eleven and represented the AKCC.

Colin Fairservice (No. 573).

Born: 6. 8.1909, Hadlow. *Died:* 29. 12.1999, Canterbury.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler.

Kent 1929-1933. Cap 1931.

Educated: Newcastle Royal Grammar School.

Parents: William John Fairservice & Annie Fairservice (née Coad).

First Class Career Record Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	59	85	11	1338	110	18.08	1	5	35
Overall	74	107	13	1650	110	17.55	1	6	44

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	651	18	36.16	3-49		
Overall	694	18	38.55	3-49		

Son of Bill Fairservice (*q.v.*), Colin Fairservice came to Kent for a trial in 1926 shortly before the family moved back South. In the following year he was picked as a bowler for the three final Second Eleven matches of the season, taking 3 for 46 on his debut v Surrey at Hythe and 3 for 7 v Wiltshire at Swindon. Over the next two seasons, although he took a total of 37 wickets for the Second Eleven, at 27.67, they were relatively expensive by contemporary standards. He was nevertheless chosen for four first team matches in 1929 in which he took eight wickets, including 2 for 17 in the second innings of his debut match at Queen's Park, Chesterfield.

Promoted up the Second team order in 1930, he responded with over 400 runs and 33 wickets. This included 33, 84*, 3 for 40 and 4 for 39 against Devonshire Seconds at Exeter and 5 for 47 and 5 for 3 at High Wycombe when, with Alan Watt (5 for 21), he bowled unchanged to demolish Buckinghamshire's second innings for 26.

In 1931 he was given an extended run in the first team, playing almost entirely as a batsman and opening on occasions. In 19 matches he scored 499 runs with three 50s, including 87 v Surrey at The Oval, where he shared a sixth-wicket partnership of 154 with Les Todd (88). For the Second Eleven, he hit his maiden century, 100 v Wiltshire at Canterbury.

1932 was disappointing, with only one half-century in 16 first team matches but 1933 began promisingly. Picked as Bill Ashdown's opening partner for the first nine matches, he hit 110 against Worcestershire at Gravesend, putting on 217 for the first-wicket (Ashdown 108), but it was ten more innings before he again passed 20 and for the remainder of the season he was shuffled up and down the order from one to nine. He ended with 511 runs (avge.20.40). Restored as opener for what proved to be his final innings for Kent, he hit 80 at Trent Bridge. Earlier he had scored his second hundred in the Minor Counties Championship, 101*v Devonshire at Blackheath. He was released at the end of the season and joined the staff at Lord's.

In two seasons at Lord's, he only once passed 50 for MCC and his top score in six games for Middlesex was 41. For the Second Eleven he hit 160 v Surrey at Osterley.

On retiring from professional cricket Fairservice became sports master at Stonyhurst and subsequently King's School Canterbury where, as master-in-charge of cricket, he played a role in the development of David Gower. He umpired in a Kent Second Eleven Championship match as late as 1962. At the time of his death from emphysema, he was the oldest surviving Kent cricketer.

Charles Leslie Dinsdale Fawcus (No. 553).

Born: 8. 12.1898, Bromley. *Died:* 8. 12.1967, Worthing, West Sussex.

Left-handed batsman, left-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1924.

Educated: Bradfield College & Christ Church, Oxford.

Parents: Charles Octavius Fawcus & Ethel Mary Fawcus (née Barrett).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
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Kent	1	2	0	5	5	2.50	0	0	1
Overall	7	13	0	202	70	15.53	0	1	2

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	Did not bowl					
Overall	21	0				

The son of a coal merchant and shipbroker, Charles Fawcus headed the Bradfield batting averages in every season from 1914 to 1916, averaging 125.25 in his last year when he also captained the football team.

In 1917 he entered the Royal Military Academy Woolwich, where he continued to score prolifically when opportunity occurred, hitting 153* for the RMA against Dulwich College, 67 v the RMC Sandhurst in 1917 and 100* against a Tonbridge School side including Lionel Hedges, C.H. 'John' Knott and Edward Solbé (*q.v.*). In September 1918 he was commissioned into the Royal Garrison Artillery, shortly before the end of hostilities. His last appearance for the RMA was against the RMC at Lord's.

In 1919 he played one match for Royal Artillery against Royal Engineers but most of his Army service was in India where in 1921 he met and married Kathleen Olive Graham Swann at St Andrews' Church, Ferozepore. With the rank of Lieutenant, he resigned his commission in the following year and returned to England.

In 1924 he played his only first-class match for Kent, against Middlesex in Tonbridge Week, and played four Second Eleven matches, opening the batting in three of them and scoring 88 in his last, against Sussex Seconds at Hove.

Going up to, Oxford in 1925, he scored 25 and 46* in the Freshmen's match but failed to score in either innings on his first-class debut for the University. He played only once more that year, with a top score of six, but hit 43 for Worcestershire against the University. Next season *Wisden* asserted that Fawcus had 'failed to establish himself in the side'. This, although obviously true, was a touch unfair. He did not play in the Seniors' match and was not given a chance until the team went on tour. He did not bat against MCC at Lord's, scored 39 and 28 v Essex at Chelmsford and two and 70 v Surrey at The Oval, having fielded through a Hobbs and Sandham opening partnership of 428. According to some accounts he dropped Hobbs early in his innings and this miss cost him his Blue. On bare figures however, this seems a touch fanciful.

Between 1933 and 1938 he made half a dozen appearances for Dorset, starting with 7 for 68 against Cornwall at Camborne and ending with 57 against Devonshire at Dorchester.

Fawcus is generally considered to have been the best batsman ever to play for Bradfield but in his obituary in *The Cricketer* the eminent cricket historian Bob Arrowsmith wrote that he 'lacked the temperament to succeed at top level' without, it must be said, volunteering any supporting evidence. Whatever his temperament, on taking his degree (MA) Fawcus went on to a successful career in teaching, becoming Headmaster of Winton House School, Winchester. He remained in charge when the school amalgamated with Dunchurch Hall to become Dunchurch Winton School. He died on his 69th birthday.

George David Fenner (No. 556).

Born: 15.11. 1896, Coxheath. *Died:* 14. 9.1971, Linton.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler.

Kent 1925-1927.

Parents: David Samuel Fenner & Ada Sophia Fenner (née Stevens).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	2	3	1	13	10*	6.50	0	0	2
Overall	7	11	1	163	63	16.30	0	1	2

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	10	0				
Overall	52	1	52.00	1-12		

Considered one of the finest coaches of his day, George Fenner was MCC's senior professional from 1928 until 1934 and the first to be given the title of Head Coach. His was a leading role in the development of, among others, Denis Compton. Sadly, with the Compton/Edrich/Robertson/Young generation of Middlesex cricketers about to blossom and his best coaching days still ahead of him, he was struck down by polio, leaving him paralysed for life in both legs.

The son of a groom, Fenner's grounding in cricket was at Linton Park and, following wartime Territorial Army service with the Royal Army Medical Corps, in May 1920 he was appointed professional and assistant groundsman at the Mote. He began well with 65 v Oxford Harlequins, 5 for 71 v Free Foresters and 9 for 40 v Gravesend. In the following year he hit 167 v Headcorn and finished the season with 89 wickets. Kent began to show interest and, on his Second Eleven debut in 1923 hit 40 against Bedfordshire at Bedford. There followed 64 in the return at Bickley Park and 73 in the next match, against Norfolk at Foxgrove Road, Beckenham. For Kent Club & Ground v Forest Hill he hit 113 in a total of 197.

Unfortunately he was unable to sustain such form at higher level. Taken on the Nursery staff in 1924, he passed 50 only five times in 37 Second Eleven games between 1924 and 1927 with a top score of 82 v Norfolk at Chatham. Occasionally opening the bowling, but used primarily a change bowler, he took four wickets in an innings five times. He played one further Minor Counties Championship match in 1929, by which time he was established at Lord's.

Picked for Kent's first team against Leicestershire at Aylestone Road in 1925 and again against Essex at Leyton in 1927, he achieved little, top score 10* in his final innings. In all, he played seven first-class matches, two for Kent, four for MCC and one for a Leveson Gower Eleven. He scored 63 for MCC v Wales at Lord's in 1928 and 42 against the same opponents in 1929 when the Welsh attack included the great S.F. Barnes, still a dangerous bowler at 56. Despite being wheelchair bound, Fenner continued to watch and follow cricket until the end of his life.

In June 1928 George Fenner married Harriet Ethel Pryer in Maidstone. There was one son, Maurice David Fenner (*q.v.*) and one daughter.

Ian Douglas Keith Fleming (No. 592).

Born: 21. 8.1908, Georgetown, British Guiana (now Guyana) *Died:* 4. 7.1988, Pembury.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium pace bowler.

Kent 1934.

Educated: Winchester College.

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	3	4	1	60	42*	20.00	0	0	1

Overall 5 8 2 183 66 30.50 0 1 5

Bowling

Did not bowl

In 1926 the Winchester College opening pair, Ian Fleming and Patrick (later Sir Patrick) Kingsley, were chosen to open for a Public Schools 15 against the Australian tourists at Lord's, a curious fixture never played before or, unsurprisingly, since. Among those who, after a series of trial matches, failed to make the final 15 were Aidan Crawley and Bryan Valentine (*q.v.*). Fleming scored only 11 in a game which was spoiled by the weather but he averaged over 50 that season and in the following year hit over 700 runs, including 210 in 200 minutes against Eton, 109 against Charterhouse and 110 for the Public Schools v the Army; he amassed another 1,000 runs in club cricket.

On leaving Winchester, he joined a Lloyds brokers and in 1929 began a career on the Stock Exchange so that, apart from one Second Eleven match in which he did not get to the wicket, he was confined to club cricket until 1934. In that year he used his holidays for a brief taste of the county game, beginning for Kent Seconds v Surrey at the Oval with 104 and an opening partnership of 171 with Peter Sunnucks (73). This was followed by what must surely be one of the most unusual first-class debuts ever. Against Essex, on their picturesque Brentwood ground with short boundaries, a 'superlatively good wicket' and 'an outfield like glass', he came to the crease with Kent 707 for 4. With instructions to give the strike to Leslie Ames and desperate not to make a fool of himself by becoming the first to fail to reach double figures, Fleming shared a partnership of 96 in 23 minutes until Percy Chapman declared at 803 for 5 (Ames 202*, Fleming 42*).

After this, anti-climax was inevitable. His remaining scores for Kent were 0 (in a total of 382) v Yorkshire at Headingley, 17 and one v Warwickshire at Tonbridge. Two matches for H.D.G. Leveson Gower's Eleven v Oxford University at Reigate, one in 1934 and one in 1935, in the first of which he scored 66, concluded his first-class career. He remained a prolific scorer for clubs including Band of Brothers, Butterflies and Yellowhammers.

Fleming had a distinguished war career. Commissioned in 1940, he went to France with the 4th (Territorial) Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment (44th Division). The Division suffered heavy casualties during the retreat to Dunkirk and, following evacuation, he was posted to Divisional HQ. From 1942 to 1944 he served as an Air Liaison Officer in North Africa, Italy and in North West Europe, where he was mentioned in despatches.

Ian Fleming had numerous family cricketing connections. Maternal uncles Oscar and Walter Weber (later Webber) played for Demerara, British Guiana and for West Indies representative sides in pre-Test match days, a third played for Demerara and another, Cyril, twice for Western Province. A brother-in-law also appeared for Demerara and British Guiana. In 1946 he married Ann Reid in Battle, Sussex.

Geoffrey Norman Foster (No. 532).

Born: 16. 10.1884, Malvern, Worcestershire. *Died:* 11. 8.1971, Westminster, London

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1921-1922.

Educated: Malvern College & Worcester College, Oxford.

Parents: Rev. Henry Foster & Sophia Mary Foster (née Harper).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	10	15	0	250	71	16.66	0	1	12
Overall	141	249	16	6600	175	28.32	11	26	160/1

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	Did not bowl					
Overall	284	8	35.50	2-24		

Fifth of seven sons of the Rev. Henry Foster, all of whom were educated at Malvern and played for Worcestershire, Geoffrey Foster was an outstanding all round sportsman who, if he never quite matched elder brothers H.K. and R.E. in terms of batsmanship, was nevertheless good enough to be picked for Worcestershire while still at school and twice for Gentlemen v Players – at the Oval in 1908 and Scarborough in 1910.

At Malvern, where he was a contemporary of AP Day (*q.v.*) and future England captain Frank Mann, he was in the Eleven from 1901 to 1904. He had already played six times for his county when he made his debut for the Oxford against Kent in 1905. He was awarded his Blue that year and in each of the three following seasons. He was Secretary in 1907 and 1908. He also represented the University at Association Football from 1905 to 1908, captaining the side in his final year, as well as gaining Blues for golf and racquets.

Although restricted by the calls of business, Foster scored more than 4,000 runs, including seven centuries, for Worcestershire between 1903 and 1914 and in 1907 finished sixth in the national averages. In 1909/1910 he went to India as secretary to Ranjitsinhji and, while there, played two first-class matches, for Europeans v Parsees.

Following the outbreak of War, Foster was commissioned in the 1/1 East Riding Yeomanry in October 1914. He served with his unit in Egypt and Palestine where it was merged with 1/1 Lincolnshire Yeomanry to form a Machine Gun battalion. In April 1918 the battalion sailed for France and, as 102 (Yeomanry) Machine Gun Battalion attached to the 56th and 11th Divisions, took part in the battle of Cambrai/St Quentin and the breaching of the Hindenburg Line in the series of battles known collectively as the Hundred Days Offensive. By now a Captain, he relinquished his commission in 1921.

Post-war Foster came to live in Beckenham, played for the local club and qualified for the Kent, making his debut against MCC at Lord's in 1921. His top score, 71 against Essex at Leyton that year, adding 100 with AP Day (101). He also scored 46 v Gloucestershire at Bristol. Perhaps more notable was that he was one of the all-amateur 'England' Eleven raised by Archie MacLaren which inflicted a first defeat on Warwick Armstrong's seemingly invincible Australians at the Saffrons. Opening the batting, Foster's contributions were five and 11.

He failed to reach double figures in his two appearances for Kent in 1922 but played occasional first-class matches up to 1931, for Free Foresters and MCC. In that year he hit 23 for MCC v Kent at Lord's. His final match of note was for MCC v Scotland in 1934. As well as Free Foresters and Beckenham, he played for Band of Brothers.

As a footballer, Foster gained amateur caps for England against Holland in 1907 and Wales in 1912. He played for Corinthians and was Secretary from 1919 until they merged with Casuals in 1938. He was for many years Secretary of the Oxford & Cambridge Golfing Society and, in later life, Treasurer of the Oxford & Cambridge Tennis & Racquets Assn. A busy and highly successful business career was mainly in financial advertising. His directorships included James Mason & Co., Foster, Turner & Everett, The Rubber & Industrial Trust and British Capital Trust.

Geoffrey's father had played for Worcestershire before they were first-class as well as for Gentlemen of Worcestershire and, in addition to his brothers, there were other family links with cricket. In 1915 he married Vera Helen Prest, a sister of H.E.W. Prest (Kent 1909-1922). He was the father of Peter Foster (Kent 1939-1946) and his daughter married Kent captain (Gerry Chalk) (*q.v.*). One of his granddaughters played hockey for Kent and golf for Sussex.

Further reading:

Lewis, Paul. *For Kent & Country. Kent cricketers in the Great War 1914-1918*. Reveille Press, 2014.

Jack Heygate Nedham Foster (No. 580).

Born: 8.9.1905, Rochester. *Died.* 16 November 1976, Edenbridge.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1930.

Educated: Harrow School & RMC Sandhurst.

Parents: Henry Nedham Foster & Norah Foster.

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	2	2	0	1	1	0.50	0	0	0

Bowling

Did not bowl

A professional soldier and son of a Captain in what was then the Army Service Corps, Jack Foster was bowled for one by Harry Lee on his first-class debut and was less successful at the hands of Maurice Allom on his second appearance in the following match against Surrey at Blackheath. He had fared better in ten earlier appearances for the Second Eleven. In his first match, in 1924, against Bedfordshire at Bromley, he scored 87* and in the following year hit 108 v Norfolk at Lakenham.

Foster was in the Harrow Eleven in 1923 and, against Eton at Lord's, scored 75, sharing a memorable 92 run last wicket stand with G.O.Brigstocke (47*). While at Sandhurst, he played against the RMA, Woolwich at Lord's in 1925 and in 1934 twice represented the Army, against the Public Schools at Lord's and the Australians at Aldershot. Commissioned in the Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) he played occasionally for the regimental depot and for Band of Brothers for whom, in 1930, he scored 93* v Blackheath. On retiring from the Army with the rank of Captain, he entered the world of insurance as an accountant.

Peter Geoffrey Foster (No. 608)

Born; 19. 10.1916, Beckenham. *Died:* 7. 12. 1994, Southend-on-Sea, Essex.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1939-1946. Cap 1939.

Educated: Winchester College & Christ Church, Oxford.

Parents: Geoffrey Norman Foster & Vera Helen Foster (née Prest).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	25	41	2	755	107	19.35	1	3	14
Overall	30	50	2	882	107	18.37	1	3	16

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	7	0				

The son of Geoffrey Foster (*q.v.*), Peter Foster was in the Eleven at Winchester where, after moderate beginnings in 1933, he headed the batting averages with over 500 runs in the following year. In 1935 he again passed the 500 mark, including a match saving hundred against Eton, and played for Public Schools against the Army at Lord's in a side including future Kent captain Bill Murray-Wood. He was

twice dismissed by another Kent cricketer, Eric Cole. In that year Foster also had his first game for Kent Second Eleven, v Wiltshire at Salisbury.

At Oxford he scored 50 (retired) in the 1936 Freshmens' match and 31 and 13 on his first-class debut, for the University against Gloucestershire in the Parks, but it was a talented side and he failed to hold his place. Between 1936 and 1938 he appeared six times in the University side (five first-class) but 31 remained his top score. He did however represent the University at golf and racquets.

Meanwhile, he made occasional appearances for Kent in the Minor Counties Championship, playing a total of nine matches between 1935 and 1938. Opening the batting against Norfolk at Gravesend in 1937, he scored 116 and 66.

A versatile fielder at slip or in the deep with a powerful (left handed) throw, Foster made his county debut in 1939, playing in the opening fixture and retaining his place throughout the season. His 725 runs (avge.19.59) included 107 v Leicestershire at Aylestone Road. He was missed before he had scored and again when he had scored one. His best efforts were 57 on what *Wisden* terms a 'treacherous pitch' at Neath and 68 v Notts at Tunbridge Wells, where he shared a fifth- wicket partnership of 152 in under two hours with Bryan Valentine (90).

During the 1939/1945 War, Foster served, first with the Royal West Kent Regiment, subsequently with the Queen's Royal Regiment, reaching the rank of Captain. In 1942 he twice played for Southern Command and, in August 1945, for Kent v the Rest at Canterbury.

He had finished the last pre-war season with 49* against Lancashire at Dover and it was perhaps appropriate that he opened the batting in Kent's first post-war fixture, at Trent Bridge. He scored 14 and 16; a career on the Stock Exchange precluded further appearances. His club cricket was for Free Foresters, Harlequins, Southborough and Band of Brothers, for whom he scored two centuries.

Peter Foster was President of Kent in 1991 and did much for the county in assisting in the raising of funds for the Ames/Levett Sports Centre and for the Kent Youth Cricket Trust Appeal.

His sister married Kent's 1939 captain Gerry Chalk who, as Flight Lieutenant Chalk DFC, was posted missing in 1943. When in 1989 his brother-in-law's body was discovered, still in his Spitfire, deep in a French field, Foster was largely instrumental in seeing that the military funeral near Boulogne was attended by a large number of cricket's great and good, including former county colleagues Les Ames. 'Hopper' Levett and Godfrey Evans. A man of great personal charm, he died suddenly from a heart attack while on a train journey.

Frederick George Foy (No. 600).

Born: 11. 4. 1915, Maidstone. *Died:* 10. 12.1995. Tunbridge Wells.

Right-handed batsman, slow left-arm bowler.

Kent 1937-1938.

Educated: Royal Victoria School, Tunbridge Wells.

Parents: Frederick William Foy & Bentley Foy (née Goldsmith).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	11	17	1	153	25	9.56	0	0	5

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	18	0				

Frederick Foy was working in Leicester when he came to Canterbury in 1934. Judged ‘good left-hand bowler’, who might become a ‘hitting batsman’, he was considered ‘too old to take on and has a good job’. Nevertheless, he was offered some Club & Ground games and when, Warwickshire asked permission to approach him, the Kent committee decided to take him on the staff at 35 shillings per week.

Played primarily as a spinner, he made his Second team debut against Devonshire at Blackheath in July 1934 and, on his second appearance, took 6 for 73 against Wiltshire at Canterbury. With competition from Clause Lewis and James Grimshaw among others, bowling opportunities were however limited and halfway through the 1935 season he was batting in the middle order. In 1936 he registered his first half century, 60 v Staffordshire at Wolverhampton.

Foy began 1937 with 97 against Surrey Seconds at The Oval and a fortnight later scored 25 on his first-class debut v Leicestershire at Aylestone Road. In four more games that year and six in 1938, 25 remained his highest, repeated in his final match against Essex at Colchester. When Leicestershire dismissed Kent for 58 at Tunbridge Wells in 1938, Foy (13) was equal top scorer. For the Second Eleven in 1937 he scored over 1,200 runs with six half-centuries and finished second in the averages.

At the end of 1938 Foy left to begin a successful career in the police. He played club cricket for Linden Park and in 1945 appeared against the two premier wartime touring teams, for Sutton Valence & District against London Counties, and for Metropolitan Police against the British Empire XI.

At Tonbridge in 1940 he married Anne Edith Barr.

Douglas Percy Freeman MBE (No. 602).

Born: 21. 7.1916, Sherborne, Dorset. *Died:* 3. 4. 2013, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol,

Left-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1937.

Educated: Bucklands School, near Barnstable.

Parents: Edward John Freeman & Alice Maud Freeman (*née* Blake).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	1	2	0	10	6	5.00	0	0	0

Bowling

Did not bowl

The nephew of ‘Tich’ Freeman and son of Edward Freeman who played 55 first-class matches for Essex, Douglas Freeman made eleven appearances for Dorset between 1934 and 1936 with a top score of 69. On a number of occasions he played alongside his father and once opened with him.

He was a prolific scorer in North Devonshire club cricket and, possibly with some influence from his uncle, Kent became interested. While qualifying he played for the Mote and, in his second season, topped the batting averages. In 1936 he averaged 62.25 for Kent Club & Ground with two centuries and played two non-Championship games for the Second team. Duly qualified in 1937, he scored 376 runs in nine Second Eleven matches, with a top score of 66 v Surrey at Folkestone, but failed in his solitary first-class match, v Somerset at Bath. He was released at the end of the season.

In 1938 he joined H.J.Perris & Ltd in Yeovil, played for the local club and in the following year played two matches for Somerset Second Eleven, scoring 57 and 57 against Glamorgan Seconds at Taunton and 67 in the return at Cardiff. Entering the Army in 1939, he trained at Sandhurst, and in 1940 was

commissioned in the Dorset Regt. Seconded to the King's African Rifles in October that year, he served in East Africa from 1941 to 1945.

Back with H.J. Perris Ltd on demobilisation, he joined the board of directors in 1946. From 1947 to 1956 he captained Yeovil Cricket Club and played a further eight Minor Counties Championship matches for Dorset with a top score of 78* v Devonshire at Sherborne School in 1947.

In 1957 he set up his own sports business, D.P. Freeman in Bristol, and in 1970 established another company, Jerseydek Ltd., for the manufacture of 'iron-on' transfers, now exported all over the world. In 1971 he became a director of John Henderson Sports Ltd. In the Birthday Honours that year he was awarded the MBE in recognition of ten years' service with the UK Warning & Monitoring Organisation as Chief Warning Officer for Bristol.

Eric Jesser Fulcher MC. (No. 521).

Born: 12. 3.1890, Bearsted. Died: 14. 2.1923, Pilston Court Farm, Llandogo, Monmouth.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium pace bowler.

Kent 1919.

Educated: Radley College.

Parents: Arthur William Fulcher & Gertrude Elizabeth Fulcher (*née* Cooper).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	4	6	1	61	32	12.20	0	0	5
Overall	10	18	1	329	64	19.35	0	2	9

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	41	0				
Overall	228	4	57.00	2-35		

The son of A.W.Fulcher (*q.v.*), Eric Fulcher played a few games for the county of his birth in 1919 but was better known in connection with Norfolk, for whom he played 77 matches between 1910 and 1922. At Radley he was in the eleven in 1906 -1907 and in the latter year was leading run scorer, with over 350 runs, and most successful bowler, with 51 wickets. *Wisden* described him as 'outstanding' in the field.

On his third appearance for Norfolk, against Nottinghamshire Second Eleven at Trent Bridge in 1910, he hit 83 in 35 minutes. This was the first of ten half centuries for the county, most of them hard hitting innings from the lower middle order. Against Hertfordshire at Watford in 1921 he hit consecutive balls from B.D.Hylton-Stuart for four, six, four, six and six. Probably his best effort for Norfolk was 126 against a strong MCC side at Lord's in 1914. As a bowler, Fulcher was usually second or third change, but he took 5 for 26 v Glamorgan at Lakenham in 1913 and 4 for 51 v Northumberland at Jesmond in 1911.

In January 1912 Fulcher toured Argentina with an MCC team led by Lord Hawke. The party included Archie MacLaren – who began with four successive ducks – as well as Kent cricketers Charles Hatfeild and Lionel Troughton (*q.v.*). The opposition included a future Kent cricketer, Gerald Simpson (*q.v.*). Picked for the second and third 'Test' matches, Fulcher scored 51 in MCC's first innings at Buenos Aires, his first appearance in first-class cricket. As a statistical curiosity, he did not pass 50 again until the second innings of his final first-class match, 64 for MCC v Oxford University in 1921. He played in five minor games in Argentina and on returning played two more first-class matches, one in 1913 and one in 1914, for Lionel Robinson's Eleven at Old Buckenham Hall, Attleborough.

Joining the Royal West Kent Regiment on the outbreak of War, Fulcher crossed over to France in 1915 and, as a second Lieutenant with 1st Battalion, took part in the later stages of the battle of the Somme in 1916. Although suffering from ill health necessitating several periods in hospital, he was back commanding a company with the rank of Captain during the ‘Hundred Days’ series of battles and in December 1918 was awarded the MC. According to the citation ‘*Whilst in command of a support company near Bapaume on 29 August, finding that all the officers of an attacking company had become casualties, and that the attack was wavering, he pushed up a platoon of fresh troops and urged the line up to the objective, which, by his action, was gained and consolidated –*’.

Demobilised in February 1919, he briefly joined the Norfolk Regiment with the rank of Captain but resigned his commission in December 1920. While still serving, he was back at Attleborough Hall again in 1919, scoring 19 and 31 for Lionel Robinson’s Eleven against the Australian Imperial Forces. His Kent debut, against Lancashire at Old Trafford, followed shortly afterwards but, despite starting with 32, in his remaining five innings he only once reached double figures.

In August 1922, by now farming in Monmouthshire, Fulcher took 3 for 10 for South Wales v North Wales at Cardiff Arms Park. This was his last match. In the winter his body was found with gunshot wounds in a wood near his farm. He had been shooting rabbits when apparently the trigger of his gun caught on a twig. His estate was valued for probate at £918.10s.

Further reading:

Lewis, Paul. *For Kent & Country. Kent cricketers in the Great War 1914-1918*. Reveille Press, 2014.

James William Travis Grimshaw (No. 593).

Born: 17. 2.1912, Darlington, Co. Durham. *Died:* 26. 9.1944, Nijmegen, Netherlands.

Right-handed batsman, slow left-arm bowler.

Kent 1934.

Educated: King William School, Isle of Man and Emmanuel College, Cambridge,

Parents: Dr William Edward Grimshaw OBE & Elizabeth Grimshaw (*née* Cocker).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	2	2	0	30	17	15.00	0	0	1
Overall	29	40	14	355	40	13.65	0	0	20

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	80	4	20.00	3-29		
Overall	1760	65	27.07	5-92	1	0

James Grimshaw was the son of distinguished scientist who was Deputy Director of Ballistics Research at Woolwich Arsenal during the 1914-1918 War and held other senior posts in education. Grimshaw junior had played once for Kent Second Eleven in 1931 – against Wiltshire at Salisbury – prior to going up to Cambridge in the following year. Although bowling well in the Freshmens’ match, he was given only one chance in the Cambridge Eleven, against Yorkshire at Fenner’s where he failed to take a wicket and was dismissed without scoring. No further opportunities came his way in 1933, despite excellent figures for Etceteras v Perambulators – 29-10-56-3 in a total of 404-8 dec.

The ability to bowl tight probably earned him his Blues in 1934 and 1935. His 25 wickets (avge.29.32) in 1934 and 31(avge.25.54) in 1935, came at under two runs an over. Among his best efforts were 4 for 104 v the South Africans and 5 for 92 v Yorkshire, both at Fenner’s in 1935. Although rarely distinguishing himself with the bat, in the 1934 University match he checked a late order collapse with 40 in 80 minutes and partnerships of 48 for the ninth wicket and 29 for the tenth.

On his debut for Kent at Northampton, his figures in the first innings were 23-11-29-3 and, although he did nothing of note in his second and last appearance, he still conceded runs at just over two an over. In fifteen appearances for Kent Second Eleven between 1931 and 1936, he took 18 wickets (avge.37.61) and scored 362 runs (avge. 17.20) with a top score of 59 v Sussex Seconds at Hove in 1934. Grimshaw bowled with his cap on, common enough among professionals of the period, but rare among amateurs at the time.

In 1939 he married Lucy Mary Corke in Bromley. In the 1939-1945 War, James Grimshaw joined 86 (Honourable Artillery Company) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment R A. He was killed in action during Operation Market Garden, while serving as Battery Sergeant Major (Warrant Officer II Class) with 275 Battery, 165 HAA Regt. RA. At the time of his death, his home address was in Sidcup. There were no children. His estate was valued at £4,472 18s 1d.

John Bernard Guy (No. 606).

Born: 16. 5.1916, Ramsgate. *Died:* 7. 2.1997, Bournville, Birmingham.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1938.

Educated: Chatham House, Ramsgate and Brasenose College, Oxford.

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	1	2	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0
Overall	9	16	0	130	45	8.12	0	0	5

Bowling

Did not bowl

Said to have taken chemistry far more seriously than cricket, Bernard Guy was in the Eleven at Chatham House as a slow left-arm bowler at the age of 14 but, by 1935, he had made his mark with the bat, becoming the first in the school's history to register a double hundred.

He started badly in senior cricket by being run out for 0 for Kent Second Eleven against Surrey at Folkestone in 1935, but did better in his second season, showing promise as an opening batsman with scores of 53 v Middlesex at Folkestone and 75 v Staffordshire at Ashford. Going up to Oxford, where he gained a First Class Honours Degree in Chemistry, he failed to gain selection for the Trials in 1937 but, on returning to Kent Seconds, he hit a maiden century, 101 against Wiltshire at Canterbury, and 98 and 24* v Sussex at Hove.

Back at Oxford in 1938, he scored 58 (run out) in the Seniors' match and 129 for the University in a one-day match against a Rajputana touring team (including future Test captain Vijay Hazare). This was enough to gain him selection as opening batsman against Leicestershire in the Parks. After a modest beginning (16 and one), he was retained in the side for two more matches, scoring 45 (run out) against Glamorgan, four (run out) and six against Middlesex but, in a university year of many team changes, he was not called on again. Kent were sufficiently impressed to pick him for the first team against Glamorgan at Cardiff, where he had the misfortune to be bowled twice without scoring by one of the finest exponents of the art of off spin, John Clay. For the Second Eleven he excelled, scoring almost 500 runs, leading the averages, scoring another century against Wiltshire, 106 at Broadstairs, 70 v Norfolk at Gravesend 96 in the return at Lakenham.

After again performing well in the 1939 Seniors' trial, he played three more matches for Oxford but failed totally with a top score of 10 in six innings. With war imminent, he appeared only twice more for

Kent Second Eleven. During the war Guy was commissioned and did research work for the Army. In 1942, by now a Captain, he made his final appearance in a Kent side – for C.H.Knott's Kent Eleven v The Army at Tonbridge in 1942.

Post War, Bernard Guy took up a teaching post at St Edward's Birmingham where he became Head of Chemistry as well as master-in-charge of cricket. In 1950 he made two appearances for Warwickshire in the county championship (top score 18) and hit one century in half a dozen games for Warwickshire Second Eleven.

Before the War he played for Hythe, St Lawrence and Oxford University Authentics. After moving to the Midlands, he was a prolific opening batsman for the prestigious Harborne club, playing regularly from 1946 to 1964 and occasionally thereafter. He captained the Second team and was club captain 1952-1953, Chairman and later President.

A tall, spare man with a dominating personality, between the wickets he had a genius for counting to six and, reputedly, preferred to call only 'come one', 'come three' or 'come five'. He hit two double hundreds for the club and in July-August 1953 scored four 100s and three 50s in eight innings. He also played for Gentlemen of Worcestershire and, between 1948 and 1965, appeared frequently for Midlands Club Cricket Conference.

Major Cyril Penn Hamilton (No. 596).

Born: 12. 8. 1909, Adelaide, South Australia. *Died:* 10. 2.1941 Keren, Eritrea.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg spin bowler.

Kent 1935.

Educated: Wellington College & the RMA Woolwich.

Parents: Colonel James Edwin O'Hara Hamilton, RE & Virginia Winifred Hamilton (*née* Boucaut).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	2	2	0	2	1	1.00	0	0	0
Overall	8	13	1	475	121	39.58	2	1	8

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	13	0				
Overall	203	6	33.83	5-83	1	0

Judged by his performances in services cricket, Cyril Hamilton's record for Kent – two singles in two innings – is hardly a true reflection of his ability. In the Eleven at Wellington in 1927, he scored 46 on his first-class debut, for the Army against a South American touring team in 1932. In the following week he hit the first of his two first-class centuries, 105 for the Army v RAF at The Oval. Next season came his second, 121 for the Army v the West Indian tourists at Aldershot. Against an attack including 'Manny' Martindale and Herman Griffith, 286 were added for the first- wicket with Reginald Hudson (181). In the following season, chosen for Gentlemen v Players at Folkestone, he scored 50 and 19 against Maurice Tate, Arthur Wellard, George Geary and 'Tich'Freeman.

In matches not rated first-class, Hamilton showed a predilection for Lord's – 83 for Army v Royal Navy in 1932, 141 for Army v Royal Navy, 101 for MCC v Scotland and 92 for Royal Artillery v Gentlemen of Essex in 1934, 135 for MCC v Ireland in 1935 and 205 for Royal Artillery v Royal Engineers in 1938. In the latter year, while serving in the Middle East, he hit a century and two half-centuries for Egypt against H.M.Martineau's Eleven, a team made up largely of county and Test cricketers. He followed with another century and three half-centuries against the same opponents in the following year. Although unsuccessful for Kent first team, in 1935, Hamilton took 5 for 47 against Surrey Second

Eleven at Folkestone: He also appeared for Band of Brothers. Of other sports, Hamilton played squash and racquets to a high standard; he also represented Scotland at hockey.

The son of a Colonel in the Royal Engineers and an Australian mother, Cyril Hamilton spent part of his childhood in Ulster and, commissioned into the Royal Horse Artillery, in 1938-1939 served in Egypt and Palestine with 3 Regiment RHA. In 1940-1941 he was posted to the elite 4th Indian Division, as a battery commander with 25 Field Regiment. RA. After taking part in the assault on the frontier defences in the opening stages of General O'Connor's Libyan offensive in December 1940, the division was moved south for the attack on Italy's East African colonies. Hamilton was killed during the bloody battle for Keren (often shown on maps as Cheren), when an Italian shell hit his observation post.

In 1938 Hamilton married Angela Mary Garnier at Wayland, Norfolk. There was one child. On his death, his estate was valued at £2,620. 5s. At the time of his death, his home in England was Shropham Hall, Beckland, Norfolk. His widow subsequently married the 1939 Cambridge University captain Peter Studd, later Lord Mayor of London (1970-1971).

Norman Walter Harding (No. 604).

Born: 19. 3.1916, Woolston, Hampshire. *Died:* 25. 9.1947, Abingdon, Berkshire

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1937-1947. Cap 1947.

Educated: Reading School.

Parents: Frederick John Harding & Emily Harding (née Bossom).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	83	123	22	966	71	9.56	0	2	54
Overall	84	123	22	966	71	9.56	0	2	55

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	6481	229	28.30	5-31	9	1
Overall	6531	229	28.51	5-31	9	1

Considered by contemporaries the fastest bowler to play for Kent since Bill Bradley, Norman Harding had a classical sideways action, swung the new ball and moved it off the seam. Before the war it had been suggested that he lacked stamina and was relatively ineffective once the shine had gone but, although he had health problems, scorebooks provide little supporting evidence. Six vital seasons lost to the 1939-45 War inevitably hampered his development and, invalided out of the Army, he took time to regain full fitness. Nevertheless, he did enough in his final season – 68 wickets at 25.64 from 558.4 overs – to suggest that he had more to offer.

He had demonstrated the ability to dismiss good players. Of his 229 wickets, 54 were authentic Test batsman including Charles Barnett (three times), Denis Compton, Harold Gimblett (twice), Walter Hammond, Pat Hendren, Len Hutton, Herbert Sutcliffe and Cyril Washbrook (twice). 45 times he dismissed one of the opening pair, three times both, before they had reached double figures. His early death, from poliomyelitis, shortly after the end of the 1947 season, deprived Kent of an answer to their greatest post-war need, a genuine strike bowler to partner Fred Ridgway.

The son of the landlord of the King's Head, Thatcham, in 1934, while still at school, Harding took 4 for 19 and 4 for 12 on his first appearance for Berkshire, against Monmouthshire at Reading. Later that year he played at Lord's for Young Amateurs v Young Professionals. Coached by the Berkshire professional, Reading-born, former Sussex allrounder, Robert Relf, he finished his first season with 16 wickets in the Minor Counties Championship at an economical 14.06.

At the time working as a clerk in the offices of Simonds Brewery, he was inconsistent in his second season but claimed 7 for 85 & 4 for 45 v Hertfordshire at Cokenach, and hit a maiden century, 106 batting number eight against Wiltshire at Reading. Joining the Kent staff in 1936, he took 4 for 22 and scored 50* against Sussex Second Eleven at Tunbridge Wells (a non-Championship match) and, while qualifying for his new county, played three further games for Berkshire.

1937 was a year of mixed fortunes. He began well for the Club & Ground with 102 & 5 for 28 v Dover, 7 for 104 v Broadstairs, 6 for 26 v Bromley, 8 for 51 v Cyphers and 5 for 25 v West Malling. On Minor Counties Championship debut in Kent colours, against Wiltshire at Swindon, he performed the rare feat of taking 18 wickets (9 for 39 & 9 for 61). This was followed immediately by 5 for 46 & 2 for 39 v Norfolk at Lakenham and 5 for 95 v Middlesex Second Eleven at Ealing. Called into the first team against Gloucestershire at Dover, he was abruptly brought back to earth by seeing three slip catches dropped off his bowling from successive balls and finishing with figures of 1 for 104. At the end of the season he had 15 first-class wickets to his credit at an expensive 34.20.

In 1938 he took 42 wickets in 20 matches, but at 34.80 he was the most expensive of the regular bowlers. His best efforts were 3 for 42 & 5 for 99 v Worcestershire at Tonbridge and 5 for 51 v Somerset at Wells. He also showed himself a useful tailend batsman with 388 runs (avge.13.37), and four scores of 30 or more. Against Glamorgan at Cardiff, his 42* was top scorer in Kent's second innings. For the Second Eleven he had match figures of 11 for 84 v Middlesex at Gore Court.

By the premature end of the 1939 season, Harding was established as one of the more promising English pace bowlers with 69 wickets at 23.94. Four times he took five in an innings, 5 for 31 & 4 for 16 v Leicestershire at the Nevill, 5 for 56 & 3 for 48 v Derbyshire at Gravesend, 5 for 100 v Lancashire at Old Trafford and 5 for 54 against the same opponents at Dover. Although less successful with the bat overall, he hit a personal best 71 against Glamorgan at Tonbridge, scored out of a 104-run eighth wicket partnership with Leslie Todd (115*). He also scored 54 against Surrey at The Oval.

Following the outbreak of War, he enlisted in the Royal Artillery in February 1940 at Maidstone and, as Gunner Harding, served initially with 83 Light AA Battery at Sevenoaks. At school he had been a member of the OTC and, during the summer of 1941 he passed through an Officer Cadet Training Unit. In November of that year he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, RA and, between 1942 and early 1944, served with several Light and Heavy AA Regiments. Following several spells in hospital, he relinquished his commission in February 1944 and was discharged from the Army. Two of his periods in hospital in 1943 were at Maidiff Court, Abergavenny, which also numbered German POWs among its patients. Probably the best known was Rudolf Hess, who was there from June 1942 until the Nuremberg Trials.

During his time in the Army, as well as representing AA Command, Harding played for England v West Indies at Lord's in 1943. In 1941, while stationed in Lancashire, he took 7 for 60 and top scored with 45 for Rishton v Church. For Kent v The Rest at Canterbury in 1945, he took all ten wickets for 32 in 94 balls, seven clean bowled, two caught and one lbw. He played one first-class match in 1945, Under 33 v Over 33 at Lord's, but failed to take a wicket.

Harding's first post war season was a disappointment - 35 wickets (avge.31.71) - with a best of 4 for 78 v Hampshire in Canterbury Week. At The Oval, when Surrey totalled 490, he quietened doubts about his fitness by bowling 31 overs for 4 for 101. In 1947 he was back to his pre-war best and his name must have crossed the minds of the selectors in a season when seven different pace bowlers were picked for England, including the Kent amateur Jack Martin. Harding began well with 5 for 42 at Old Trafford in the second game of the season but ran into a barren spell with only four wickets in the entire month of June. Form returned with 4 for 25 against Yorkshire at Tunbridge Wells, 5 for 38 & 5 for 56 at Edgbaston, his first and only ten wicket haul, 4 for 49 v Somerset at Mote Park and 4 for 61 against Middlesex in Canterbury Week. In his very last match he claimed the wickets of two of South Africa's top batsman, Dudley Nourse and Ken Viljoen.

While before the war Harding had displayed signs of developing into an all-rounder, post-war his top score was only 19. He died in an isolation hospital, having been ill for only a few days. In April 1941 he married Beryl Saunders. There was one daughter, born August 1943. On his death, his estate was valued for probate at £2,304, 3s 9d.

Sidney George Hearn (No. 539).

Born: 28. 7.1899, Harbledown. *Died:* 2. 8.1963, Chartham.

Left-handed batsman, slow left-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1922-1926.

Parents: William Henry Hearn & Helen Hearn (née Luckhurst).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	31	43	7	414	54*	11.50	0	1	18
Overall	32	44	7	461	54*	12.56	0	2	20

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	355	20	17.55	3-15		
Overall	399	22	18.13	3-15		

The son of the Harbledown village butcher, Sidney Hearn joined the Kent staff in 1920 when the Tonbridge Nursery reopened after the war. He made his Second Eleven debut at The Oval in 1920 and appeared in three further Minor Counties Championship matches that year and another ten in 1921, doing nothing especially remarkable as batsman or bowler apart from taking 5 for 32 against Cambridgeshire at Rectory Field and scoring 66* in the return at Fenner's. In 1922 he made his first-class debut against Leicestershire at Aylestone Road, the second game of the season, in which he failed to take a wicket but scored 38 in an eighth wicket partnership of 79 with Walter Hardinge. The latter carried his bat for 249*. He made six further appearances that year and for the next four seasons played intermittent first team matches, two in 1923, six in 1924, ten in 1925 and six in 1926.

Whereas in second team cricket he was generally treated as an allrounder, in the first team little use was made of his left-arm spin, even after Frank Woolley ceased to turn his arm over regularly. Only once did his workload exceed 50 overs in a season – 77.3 in 1925 - when his record was 12 wickets at 14.16 each. Only twice did he claim as many as three wickets in an innings, 3 for 21 v Northants at Gravesend in 1925 and 3 for 15 v Warwickshire at Edgbaston in 1926.

As a batsman, in Kent matches he only twice exceeded his debut 38, 54* v Somerset at Gravesend in 1925, when Kent totalled 548-8, and 47* v Leicestershire at Blackheath a month later. At St.Helen's Swansea in that same year he opened the batting for H.D.G. Leveson Gower's Eleven v Glamorgan and scored 51, sharing a first wicket partnership of 112 with John Bell (93), but possibly his best innings was 33 (top score) at Tunbridge Wells in 1924 when Kent were bowled out for 124 by Alec Skelding.

In the Minor Counties Championship, Hearn hit one century, exactly 100, when opening the batting against Bedfordshire at Bedford School in 1925, and two half-centuries. Eight times he took five or more wickets in an innings including 8 for 19 v Bedfordshire at Bedford School in 1926 and 7 for 17 v Surrey Second Eleven at Hythe in 1925. Oddly enough, he was at his most destructive in his final three appearances for the club in August 1926 – 5 for 62 & 5 for 43 v Wiltshire at Swindon, 6 for 62 v Surrey Second Eleven at Hythe and 4 for 55 & 5 for 39 v Buckinghamshire at Bickley Park.

In 1927 Sidney Hearn suffered a serious breakdown. The Kent managing committee minutes for 15th June 1927 include a note 'Hearn's earnings to be made up to £200 on condition he does not attend nets.

The reports of two doctors have been considered.' He subsequently played some league cricket for Seaham Harbour but by 1928 he had given up cricket altogether.

In 1925 he married Doris Noel at All Saints Parish Church, Langton Green. They divorced in 1953. There was one son. Sidney Hearn died in St. Augustine's Hospital, Chartham, where he had been a long-term patient, and is buried in the hospital cemetery.

Lionel Paget Hedges (No. 525).

Born: 13. 7.1900, Streatham, London. *Died:* 12. 1.1933, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1919-1924. County cap 1921.

Educated: Tonbridge School and Trinity College, Oxford.

Parents: Alfred Paget Hedges & Florence Hedges (*née* Hicks).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	52	80	3	1887	130	24.50	2	7	32
Overall	120	196	6	4219	130	22.20	4	20	69

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	24	0				
Overall	60	1	60.00	1-23		

Another schoolboy prodigy who never quite fulfilled expectations, Lionel Hedges was the son of the Managing Director of the cigarette manufacturers Benson & Hedges and grandson of one of the company's co-founders. The family moved to Tonbridge in 1901 and at Tonbridge School Hedges was in the Eleven from 1916 to 1919, captain in the two final years. In 1919 he scored over 1,000 runs, averaged 86.50 and was one of Wisden's Five Public School Cricketers of the Year.

A stylish batsman, especially on the off-side, and one of the finest cover-points of his generation, among his more noteworthy innings during his school days were 27 for Lord's Schools v the Rest on a difficult Lord's pitch on which no other batsmen on either side reached 20, 201* for Tonbridge v Major A.D. Whatman's Eleven in 1918, 193 v Westminster, 176 v Lancing, 163 v Clifton and 111 v MCC, all for Tonbridge, in 1919.

Picked for Kent on the strength of his schoolboy exploits, he scored 42 on his debut in 1919, against Middlesex at Maidstone. He made eight further appearances that season, scoring 267 runs with a top score of 43 against the Australian Imperial Forces at Canterbury. Although perhaps too vulnerable to top class spin to quite command a place in Kent's strongest Eleven, he was capped and during his four years at university (1920-1923) made frequent appearances in the side in the latter half of the season – nine in 1920, ten in 1921, nine in 1922, ten in 1923. He played a further five matches in 1924, after taking up a teaching appointment at Cheltenham College.

Without approaching the achievements of his schooldays, he played a high-class innings of 130 in 150 minutes against a full-strength Yorkshire at Mote Park in 1920, sharing a fourth wicket partnership of 160 with Frank Woolley (81) and contributing significantly to a memorable victory. In 1921 he scored over 1,000 runs in all matches, 571 (ave.35.68) of them for Kent, including 116 (1 six, 18 fours) v Essex at Tunbridge Wells, and 93 v Surrey at The Oval. He shared that year in two notable partnerships – 203 for the fourth wicket v Hampshire in Canterbury Week (G.J. Bryan 179, Hedges 68), and 202 for the fifth wicket v Surrey at Blackheath (Hardinge 207, Hedges 88). He averaged over 30 again in 1922, but for the remainder of his career with Kent he passed 50 only three times with a top score of 69.

At Oxford, he was awarded cricket Blues in 1920 to 1922 inclusive but, after five matches in 1923, lost his place in a notably strong side. While at university, he scored two centuries but in his three matches against Cambridge his scores were 0, 0, 26, 44, 0. Established at Cheltenham College, from 1926 to 1929 he played for Gloucestershire during the school holidays. For his second county he scored over 800 runs with a top score of 85. In 1924 he appeared for Gentlemen v Players in the Blackpool Festival. Given his early promise, his overall first-class record can perhaps be judged disappointing.

Hedges made several appearances for Oxford on the Rugby field without winning a Blue, and also shone at racquets and as a boxer. A talented actor, as well as numerous amateur stage performances, he appeared professionally in the 1931 film 'Tell England' directed by Anthony Asquith. He married Eileen Mary Radcliffe in Exeter, Devonshire in 1924. There were two sons and one daughter. He died of influenza. His estate was valued for probate at £897.10s 9d.

Harold Lawrence Hever (No. 538).

Born: 23. 6.1895. Southborough. *Died:* 18. 7.1971, Pembury.

Left-handed batsman, slow left-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1921-1925.

Parents: Thomas Hever & Anne Hever (née Shoebridge).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	6	10	5	20	11*	4.00	0	0	4
Overall	7	11	6	25	11*	5.00	0	0	4

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	266	9	29.55	2-39		
Overall	391	15	26.06	3-57		

Harold Hever was living with his widowed mother and working as a printer's machinist in 1912 when he enlisted in the Kent Fortress Engineers, a Territorial Army unit. He served at Gallipoli in 1915 and later, by then a Second Corporal, in France where, in 1917, he was taken prisoner near Cambrai. As well as Colin Blythe, several others on the Kent staff, including Bill Fairservice, David Jennings, Harry Preston and Claud Woolley, served with the Kent Fortress Engineers and it is possibly through this connection that, on demobilisation, he came to Kent for his first trial in 1919.

A further trial followed in 1920, and in 1921 he joined the staff, making his Second Eleven debut in mid-June that year and his first team debut on 2nd July against Essex at Leyton. On his second appearance, against Northants at Dover, he claimed his first wicket ('Fanny' Walden) but was upstaged by Frank Woolley who took 7 for 20 in the second innings.

With Woolley still a front-line bowler and 'Wally' Hardinge a useful change, opportunities for another left-arm spinner were limited in the early 1920s and, even when Woolley began to bowl less, there was further competition from Sidney Hearn. As a result, Hever's first team outings were widely spaced and he never did enough to claim a regular place. His best bowling was in his last first-class match, 3 for 37 & 3 for 68 for H.D.G. Leveson Gower's Eleven v Glamorgan at Swansea in 1925.

In Second team cricket he was a valuable part of the attack with 34 wickets in 1921, 31 in 1924 and 60 (avge.14.76) in 1925. He declined the terms offered in 1926 but appeared in a few Second Eleven matches over the next three seasons. In one of them, v Surrey Seconds at Oval in 1927, he scored 93. This was only the fourth time he had exceeded 20 in Second Eleven cricket.

He played for Linden Park from 1926 to 1928 and was a long-term member of Culverden Golf Club. In his youth he played football for Southborough. For 46 years he was on the staff of the *Kent & East Sussex Courier*, latterly in charge of the paper and warehouse department.

Alan Lake Hilder (No. 554).

Born: 8. 10.1901, Beckenham. *Died:* 2. 5.1970, St Leonard's-on-Sea, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1924-1929.

Educated: Lancing College.

Parents: Edward Hilder & Kathleen Jeannie Hilder (*née* Lake).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	14	23	2	299	103*	14.24	1	0	7
Overall	21	36	5	451	103*	14.54	1	0	12

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	93	3	31.00	2-14		
Overall	536	13	41.23	3-77		

A chanceless century for Alan Hilder in the second innings of his first-class debut – v Essex at Gravesend in 1924 – led eventually to another example of promise unfulfilled, at least at first-class level. With Charlie Wright (81), a then record 157 was added for the eighth wicket, the first 100 coming in 40 minutes. This led the one-time Kent coach, amateur batsman and professional eccentric Gerry Weigall, to declare the tall and powerful Hilder to be ‘the finest natural hitter of the cricket ball in England’. Weigall was, admittedly, much given to hyperbole and, in the event, Hilder passed 20 only three times in 13 further matches for Kent, with a top score of 25.

At Lancing, Hilder had topped the averages in each of his four seasons in the Eleven but, while a prolific scorer in club cricket, in a dozen matches for Kent in the Minor Counties Championship, he passed 50 only twice, with a best of 70 v Norfolk at Chatham in 1925.

Beyond county cricket, he toured Jamaica three times, with Lord Tennyson in 1926/1927 and 1927/1928, and with Sir Julian Cahn in 1928/1929. Again, in first-class matches he did not prosper; his top score was 37. He scored 92 in a minor match against ‘Middlesex County’ at Port Maria in 1927 and surprised everybody – probably himself included – by taking 9 for 29 against the same opposition in 1928. On a (non first-class) tour of Egypt with HM Martineau in 1932 he scored 121 v United Services and 90 v Alexandria Cricket Club.

In club cricket, for Band of Brothers, MCC, Yellowhammers and Lancing Rovers, his run getting was at times almost Bradman-like. For Lancing Rovers in 1923 he scored in one week 100, 105, 27, 102, 110 and 215*. He hit two centuries for Band of Brothers and in 1958, at the age of 56, played in their centenary match.

During the 1939-1945 War he joined the Royal Artillery but was subsequently commissioned in the Royal Army Service Corps where he reached the rank of Captain. He led the usually very strong Aldershot Services team and, in 1943, played for the Army v Glamorgan at Cardiff Arms Park. In 1945 he scored 24* for Kent v Northants in a one-day match at Beckenham.

Like his father, he qualified as a solicitor and was still practising shortly before the outbreak of war. Nevertheless, following his death from lung cancer, his profession is shown as teacher.

Gerald de Lisle Hough (No. 520).

Born: 14. 5.1894, Kensington, London. *Died:* 29. 9.1959, Canterbury.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler.

Kent 1919-1920.

Kent Cap 1920.

Educated: Winchester College.

Parents: Alfred Lacey Hough & Milly Ann Hough (née Roberts).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	14	18	3	327	77	21.80	0	1	5
Overall	15	20	5	444	87*	28.60	0	2	5

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	21	1	21.00	1-7		

The son of a magistrate with the British Burma commission, who went on to become Deputy Commissioner and later taught Burmese at University College, London, Gerald Hough (pronounced 'Huff') headed batting and bowling averages at Winchester in 1911 and scored 90* against Eton. He led the batting averages again in 1912 and captained in 1913. He also represented the College on the football field.

Following the outbreak of war, he was commissioned into the 8th Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment and, as Bombing Officer, went to France in August 1915 with 72 Brigade, 24th Division. Severely wounded in September 1915 at the Battle of Loos, he was evacuated to England. He returned to France in July 1916 and was posted to the 6th Battalion, only to be wounded again in August in a bombardment during the Battle of the Somme. Mentioned in despatches, he was promoted Temporary Lieutenant in July 1917 and, subsequently, Temporary Captain. In the UK he served as Assistant Provost Marshal, at Cambridge in 1918 and at Bovington in 1919. He resigned his commission in 1920.

His entry into first-class cricket was remarkable if not unique. For Lionel Robinson's Eleven against the Australian Imperial Forces at Old Buckenham Hall, Attleborough, a team captained by Jack Mason and containing six other Kent cricketers, against an attack including Jack Gregory, Hough scored 30* (the only batsman to top 20) and 87*, 117 runs without being dismissed. In his next match, for Kent v Essex at Leyton, he scored 77, adding 127 for the sixth-wicket with Lionel Troughton. He also took a wicket with his first ball, the only time he bowled in a first-class match. Later in the season he took 4 for 36 for MCC v Norfolk at Lakenham, but a wounded arm restricted his bowling for the rest of his life.

Hough played three more matches for Kent that year and another ten in 1920 but, with a top score of 46, never reproduced his early form. Increasingly he suffered from the effects of war wounds and, for the next decade, he was confined to club cricket. By the time he was 40 he was virtually crippled and was eventually compelled to move around with two sticks. For ten years from 1923 he taught at Bradfield College, where he became a housemaster.

In 1934 Hough rejoined Kent, initially as Manager and, from 1936 to 1949, as Secretary/Manager. A complex man, his efficiency was unquestioned but, although he had many friends, he had a rare talent for upsetting people, especially those outside his own circle. His sense of humour was very much his own. In the pavilion at Gillingham he had a notice posted 'This balcony is unsafe. Committee only.' In Canterbury Week he deputed a young professional with impaired hearing to answer the telephone.

Although sometimes capable of unexpected acts of kindness, especially with aspiring young professionals, making all due allowance for increasing pain from his injuries, his approach to man management was distinctly pre-war – if not pre-Crimean War. One particularly crass example occurred when Alex Debnam (*q.v.*) joined the staff. A Flight Lieutenant during the war, Debnam was told by Hough that, by turning professional, ‘he had let the side down’ and found himself saddled with all the most menial tasks around the ground.

Leaving aside the archaic attitude to class, as Secretary/Manager throughout the war years, Hough can hardly have been unaware that six former, or then current, Kent players were among the 44 county professionals commissioned in the Armed Forces between 1939 and 1945. The Kent six - seven if you add Sub-Lieutenant Arthur Phebey RNVR who joined the club in 1946 - included Squadron Leader Leslie Ames, who would have outranked Hough had they been in the same war, and Flight Lieutenant Jack Hubble and Captain John Pocock of equal rank. At very least, he must have heard of Captain Hedley Verity and Squadron Leader Bill Edrich DFC.

Whatever his failings, Hough did not lack guts. Despite his sufferings in later years, he played a great deal of club cricket, notably for Free Foresters and Band of Brothers, for whom he scored two centuries. In 1934, a year or so before he was compelled to give up cricket altogether, he agreed to fill a last minute vacancy for the Second Eleven against Surrey at The Oval. Facing a total of 457 for 9, he came to the wicket at 250 for 6 and scored 44. Following on, Kent were 77 for 6 when he came in again. When stumps were drawn Kent were 186 for 7, Hough 61*. In his will he bequeathed £10,000 or the residue of his estate (whichever was the lesser) to the club on the death of his next-of-kin. His effects were valued for probate at £14,294. 12s 11d.

Brigadier Bernard Howlett DSO & Bar (No. 540).

Born: 18. 12. 1898, Stoke Newington, London. *Died:* 29. 11.1943, Santa Maria Imbaro, Italy.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1922-1928.

Educated: St Edmund’s School, Canterbury.

Parents: Rev Thomas Edwin Howlett & Gertrude Emily Howlett (*née* Pickburn).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	26	31	13	103	29	5.72	0	0	10
Overall	42	55	21	319	58	9.38	0	1	23

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	1669	39	42.72	3-62		
Overall	3156	108	29.22	6-35	3	0

One of the fastest bowlers to play for Kent between the wars, ‘Swiftly’ Howlett probably lacked the accuracy for success at top level, but he had his days, notably while serving in India. He reputedly ‘bowled off the wrong foot’, which probably indicates an action similar to that of Mike Procter.

A career soldier, most of his cricket was for his Regiment and other Army teams, but he also played for Band of Brothers, MCC and the Mote. For the latter, in 1921, he took 32 wickets in only 94 overs. He claimed another 35 wickets for the Mote in 1922 but, more important, made six appearances for Kent. With the spin of Freeman and Woolley dominating the attack that year, his bowling was little used but against Lancashire at Old Trafford he took three wickets, including the prize scalps of Charles Hallows and Ernest Tyldesley, albeit at the cost of 133 runs. At Gravesend, he disposed of the highly-experienced Worcestershire opening pair, Fred Bowley and Dick Pearson for 15 runs. In the following season, although not picked for the first team, he claimed 16 wickets in four matches for the Second Eleven,

including 6 for 46 against Bedfordshire at Bedford School. He also took 3 for 28 and 3 for 43 when Lord Harris' Eleven came close to beating the West Indian tourists at Belmont.

Between 1925 and 1927, while serving in India, he made six appearances for the Europeans in the Bombay Quadrangular tournament. In 1925, when his team lost to the Hindus in the Final, he took 5 for 62. In the following year he had match figures of 8 for 55 against the Parsees and 9 for 79 in the Final when the Europeans again lost to the Hindus. Having scored his only first-class half-century, for Europeans v Indians at Madras in January 1928, he returned to England where he took 33 wickets in what was virtually a complete, and as it turned out final, season for Kent. Again he was expensive but, his season's tally contained a generous sprinkling of difficult-to-shift, county stalwarts – Ewart Astill, Ted Bowley, Alf Dipper, 'Doc' Gibbons, 'Ticker' Mitchell, Wilfred Rhodes, Emmott Robinson, Jack Timms and Claud Woolley, as well as distinguished amateurs Harold Gilligan and Errol Holmes.

On returning to India in 1929, he again did well in the Quadrangular with 4 for 11 and 4 for 21 for Europeans v Indians at Madras. Posted back to England in 1930, Howlett played four more first-class matches in 1931, two for the Army, two for MCC. In his penultimate first-class fixture he took 5 for 39 for MCC v Oxford University at Lord's.

Among the most distinguished of Kent's soldier/cricketers, few saw more of the sharp end of war over a prolonged period than 'Swifty' Howlett. The only son of the vicar of St Michael & All Saints, Stoke Newington who died when his son was five years old, he was commissioned into the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment in April 1918 and served in France and Flanders with the 7th Battalion from August to November. He was promoted Lieutenant in 1919, Captain 1930, Major 1938, Lt Colonel 1940, Brigadier 1942. From December 1930 to December 1934 he served as Adjutant to the 4th (Territorial Army) Battalion in Tonbridge and from April 1936 to March 1939 as Staff Captain, 40th (West Riding) Division, Northern Command. In April 1939 he was appointed Brigade Major 132 Brigade, 44th (Home Counties) Division and went to France with them in April 1940. He was with the Division throughout the fighting up to Dunkirk and gained his first mention in despatches.

After his return from Dunkirk he commanded 6th Battalion Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. As part of 36 Brigade, 78th Division, First Army, the Battalion was one of the first British Army units to land in Algeria in 1942 during Operation Torch. In December 1942 Howlett was given command of 36 Brigade and, apart from a short spell when he commanded 139 Brigade, 46th Division, he commanded the Brigade through the fighting in Tunisia with First Army and subsequently with Eighth Army in Sicily and Italy, until his death.

He was awarded the DSO in June 1943 for his service in North Africa, and a Bar in November the same year for his service in Sicily. In 1944 he was posthumously mentioned in despatches. He was killed while touring his Brigade's forward positions during the lead up to the crossing of the River Sangro. Always very active in visiting front line units, sometimes on horseback, in an unpublished memoir, Edward Cox, one of his company commanders, recalls 'on a number of occasions I was embarrassed hearing the soldiers shouting and telling him to remove himself and his red hat before he brought down enemy fire'. His appointment to a divisional command came through on the day of his death.

In 1929 he married Helen Beatrice Joan Whitby in Holy Trinity Church, Bangalore. There was one daughter. On his death his effects were valued at £499.8s.9d.

Harold John Hubble (No. 576).

Born: 3. 10.1904, Headcorn. *Died:* 12. 1.1989, Tenterden.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg spin bowler.

Kent 1929-1931.

Parents: Lewis Francis & Annie Hubble (*née* Blackman).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	13	21	3	285	50	15.83	0	1	3

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	33	1	33.00	1-5		

A nephew of J.C. 'Jack' Hubble (*q.v.*), 'Young Jack' as he was known, played his early cricket in Elham where his father was the village grocer and his young team mates included Leslie Ames and Fred Castle, who later played for Somerset. Hubble came to Kent for a trial in 1924; the Trial Book entry reads 'Weigall thinks he will improve'. He joined the Kent staff in 1925, on the same day as Ames.

While Ames rose rapidly and made his first-class debut in the following season, 'Young Jack' did not get his chance in the Second Eleven until 1927. Apart from an innings of 88* against Norfolk at Beckenham in 1927, his top score in his first two seasons was only 32 but in 1929 a run of scores - 64*, 51, 55 - brought a call to first team duty, against Essex at Leyton. He scored ten and bowled three overs for the wicket of Gus Hipkin, at the cost of three runs. On his second appearance in the county side, at Folkestone in the final game of the season, he scored 50 against an MCC attack including Jack Durston, Jack Newman and Alec Kennedy.

In five matches in the following year his top score was only 24 but he did rather better in a half a dozen matches in 1931, with 38* (top score) v Essex at Colchester and 39 v Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, as well as three other double figure scores; in neither year was he asked to bowl. At the conclusion of the 1931 season he opted for a coaching post at Cranleigh. He subsequently devoted himself to running the family sports goods business, Hubble & Freeman.

During the 1939-1945 war Hubble served with the RAF, reaching the rank of Flight Lieutenant. He appeared several times in RAF representative teams and in 1942 scored 53* for RAF v Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge. In the same year he appeared at Abbeydale Park, Sheffield, for RAF South, a team including Leslie Todd, George Cox, Stan Squires, Bob Gregory, Jack Parker and Austin Matthews, against an RAF North side including Cyril Washbrook, Les Berry, Reg Simpson, Bob Wyatt, Dick Howorth, Ellis Robinson and Arthur Jepson.

A prolific scorer for the Mote, 'Young Jack' was described in the club history as a 'technician, stylist and self-demanding perfectionist'. Not only was he among the Club's leading batsmen, but as a bowler he took 80 wickets in 1947, 79 in 1949 and 81 in 1949. He was also an accomplished coach. An excellent golfer, he represented the county and in 1959, playing off a handicap of two, lost by seven and six to Jack Nicklaus in the Amateur Championship at Sandwich.

In 1928 he married Vera Kemp in Maidstone. On his death, his estate was valued for probate £1,202.38p.

Colonel Leonard George Irvine MRCS, LRCP. (No. 567).

Born: 11.1.1906, Bombay (now Mumbai), India. *Died:* 27.4.1973, Canterbury.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg spin bowler.

Kent 1927.

Educated: Taunton School & Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.

Parents: Wallace James Irvine & Amy Kate Irvine (*née* Grose).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
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Kent	1	1	8	8	8*	-	0	0	0
Overall	28	35	16	154	14*	8.10	0	0	13

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	72	2	36.00	2-37		
Overall	2287	98	23.23	7-79	7	2

Leonard Irvine was in the Eleven at Taunton but figures of 8 for 32 and 3 for 10 in the 1926 Cambridge Freshmens' match were probably a surprise to all concerned. On first-class debut, against Middlesex at Fenner's, he took 4 for 49 and at the end of the university season he was leading wicket taker with 52 at 19.59. He had match figures of 11 for 145 v Free Foresters, 10 for 101 v the Army, both at Fenner's, and 9 for 124 v Leveson Gower's Eleven at the Saffrons as well as, perhaps more significantly, 6 for 90 v Nottinghamshire at Fenner's which included the wickets of Arthur Carr and 'Dodger' Whysall.

In 1927 he missed some early Cambridge matches through injury, but still finished with 38 wickets (ave.27.00). This included 6 for 62 v Gloucestershire at Bristol, 5 for 96 v Sussex at Hove and 6 for 171 v Surrey at The Oval. His tally included Douglas Jardine, 'Patsy' Hendren, Alf Dipper, Charles Barnett, Jim Parks, Ted Bowley and Andy Ducat.

In the previous season Somerset had approached Kent concerning the possibility of including Irvine in their side. He was qualified for Kent by residence and they responded with an abrupt negative. In August 1927 he was picked for Kent Second Eleven against Norfolk at Lakenham where he took 2 for 41 and 7 for 92. Four days later, with 'Tich' Freeman absent, he was drafted into the first team against Leicestershire at Aylestone Road. He claimed two wickets and another six in four more Second Eleven appearances but, with Freeman and Marriott, Kent hardly had room for another leg spinner and it surely would have been better for everyone if they had let him play for Somerset. He appeared in one other first-class match that year, for the East v the New Zealanders at Wisbech, but failed to take a wicket.

In his final season at Cambridge Irvine was considered by *Wisden* to have 'lost form' although, in truth, in the five games for which he was picked he bowled only 39 overs. This still put him nominally top of the averages with six wickets at 20.83, among them the prize scalps of George Challoner and Arthur Carr (again). As a batsman, Irvine was a confirmed tailender and the fact was that Walter Robins, an exact contemporary of Irvine at Cambridge, was not only a far better batsman, but one of the finest fielders of his generation and had begun to achieve some control of his considerable ability to spin the ball. This was enough to give him preference. This ended Irvine's first-class cricket, although he played for the Army v Public Schools at Lord's in 1934.

A specialist in dermatology, Irvine was commissioned into the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1933 and graded dermatologist three years later. He was promoted Captain in 1934, Major in 1943, Lt. Colonel in 1946, Colonel in 1957. After pre-war service in Palestine and Egypt, as well as at London and Cambridge Hospitals, he was with the British Expeditionary in France in 1939/1940 and commanded the 2nd Field Ambulance in North Africa and Italy from 1942 to 1944. In the latter year his unit landed at Anzio. In 1944/1945 he commanded the 1st Mobile Military Hospital, Central Mediterranean Forces and subsequently 11th Convalescent Depot.

As Deputy Director, Medical Services between 1945 and 1959, his appointments included 12 Corps, Central Mediterranean Force, Eastern Command, the Sudan, Middle East Land Forces, Cyprus, Salisbury Plain Division and Home Counties Division. He was Commanding Officer Military Hospital, Wheatley, Oxford, 1951-1953.

In 1947 he married Dora Mowe in Bromley. At the time of his death he was living in Bridge, near Canterbury. His estate was valued at £2, 5059.

Conrad Powell Johnstone CBE (No. 522).

Born: 19.8.1895, Sydenham. *Died:* 23.6.1974, Eastry.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1919-1933. Kent cap 1925.

Educated: Rugby School & Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Parents: William Yuile Johnstone & Katherine Johnstone (*née* Thompson).

First Class Career Record**Batting and Fielding**

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	36	56	2	1186	102	21.96	2	4	18
Overall	110	190	11	5482	135	30.62	6	29	106

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	204	8	25.50	3-4		
Overall	2798	103	27.43	6-28	3	0

Although not perhaps quite in the top flight of amateur batsmen between the wars, Con Johnstone was a useful addition to the Kent team when home on leave from India. He had been in the Eleven at Rugby in 1912 and 1913, as captain in the latter year. Shortly before the outbreak of war in 1914, he made three appearances for Kent Second Eleven.

At the end of August 1914 he enlisted as a Private in the 1/15th (County of London) Battalion, Prince of Wales Own Civil Service Rifles, a Territorial Unit. After less than a month, he was commissioned as a temporary Second Lieutenant in the Highland Light Infantry. Following training with the 3rd Battalion in Portsmouth, he was posted to the 1st Battalion in France where it was part of the Sind Brigade, 3rd, (Lahore) Division, much depleted, having just taken part in the Battle of Neuve Chappelle. On May 1st 1915, during the Second battle of Ypres, Johnstone was hit by a bullet which grazed his face and struck the right side of his chest, fracturing two ribs and puncturing a lung. Shipped back to England, it was August 1916 before he was again fit for service.

Granted a permanent commission in the Regular Army, Johnstone returned to the Western Front in November 1916 and was posted, first to the 17th (Service) Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers and subsequently to the 18th Battalion of his old regiment, the Highland Light Infantry where he reached the rank of full Lieutenant. In November 1917, while serving with the Headquarters Company during the Third Battle of Ypres, he was wounded again, this time by a shell splinter which lodged in his chest wall. When eventually discharged from hospital, he was judged fit for home service only and spent the remainder of the war as an instructor. He resigned his commission in May 1919.

Going up to Cambridge to study Law in 1919, he scored 59 in the Freshmens' match, 84 for Perambulators v Etceteras and won a place in the opening first-class match, against the Australian Imperial Forces. On his second first-class appearance, against the Army at Fenner's, he scored 106 and finished the University season with over 500 runs and four more scores over 50. In the University match, he hit 78 and shared an opening partnership of 116 with another Kent cricketer, George Wood (62). In July he scored 23 on his debut for Kent, against Hampshire at Tunbridge Wells, and went on to play a further seven matches that season with a top score of 47 v Sussex at Hove.

In his second Cambridge season, Johnstone only twice passed 50, but retained his place as opening batsman in an exceptionally strong side containing Gilbert and Hubert Ashton, Percy Chapman, John MacBryan, Arthur Gilligan and 'Father' Marriott, as well as the skipper George Wood. In six games for Kent he did little, apart from two 40s, and, armed with a Law degree, in the winter departed for India, where he was destined to spend the rest of his working life. Employed in the oil industry in Madras (now Chennai), he became Branch Manager of what was then known as the Burmah Shell Oil

Company. Among a number of promising young cricketers recruited into the company by Johnstone was the Indian Test cricketer M.J. Gopalan.

Seemingly at home on Indian wickets, he scored over 1,000 runs for Madras between 1934 and 1945, (with a top score of 94), and took 24 wickets with his swing bowling. He captained Madras in the Ranji Trophy and in 1934 led them to victory over Mysore in the first-ever match in the competition. From 1926, he played 20 matches for Europeans v Indians in the annual Madras Presidency Match, latterly as captain, scoring 1,257 runs with one century and seven half centuries, as well as picking up 59 wickets. He opened the bowling in his last match in 1948.

He appeared for 'India' v MCC in 1926 and for 'An Indian Eleven' v MCC in 1933. At Madras in December 1945, aged over 50, he captained South Zone against Australian Services captained by Keith Miller. Opening the batting, he scored 18 (bowled Miller) and 21.

Few Englishmen contributed more to Indian cricket than Con Johnstone, a service recognised by the award of a CBE. He played a prominent role in the establishment of the Indian Board of Control and, beyond cricket, was also Chairman of the Madras Chamber of Commerce and of the Indian Roads & Transport Development Association.

Home on leave in 1925, he scored over 500 runs in twelve matches for Kent and was awarded his County Cap. Against Gloucestershire at Maidstone, he played probably the best innings of his career. Kent collapsed against Parker, Dennett and Hammond and followed on 236 in arrears, Johnstone (102) and Ashdown (83) put on 146 for the first wicket. Kent totalled 389 and won by 24 runs. He also hit half-centuries against Warwickshire, Surrey and Middlesex.

He was less successful in 1929 but hit 100* against a strong MCC side at Folkestone. Back in England again in 1933, he managed only two county matches but again showed his liking for the Cheriton Road pitch. In the Folkestone Festival he scored 128 for Gentlemen v Players and 133 for MCC v the South. In both matches he shared century partnerships - 117 for the fifth wicket with Alfred Jeacocke (44) for the Gentlemen and 161 for the first wicket with Reginald Hudson (50) for MCC. He appeared in two Minor Counties Championship fixtures in 1937 and made his last appearance for the county against the Rest at Canterbury in 1945.

Retiring first to Westgate-on-Sea, subsequently to Eastry, Johnstone served on the Kent Committee from 1954 to 1973 and was President in 1966. He played at club level for MCC, I Zingari, Free Foresters, Old Rugbians and Band of Brothers; he took part in the BB centenary match in 1958. He represented Cambridge University at golf in 1920, played in the Amateur Championship and was for many years a member of Royal St George.

In 1925 he married Kitty Read Birchall in Birkenhead. There were two children. Con Johnstone was at the England v India Test Match at Lord's on the day before his sudden death. His estate was valued for probate at £31,469.

Charles Harold Knott (No. 537).

Born: 20.3.1901, Tunbridge Wells. *Died:* 18.6.1988, Tonbridge.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg spin bowler, specialist cover point.

Kent 1921-1939. Kent cap 1924.

Educated: Tonbridge School & Brasenose College, Oxford.

Parents: Rev. Frederick George Knott & Alice Annie Knott.

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	104	157	20	4026	154*	29.38	6	24	45

Overall	136	206	27	5633	261*	31.46	9	31	66
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Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	375	10	37.50	4-34		
Overall	660	24	27.50	4-24		

Unlike his elder brother Freddie (*q. v.*) whose method was the very essence of orthodoxy, Charles Knott – always ‘John’ to family and friends – scored nearly all his runs in the arc between wide mid off and wide mid on, driving with tremendous power from an almost non-existent backlift. Knott was considered by some of the cognoscenti to have hit the ball harder than any other batsman of his generation and distinguished critics, including Raymond Robertson-Glasgow and Jim Swanton, were great admirers. On the other hand *Wisden*, to whom he was ‘hardly a class batsman’, was slow to come to terms with his textbook- defying technique.

Fine batsman though he undoubtedly was, it is perhaps worth pointing out that, like several other distinguished amateurs of the period, he seldom scored runs against the stronger, mainly professional, county attacks. Against Yorkshire, his top score was 35 and an average of 11.27 and he averaged below 20 against Nottinghamshire, with their battery of fast bowlers, and Gloucestershire, with the spin of Tom Goddard, Charlie Parker and Reg Sinfield. Probably the best innings of his career was in 1927, against the reigning Champions at Old Trafford, when he scored 96 in 135 minutes from the bowling of, among others, Ted McDonald and Dick Tyldesley. He captained the side on this occasion, one of three matches in which he did so – won one, drawn two.

At Tonbridge in 1919, although overshadowed by his contemporary Lionel Hedges (*q.v.*), he scored over 600 runs including an innings of 220 v Lancing, as well as centuries against Westminster and Old Tonbridgians. In 1920 he was less prolific with the bat in school matches but headed the bowling averages with 44 wickets including a hat- trick against Band of Brothers. In house matches he scored 244 and took 13 wickets v Hillside and 372 in 200 minutes and 14 wickets against Ferox Hall. He was chosen that year for Public Schools v the Army.

At Oxford in 1921 he took ten wickets in the Freshmen’s match and 7 for 60 in one of the trials but progressed no further. Beginning with five and 0 against Notts at Catford, he played three matches for Kent, scoring 80 on his second appearance, against Essex at Leyton. In 1922 he failed in Oxford’s opening game of the season and was not given another chance until the team went on tour, when an innings of 105* in 180 minutes at Leicester secured the first of his three Blues. In 1923, when he was secretary, he finished second in the averages with over 600 runs, including 105* against Sussex at Hove.

In 1924 he emulated his brother Freddie by captaining his university (a very moderate side that year), scoring 492 runs (avge.32.80) with five half-centuries including 83 and 74 in the opening match against Middlesex. In all cricket that season he totalled 938 first-class runs, the highest aggregate of his career.

On leaving university, Knott considered following his father (Headmaster of Skinner’s School) into Holy Orders but instead returned to Tonbridge and devoted the rest of his life to the school – for 25 years as master-in-charge of cricket. With the exception of 1932 and 1937, he played at least one game for Kent in every season until the outbreak of war, twice scoring over 500 runs, three times over 400. Kent picked him for only two matches in 1928, in which his top score was 16, but at Eastbourne for Harlequins against the West Indians he achieved his personal best, 261* in six hours with 5 sixes, a five and 29 fours. With Monty Garland-Wells (35) he added 63 for the fifth wicket, with Reginald Bettington (127) 233 in 150 minutes for the sixth and with A.J.Evans (124) 155 for the seventh in under an hour.

Statistically his best season was 1933 when he hit 607 runs (avge.43.35) with one century and five 50s. He again plundered the West Indies bowlers, this time at Canterbury, with 154* (1 six, 18 fours), adding 156 for the sixth wicket in 120 minutes with Leslie Ames (86). Among other notable hard-hitting innings during his career were 140* in 135 minutes v Sussex at Hastings in 1929, 118 out of 174 in 160

minutes v Northants at Dover in 1934 and 112 out of 185 in 120 minutes v Hampshire in the 1938 Canterbury Week.

He played a great deal of cricket for Band of Brothers, MCC, Yellowhammers and West Kent. His gentle leg spin, described by its originator as 'pitch and roll', often confused club batsman as it did countless Tonbridge schoolboys in net sessions. He toured Egypt with HM Martineaus's Eleven seven times between 1929 and 1937, with a top score of 227 v Egypt at Alexandria in 1931, against an attack which included Kent's Eric Cole (*q.v.*). His last game of importance was for his own Kent Eleven against the Army at Tonbridge in 1942.

Knott's association with cricket at Tonbridge lasted from 1915 to within a few months of his death. A bachelor and taciturn by nature, as master-in-charge he was a stickler for traditional cricketing values and something of a martinet, but his distinctive brand of humour was never far away. Although no advocate of formal coaching, during his time at Tonbridge few schools produced so many good cricketers, notably Colin Cowdrey to whom he was something of a father figure. He was editor of the Tonbridge School register. At the time of his death Knott was the oldest surviving Kent cricketer and university Blue. His estate was valued for probate at £22,320.

Lt. Col William Murray Leggatt DSO (No. 558).

Born: 2.9.1900; Crail, Fife, Scotland. *Died:* 11.8. 1946; Westminster, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1926.

Educated: Winchester College & Royal Military Academy Woolwich.

Parents: Ernest Hugh Every Leggatt & Jessie Leggatt.

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	5	8	0	229	92	28.62	0	2	4
Overall	11	16	0	479	92	29.93	0	3	9

Bowling

Did not bowl

Another of Kent's distinguished soldier/cricketers, William Leggatt was born in Scotland but in the 1901 Census he is living at Horbury Crescent near Holland Park with his parents, both born in India. His father was a Judge in the Indian Civil Service. At Winchester, where his contemporaries included Claude Ashton and Douglas Jardine, he was in the Eleven in 1917 and 1918. In the latter year he took 5 for 55 against Charterhouse and 6 for 49 against Harrow, ending leading wicket-taker with 33 at an economical 18.33. In 1919 he appeared twice for the RMA, as opening batsman on the second occasion, against Surrey Club & Ground at The Oval.

Commissioned into the Royal Field Artillery in 1920, service life inevitably restricted his cricket but he established a sufficient reputation in Army matches to gain selection for Kent while stationed in Woolwich, making his debut in July 1926 against Yorkshire at Blackheath. Although Yorkshire began with 428, a little surprisingly, he was not one of the eight bowlers used. Despite a stern baptism as a batsman against George Macaulay, Abe Waddington, Roy Kilner and Wilfred Rhodes on a drying wicket, he scored 30. He did even better on his second appearance, against Gloucestershire at Bristol. Faced with an attack containing Charlie Parker and Tom Goddard, he was top scorer with 51 in the first innings. In the second, coming in at 47 for 4, he hit 92 in a match winning fifth wicket partnership of 178 in 105 minutes with Wally Hardinge (116).

He did little in the remaining three matches of his county career but for the Army he scored 46 and 76 v the RAF at The Oval in 1930 and, in matches not rated first-class, 108 v Public Schools at Lord's in

1932 and 74 v The Royal Navy at Lord's in 1934. In 1929, while serving in India, where he met and married his wife, Leggatt scored 31 (top score in a total of 104) for Southern Punjab v Sind.

In 1926 William Leggatt was posted to 16 Medium Battery in India and remained there until 1931, when he returned to England as an Officer of a Company of Gentlemen Cadets at the RMA Woolwich. He remained at the RMA until 1935, when he was appointed Adjutant to 16 Field Brigade in Edinburgh. In March 1938 he returned to India, where he served with 14 Heavy Battery and was promoted to Major.

At the end of 1938, he sailed from Bombay (now Mumbai) to Egypt, where he took on staff duties as GSO3 in Cairo and remained in the Middle East until February 1944. He held a number of staff appointments including Brigade Major RA, 6th Division. He was promoted (Temporary) Lt Colonel in July 1941 and, in March 1942, joined 11 (HAC) Regiment RHA, assuming command of the Regiment three months later. At the Battle of El Alamein the Regiment served with 1st Armoured Division and, as the first British unit to be equipped with the new American Priest 105mm self-propelled howitzer, played an important role in the final breakthrough by 10 Corps. An officer of his Regiment accepted the surrender of the commander of the Afrika Corps, Lt. Gen Ritter von Thoma. Leggatt later commanded 83 Anti-Tank Regiment. He was twice mentioned in despatches and in January 1943 was awarded the DSO for 'gallant and distinguished service'.

On returning to England in March 1944, he held a number of appointments including OC, 70 Anti-Tank Regiment, OC, 3 Reserve Regiment (Field) and GSO1 at the War Office. In 1946 he suffered a coronary. Actually this was his second; the first, suffered while in Egypt, had gone undetected. Retired from the Army, he moved to rural Somerset but spent his weeks in London working at the War Office, while still finding time at weekends to teach his daughters to ride. He died from a third coronary while dining with a friend at the Cavalry Club. His Roll of Honour entry at Winchester concludes with the words 'Few strong men have been so gentle'

In 1929 he married Connie Auld Mathieson (1906-1988) in Chelsea. There were three daughters. On his death his estate was valued at £12,007. 11s. 3d.

Lt Cmdr Geoffrey Bevington Legge RNVR (No. 549).

Born: 26 .1.1903, Bromley. *Died:* 21.11.1940; Bramford Speke, Devonshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg spin bowler.

Kent 1924-1931. Kent Cap: 1927.

County Captain: 1928-1930.

Tests. Five for England.

Educated: Malvern College & Brasenose College, Oxford.

Parents: Henry Bevington Legge & Edith Blethynne Legge (*née* Greenway).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	114	158	5	3282	113	21.45	3	11	98
England	5	7	1	299	196	49.83	1	0	1
Overall	147	210	11	4955	196	24.89	7	16	123

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	80	2	40.00	3-23		
England	34	0				
Overall	181	8	22.62	3-23		

Although never perhaps scoring as heavily as his ability seemed to warrant, Geoffrey Legge was highly rated as a batsman during his two years in the Eleven at Malvern (1921-1922), where he was a

contemporary of Errol Holmes. Like most batsmen who learned the game at Malvern, he was particularly strong in the off drive and cut and in his final school season, *Wisden* was much impressed with his captaincy.

Despite excellent credentials however, progress to the next level proved slow. In August 1922 he played two matches for Kent Second Eleven with a top score of ten and in 1923 failed to progress beyond the Freshmens' match at Oxford. He achieved nothing much in three further appearances for Kent Second Eleven that year but in club cricket he was more successful, notably in an innings of 93 for West Kent against a strong IZ side at Chislehurst. At Oxford in 1924, it was virtually a repeat of 1923, selection for the Seniors' Match but nothing more. He did however, take a small step into first-class cricket, playing his first match for Kent, against Northants at Gravesend. He appeared again, against Oxford University in the Parks, but four innings produced only 12 runs.

Legge's 1925 Oxford season began with a double failure in the Seniors' Match but, given a chance against Worcestershire he, in the words of *Wisden*, 'carried off the honours' with 120 in 130 minutes and fairly earned his Blue, heading the averages with 498 runs (avge.35.57); only his fellow Malvernian Errol Holmes scored more.

In 1926, a season shortened by the General Strike, Legge was appointed captain of Oxford. His team won only one match but lost by a mere 34 runs to an immensely superior Cambridge Eleven. Despite missing three matches due to a hand injury following a car accident, described enigmatically by *Wisden* as an 'unfortunate affair' in which his deputy Holmes was also hurt, Legge again headed the averages with 441 runs (avge.40.09). A personal highlight was 113 at Eastbourne against a Leveson-Gower Eleven containing four Test cricketers including 'Gubby' Allen and Greville Stevens.

In 1927, with no university obligations, Legge was able to indulge in a full season of county cricket. At that stage he had played nine innings for Kent without once reaching double figures, but in his first match, against Derbyshire at Chatham, he scored 80 and, despite a pair against Essex at Gravesend and five other ducks, his final record was a respectable 951 runs (avge.29.71). Against Lancashire at Maidstone, he played the innings of his life, albeit overshadowed by the pyrotechnics of Percy Chapman (260) at the other end. Joining Chapman at 70 for 5 and facing a rampant Ted McDonald, then the best fast bowler in the world, Legge hit 101 in a partnership of 284 in 150 minutes. Five matches later, he shared another sixth-wicket partnership with Chapman, 144 v Surrey at Blackheath, Legge (104), Chapman (113).

In the 1927/1928 winter, Legge toured South Africa with MCC but, apart from a century against Orange Free State and 50* against Natal, he was a disappointment, emphasised by a duck in his only Test match. He captained the side against a South African Eleven at Benoni and on return to England succeeded John Evans as Kent captain. Although his batting declined – 891 runs (avge.21.73) with a top score of 90 – in terms of results, few Kent captains have started better. With 15 Championship wins against five defeats, Kent finished second, their highest position since they were second in 1919. They would not rise as high again until 1967.

Although hardly able to match the charisma of his successor Percy Chapman, among inter-war years Kent skippers, only Bryan Valentine and Lionel Troughton have bettered Legge's overall wins to matches ratio of 40.94%, only David Fulton has done so since. Writing of Chapman's captaincy of Kent in his *Cricket Prints*, that most perceptive of writers on cricket, Raymond Robertson-Glasgow, wrote that he (Chapman) 'brought breadth and humour to what was in danger of becoming narrow and parochial'. This sounds a little like a reflection on Legge but of course there must be other sides to the story.

Legge was chosen for a second MCC tour in 1929/1930, to Australia and New Zealand under the leadership of Harold Gilligan. No Test matches were played in Australia but Legge scored 42 and 47* against New South Wales and was picked for all four New Zealand Tests, in which his scores were 36, 39, nine, 19*, 196 and 0. His 196 at Eden Park was scored out of 356, included 23 fours and lasted 280

minutes. With next highest scorer Stan Nichols (75), 184 were added for the fifth-wicket. Legge's score remained the highest by a Kent batsman in Test cricket until Rob Key's 221 v West Indies in 2004.

In the remaining two years of his captaincy, Kent finished eighth in 1929 and fifth in 1930, when they registered eight wins, their most since 1923, but suffered eight defeats. His personal form improved in 1929 with over 900 runs, including a chanceless 113 v Derbyshire at Dover, but in 1930, possibly affected by the problems inevitable when attempting to combine a serious business career with county cricket, he failed to reach 500 runs, registered two pairs and averaged only 14.

Fortunately there was no decline in his fielding, especially his slip catching where he reputedly held just about everything within reach. He held 30 catches in 1927, 32 in 1928. On at least one occasion his catching cost him money. At Edgbaston in 1930, after Bob Wyatt had scored a century, Legge, never averse to a flutter, had a bet at 20 to one with Ian Akers-Douglas that Wyatt would get another hundred in the second innings. Legge lost ten pounds by catching the Warwickshire man at silly point for 98, off what both batsman and catcher were convinced was a bump ball.

A partner in the family business, an agency for various German and Scandinavian paper manufacturers, Legge found it increasingly difficult to find time for cricket and, after resigning the captaincy, played only one more game for Kent.

In 1933 he learned to fly and, for business purposes, acquired his own aircraft, first a Gipsy Moth, then a De Havilland Dragonfly and finally a very much up-market twin-engined Percival Q6. The latter was a five-seater, with a range of 1000 miles, in which he flew all over Europe. In partnership with another aviation enthusiast, 'Willie' Rhodes Moorhouse, he also established his own airfield at St. Merryn in Cornwall.

At the time living in Nash Farm, Fox Hill, Keston, on the outbreak of war, Geoffrey Legge joined the Fleet Air Arm and, as a highly experienced pilot, was granted an immediate commission. A fluent German speaker with detailed knowledge of German airfields and aviation, he was able to provide valuable information to the intelligence services. Judged too old for operational flying, he was posted to 752 Squadron, a training unit, at Lee-on-Solent. His airfield was requisitioned by the Admiralty in 1940 (as was his aircraft) and re-named HMS Vulture.

It was on a flight to HMS Vulture from Lee-on-Solent in a Fleet Air Arm Percival Proctor 1A, that he was killed together with his passenger, Sub-Lieutenant A.J. Franklin. The weather was bad but the cause was never established. In addition to his grave at St Merryn, he is commemorated on the war memorial at Benenden Green.

Legge's business partner 'Willie' Rhodes-Moorhouse, was probably best known at the time as a skier in the 1936 Winter Olympics team. The son of the recipient of the Royal Flying Corps' first VC (posthumous), during World War 2, Flying Officer Rhodes-Moorhouse DFC distinguished himself as a fighter pilot with six confirmed victories over France and in the Battle of Britain. He was killed in the battle in September 1940.

In 1929 Geoffrey Legge married Rosemary Katherine Frost. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £43,504. 9d. 8d.

William Howard Vincent Levett (No. 578).

Born: 25.1.1908; Goudhurst. *Died:* 30.11.1995; Hastings, East Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1930-1947. Kent cap: 1931.

Tests: One for England.

Educated: Brighton College.

Parents: Thomas Levett & Lottie Maud Levett (*née* Moss).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	142	214	44	2054	76	12.08	0	1	228/169
England	1	2	1	7	5	7.00	0	0	3/0
Overall	175	264	58	2524	76	12.25	0	2	282/195

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	6	0				

Howard ‘Hopper’ Levett was not only by general consent one of the finest in the long line of distinguished Kent wicketkeepers; he was also one of the best-loved and most widely-respected figures in the long history of Kent County Cricket Club.

Circa 1938, the late Raymond Robertson-Glasgow wrote ‘In the opinion of many, W.H.V. (‘Hopper’) Levett is the most brilliant of modern English wicketkeepers’. Leslie Ames who knew more about wicketkeeping than most, agreed, rating Levett on his day without equal on the leg side. Although he was destined to spend all but the closing year of his pre-war career as Ames’ deputy, all seem to be agreed that, while he may have never quite achieved the consistency of Ames, at his best he had few, if any, superiors.

Still at preparatory school when he first became hooked on wicketkeeping, Levett considered he owed much of his speed of hand and eye to long hours of childhood spent in solitary practice, throwing a golf ball (minus its outer cover) against a wall and catching the rebound at all angles via the lid of an old desk. The earliest stumping he could recall was at the age of eight, when he stumped his father in a Father’s eleven match at Linden Park.

At Brighton College he was First Eleven wicketkeeper from 1924 to 1926, in 1925 under the captaincy of Lionel Recordon (Kent 1927-1929). His ability earned him a favourable mention in the 1926 *Wisden*, which that year devoted 35 pages to Schools cricket. In 1926 he was chosen for Public Schools v the Army at Lord’s, playing alongside Bryan Valentine and Aidan Crawley and against Godfrey Bryan (*q.v.*).

In 1926 he was also picked for a Public School 15 to play the Australian tourists in a two-day match at Lord’s. The 15 included future Kent cricketers Ian Fleming and Howard Taylor (*q.v.*), as well as the future Middlesex and England batsman Edgar Killick. Initially the Australians objected to all 15 fielding, but eventually gave in. The reasoning behind matching a team of schoolboys, albeit in some cases rather mature schoolboys – only two were under 18 and Charles Andreae (Harrow) was 20 – against opponents with a combined total of 95 Test caps, is difficult to follow. The Australian side included Clarrie Grimmett, by then probably the most accomplished spin bowler in the world. Unsurprisingly, the match, ruined by rain, was never repeated. Levett took one catch (Johnnie Taylor) and in his only innings was bowled by Jack Ryder (4 for 9) for three.

On June 1st 1927 he made his Second Eleven debut for Kent, against Devonshire at Tunbridge Wells, one of five appearances that year. He went on to play two Second Eleven matches in each of the two following seasons and in 1930, with Ames playing in a Test Trial at Lord’s, made his first-class debut, against Worcestershire at Tunbridge Wells, where he caught one and stumped two. His first victim was Bernard Quaife, stumped off the brisk medium pace inswing of Bill Ashdown.

With Ames absent through injury, he made a second appearance, against Lancashire at Dover, where he caught three, stumped five, two off ‘Tich’ Freeman, two off Wally Hardinge and one off Ashdown. *Wisden* thought he had ‘acquitted himself brilliantly’. Coincidentally, the Lancashire wicketkeeper was Bill Farrimond who, like Levett, would keep wicket for England while still a deputy for his county.

1931 brought Levett four more first team appearances and his County Cap. Two of his matches were while Ames was on Test match duty and two when Ames played as a batsman, a move which paid dividends as in both matches he scored a century. In the second of the two, against the New Zealand tourists, Levett opened the batting with Ashdown but was bowled without scoring. He was twice chosen for Gentlemen v Players that year. In the first, at Lord's, he caught Ames off Walter Robins, and stumped three (two off Robins, one off 'Father' Marriott). In turn, Levett was dismissed by Ames, stumped from the bowling of Hedley Verity. The two were on opposite sides again in the second match, at Folkestone, where Levett's one scalp was Ames, caught from the fast bowling of Evelyn Baring.

Between 1934 and 1938 they were on opposing sides on a further four occasions, without again being directly involved in the other's dismissal.

After just three appearances for the County (plus another for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's) in 1932, Levett became firmly established in 1933 with 12 Kent appearances and 15 first-class matches in all. In seven of these Ames played as a batsman and in one, against Hampshire at Southampton; they switched roles, with Ames taking the gloves. In all matches, Levett achieved 53 dismissals (25 ct. / 28 st.) and registered his first half-century, 66 for South v MCC in the Folkestone Festival, where he helped Walter Hammond (184) to put on 159 for the third wicket. Against Nottinghamshire at Maidstone he caught four and stumped five, 2/2 in the first innings, 2/3 in the second.

In the winter he toured India and Ceylon (as it then was) with an MCC team captained by Douglas Jardine. The relationship between the cold, patrician, aloof Jardine and the witty, convivial and ever-talkative Levett must have been fascinating. Although playing in more matches (12 to seven) than the other keeper, Derbyshire's Harry Elliott, he was picked only for the second of the three Test matches, at Eden Gardens, Calcutta, in which he took three catches. Elliott was brought into the touring party when the original choice, Ames, changed his mind about touring.

What with Ames' increasingly frequent England commitments, Gentlemen v Players matches, MCC and festival matches and other odds and ends including three appearances for Minor Counties representative teams, Levett had rather more first-class cricket than came the way of most county reserve wicketkeepers. Once established, only once did he play fewer than 15 first-class matches in a season – 13 in 1937, ten of them for Kent. His busiest and most successful years were 1938 (24 matches, ct.51/st.17), 1939 (25 matches, ct.47/st.15), and 1936 (25 matches, ct.33/st.28).

In 1938 Ames's back problems ruled him out of the last three Test matches and from July onwards, apart from the Leicestershire match at Oakham, Levett was ever-present. After keeping through the run fest of the 1938/1939 tour of South Africa, on which he kept wicket while over 5,500 runs were scored, Ames' back finally succumbed and he relinquished the gloves to play the entire 1939 domestic season as a batsman. Levett thus became, albeit briefly, Kent's first choice keeper.

As a Territorial with a commission in the Royal West Kent Regiment, the approach of war brought more urgent commitments and he was obliged to miss two games in August, including the final fixture, Lancashire at Dover. His place was taken by the 17 year-old Godfrey Evans.

Levett served throughout the war in the UK, latterly in Physical Training, and reached the rank of Captain. In common with many county cricketers, he played in numerous charity matches during the war years, mainly for Army teams as well as for the British Empire Eleven, Buccaneers, Dover Wanderers and United Services, on venues as diverse as Lord's, Trent Bridge, Aigburth, Imber Court, Five Oak Green and Philiphaugh, Selkirk.

On the whole the cricket, usually confined to one or two-day matches, lacked the intensity of the pre-war game, but the teams were usually well up to county standard. When, in 1942, Levett played for Captain Parker's Twelve, against Beaconsfield, the team included six other past or future Test cricketers and the rest were highly experienced county cricketers, among them four county captains. The home

side also contained one past and one future England cricketer, as well as four others with first-class experience. In 1943, when he played for United Services against Sussex at Hove, one of his team mates was Keith Miller. In that year he married Pamela Goodhew (1920-1985) at Maidstone.

When cricket resumed after the war, Levett deputised for Evans in three matches for Kent and kept wicket for MCC v Sussex in the Hastings Festival. He also made five Second Eleven appearances, played in a one-day match for Buccaneers v Cambridge University at The Oval and at the end of the season dismissed five batsmen (four caught, one stumped) for Bryan Valentine's Eleven v the Netherlands at Capelle aan den IJssel. The stumping and one catch were from the bowling of the 54 year-old Percy Fender.

In 1947, with Evans now England's first choice keeper, Levett played 10 matches and added 16 catches, eight of them off Fred Ridgway, and three stumpings to his record. On his last appearance, against Worcestershire at Dover, he caught five. He also played two final Second Eleven games and at Beckenham against Gloucestershire Seconds made two stumpings from the bowling of the young leg spinner Alec Debnam. Levett's last game of any significance seems to have been a loosener for the 1951 South African tourists, a one-day match against a David Clark's Eleven at Mote Park, in which he held two catches.

Helped of course by the extent to which the Kent attack of his day relied on spin, his remarkable ratio of stumpings to catches provides convincing evidence of outstanding skill in that highly specialised branch of the wicketkeeper's duties. When keeping to all but one of Kent's major spin bowlers, he stumped more than he caught – Freeman ct.24/st.68, Claude Lewis ct.19/st.22, Marriott ct.8/st.15, Frank Woolley ct.2/st.5. Hardinge ct.1/st.5. The exception is Doug Wright, ct.19/st.19.

Spinners were not the only beneficiaries. Like many keepers of his and of earlier vintages, Levett preferred to stand up to everything except genuine pace. From the fast medium of Alan Watt he brought off 17 stumpings (and 51 catches), ten (and four catches) from the lively medium pace of Ashdown and 14 (and 39 catches) from Leslie Todd who, at different times, delivered left-arm over the wicket seam and orthodox spin.

In addition to his nine dismissals against Nottinghamshire at Maidstone in 1933 (see above), Levett accounted for nine batsmen v Northamptonshire (ct.7/st.2) at Northampton in 1934 and v Sussex (ct.5/st.4) at Tunbridge Wells in 1935. At Northampton, six of his dismissals were in the first innings (ct.4/st.2.). He dismissed six in an innings again v Glamorgan at Neath in 1939, (ct.5/st.1).

Levett was perhaps a better batsman than a 12.25 career average would suggest. Although usually in the lower order and a frequent choice as nightwatchman, according to published scores he opened 36 times. In all, he batted in every position in the order, most frequently at eight (53) and nine (55). He hit two half-centuries, one of them for Kent and participated in four century partnerships.

Continually moving up and down the order, Levett never managed 500 runs in a season, his nearest 420 in 1936, but he often contributed useful late-order runs. When achieving his personal best, 76 v Hampshire at Portsmouth in 1935, he shared a seventh wicket partnership of 133 with Wright (65); he twice took part in half-century last-wicket partnerships with Lewis.

When promoted to open, his first-wicket partnerships included 100 at Edgbaston in 1935 (Fagg 67, Levett 34), 90 at Neath in 1939 (Fagg 82, Levett 25) and 85 v Middlesex at Folkestone in 1934 (Ashdown 59, Levett 44). When Ames scored 128 against an attack including Larwood & Voce at Trent Bridge in 1935, Levett contributed 35 to a fifth wicket partnership of 105.

Between 1931 and 1936 Levett played eight times for Gentlemen v Players, four times at Lord's, once at the Scarborough Festival and three times at Folkestone. With his outlook on cricket and on life, it is difficult to think of a cricketer better suited to festival cricket as it used to be.

As we have seen, Levett's first team appearances for Kent were not confined to matches when Ames was otherwise engaged. The two appeared together in the same side 29 times up to the end 1938. Usually Ames, who relished a run in the outfield and in any case often needed to rest his back, played as a batsman and Levett took the gloves. They nevertheless reversed roles at least five times. To the annoyance of statisticians and probably the confusion of scorers, the two would reputedly on occasions switch in mid-match. As an old-time scorer pointed out to the writer, if they switched during an interval there is a fair chance that nobody noticed, especially on the last day of a game clearly destined for a draw.

Howard Levett served on the Kent committee from 1947 to 1978 and was President in 1978. The frequent gusts of laughter issuing from the President's marquee were a feature of the season. He was President of the Kent County Cricket Supporters Club and a founder member of the Hoppers Club. The Club, a convivial body, especially in Canterbury Week, was not however named after Hopper Levett but the noble hop itself. There is however a story that its origins were not entirely unconnected with the rejection of Hopper for membership of the Band of Brothers due to his father being 'in trade'. He did however become a social member of BB later in life.

As to how he came by the soubriquet 'Hopper', there are varying accounts. The most plausible seems to be his and his family's long-term involvement in hop production. On the other hand, Levett was not always the best turned-out of cricketers and somebody – possibly Percy Chapman – said he looked like a hop picker.

Despite his eminence as a cricketer, it is Hopper Levett the man who will be best remembered. Robertson-Glasgow alludes to his sense of fun and 'invincible conversation'. Without any thought of the 'mental disintegration' or taking batsmen out of their 'comfort zones' so much admired by modern players, on the field he kept up a flow of good-natured comment on events. Off field he would talk wisely and wittily to anyone about cricket or life, regardless of age, sex, creed, social status, occupation, state of mind or anything else without, it must be said, always bothering to end one sentence before embarking on the next. To this was added an ability, certainly rare, unique in the writer's experience, to recount tales of great contemporaries while somehow contriving to make cricketing nonentities among his listeners feel themselves part of the inner circle. He had achieved a rapport with the young, not common among cricketers of his generation, and took to travelling with the Second Eleven and Club & Ground sides until relatively late in life. *Wisden* did not exaggerate in describing him as 'probably the most popular man in Kent'.

Further Reading:

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Claude Lewis BEM (No. 588).

Born: 27.7.1908; Sittingbourne. *Died:* 26.4. 1993; Borstal, Rochester.

Left-handed batsman, slow left-arm bowler.

Kent: 1933-1953. Kent cap: 1935.

Educated: Sittingbourne Grammar School,

Parents: Bertie F. Lewis & Kate Lewis (*née* Thurlow).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	128	187	72	738	27	6.41	0	0	61

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	8198	301	27.23	8-58	14	4

As player from 1928 to 1953, coach from 1949 to 1963 and scorer from 1959 to 1988, Claude Lewis served Kent CCC for 60 years but, looking back, it is difficult to avoid the feeling that Kent's selection procedures seem at times a little odd. Certainly, one way or another, Lewis was unlucky. Throughout a lengthy career he was never an automatic choice for the First Eleven and only twice, in 1934 and 1935, did he bowl more than 500 overs in a season.

At this distance he certainly seems to have been under-used. As Lewis himself commented more than once, he was, for much of his career, the one most likely to be dropped to make room for an amateur, especially when allrounders such as Jack Davies were available. Even as late as 1939, Kent took the field with five of the 'expenses only' fraternity in seven of their home games. Significantly perhaps, only 17% of Lewis' first team matches were in August and only three times, once in 1937, twice in 1939, did he play in Canterbury Week.

At a time when most English counties considered a left-arm spinner essential, Kent relied heavily on the remarkable wicket-taking ability of Percy Freeman's leg spin reinforced by another leg spinner, 'Father' Marriott, in the school holidays. Consequently, as soon as Marriott became available, a third spinner was something of a luxury and Lewis was liable to find himself twelfth man or back in the Second Eleven. Furthermore, Lewis' arrival in the side coincided with the advent of a third leg spinner, Douglas Wright. On two occasions, Kent fielded all three.

Claude Lewis's father was a shipwright who, in the early 1900s, with his wife, branched out into restoring antique furniture, a skill which he passed on to his son for whom it became a useful sideline.

Lewis junior was in his school First Eleven and joined the Kent staff in 1928, making his Second Eleven debut in the following year against Devonshire at Folkestone. He played four Second Eleven matches that year, eight in 1930, and in 1931 headed the Second Eleven bowling averages with 36 wickets at 12.63 apiece, including 6 for 42 v Devonshire at Rectory Field, 5 for 50 & 4 for 22 v Buckinghamshire at Tunbridge Wells and 5 for 14 v Wiltshire at Salisbury. In 1932 he finished with 49 wickets (avge.19.51).

In 1933 Lewis made his first-class debut, against MCC at Lord's, a match played later than usual, commencing 7th June. It was a strange looking Kent team without Freeman, 'Wally' Hardinge and Frank Woolley. Arthur Fagg was behind the stumps, Les Ames in the outfield and Arthur Blunden and Edward Sheffield opened the bowling. Lewis began well with Patsy Hendren as his first wicket but, in common with the rest of the bowlers, he suffered at the hands of Alfred Jeacocke (94) and Walter Robins (106) and finished with 2 for 72. After the embarrassment of tearing his trousers and having to retire for repairs during his first fielding session, the onset of tonsillitis in the evening prevented him from taking any further part in the match.

Lewis made one further first team appearance in 1933, against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, and bowled 15 overs without taking a wicket. In his second game in 1934, when Essex totalled 244 on what *Wisden* described as a 'soft pitch' at Gravesend, he was brought on as second change and took 8 for 58 from 35.2 overs. Freeman who, with Lewis, did most of the bowling, delivered 36 overs for his 1 for 71. Kent lost, but Lewis bowled steadily in the second innings for his 2 for 52. He also registered his first pair, one via a run out.

Match figures of 10 for 110 might have been thought enough to justify an extended run in the first team but it was not that simple. The reasoning behind some of Kent's team selections at around this time can be hard to follow. As an example of the obstacles confronting an aspiring professional cricketer in the 1930s, a closer examination is perhaps worthwhile.

Lewis failed to take a wicket in the second match of Gravesend Week and was promptly dropped for the first game of the West Country tour, at Taunton. Restored at Bristol, he bowled only 11 overs and was out for the next two matches including the return with Essex at Brentwood. Back in the side at Leeds, he was again without a wicket and was dropped for the first match of Tonbridge Week but restored for Worcestershire in the second.

He was not in the side for the next fixture at Edgbaston but returned at Chesterfield where, given only four overs as Derbyshire scored 278 in their first innings, he claimed 4 for 50 in the second. Moving on to Old Trafford, against the eventual Champions, he produced arguably the best performance of his career – 7 for 73 & 5 for 44 including the wickets of Ernest Tyldesley (twice), Eddie Paynter (twice), Jack Iddon, and Len Hopwood (twice).

The outcome was a sequence of seven first team appearances which brought him 20 wickets, notably 6 for 122 on a plumb Trent Bridge pitch and 4 for 15 against Derbyshire at Tunbridge Wells. However, in the last of the seven, at Northampton, another left arm spinner, the Cambridge Blue John Grimshaw (*q.v.*), was brought in. Given the ball ahead of Lewis, Grimshaw produced marginally better figures – 3 for 47 against 2 for 38. Inevitably perhaps, the amateur played against Yorkshire at Mote Park, with Lewis again sidelined. This proved to be Grimshaw's last appearance for Kent's first team.

Restored to the side for Sussex in the second half of Maidstone Week, Lewis held his place for Surrey at The Oval, but Marriott was now playing and Lewis' first-class season ended on July 31st. At 30.25 apiece, his wickets were a touch expensive by the standards of the day but his 55 wickets included 38 top order batsmen and even the great Charlie Parker's 117 wickets came at 31.82 each that year. Although playing only four Minor County Championship matches, 31 wickets at 12.35 put him at the head of the Second Eleven averages. *Wisden* commented 'With experience Lewis may go far'.

While never, as it turned out, quite destined for greatness, 1935 proved to be Lewis's busiest season with 56 wickets (avge.26.96) from 24 matches. Apart from 5 for 13 v Leicestershire at Gravesend in the opening match of the season, and match figures of 9 for 98 v Somerset at Maidstone, he did nothing particularly remarkable but bowled steadily throughout and for the first time made five first team appearances in August, including figures of 40-16-54-1 against the South Africans at Canterbury. But things had not changed all that much; Freeman was absent from the Somerset match at Mote Park. With his return (and Marriott's), despite having claimed nine wickets, Lewis was dropped for the next match, at The Oval.

The chances of more frequent selection following Freeman's retirement, were offset by the fact that in 1937 /38 Woolley rediscovered some of his old bowling skill and over the next three seasons Lewis was constantly in and out of the side – 19 appearances in 1936 and 1938, only ten in 1937 – and his form fluctuated from 34 wickets (avge.24.67) in 1936, to 12 at 52.50 in 1937.

In the 1939 *Kent Cricket Annual* editor Sir Home Gordon thought Lewis 'still too expensive', but spinners flourished in the wet 1939 season, Lewis more than many with 56 wickets at 17.12 apiece. This placed him eighth in the national averages and second to Wright for Kent. However he still played in only 15 matches and bowled only 301.5 (eight ball) overs.

Beginning with 3 for 67 at Headingley, he followed with 6 for 46 & 5 for 57 v Worcestershire at Gillingham and 6 for 18 & 4 for 106 at Trent Bridge where in the first innings he achieved a hat trick, Jack Knowles (stumped) and Frank Woodhead (bowled) with his last two balls before lunch, Harold Butler (caught) off his first after the interval. When he took the field at Southampton, he had 24 wickets for 294 to his credit, but he still bowled only four overs and was out of the Eleven for the next five matches, including the whole of Tonbridge Week. After being brought back for a run of five games in which he bowled only 69 overs, he was left out for Maidstone Week - Kent fielded five amateurs in both matches. Returning to take 6 for 49 against Surrey at Blackheath, he was out for the next two fixtures.

Back again for a Canterbury Week (only his second), in which Kent lost both matches, he took 6 for 38 & 3 for 40 v Hampshire but suffered amid the rain squalls with the rest of the Kent attack, when 'Big Jim' Smith launched his famous assault in the Middlesex match. For the remainder of the season he played three matches and then, for no obvious reason, was left out at Hastings, where Kent played only one spinner, and for the second half of Dover Week, v Lancashire, the last pre-war match, in which he was replaced by Davies.

During the war years Claude Lewis worked in Chatham Dockyard but found time for a fair amount of cricket for teams including Aylesford Paper Mills, Canterbury & District, London Counties, Shorts Sports CC and Dover Wanderers. For the latter in 1945, he took 6 for 44 against an A.I.F. team including Lindsay Hassett, Bert Cheetham, Cec Pepper, Charlie Price and Ross Whittington, all of whom played for Australia that year in the 'Victory. Test Series.

Back to county cricket in 1946, Lewis played 16 matches, one more than 1939, but missed 11. He had a run of six matches in May/early June but missed six in July/August, including the whole of Canterbury Week. Among the spinners, Wright, Dovey and Davies all delivered more than his 243.5 overs. The end of season report in the Kent Annual described his 29 wickets at 23.89 as 'disappointing'. Generally he was used as third or fourth change, but when he came on as first change in the second innings against Yorkshire at Bradford, he took 4 for 56 (including Hutton) and 2 for 38 & 5 for 52 when he was first change against Somerset at Bath.

Lewis played three first team and a few Second Eleven matches in 1947, but in that year the Report of the Young Players' Committee included a note that he was 'retained to assist' the coach Ted Humphreys whenever available. Following the latter's retirement in 1949, Lewis succeeded him as coach but nevertheless played three Championship matches that year, taking eight wickets including 3 for 67 at Old Trafford and 3 for 44 at Chesterfield. In 1953, he took the field for one last time, against Leicestershire at Loughborough, where he claimed his last wicket, Maurice Tompkin stumped.

With 39 ducks, 58 other single figure scores and only six innings of 20 or more, Lewis was a fully paid-up tailender. In 1935/1936 he played 39 successive innings without reaching double figures. However, on the three occasions on which he was pushed up the order as night watchman, he survived till the following morning, albeit not for very long. One such was in the first innings of his last match. 0* overnight, caught next day for one. He took part in four half-century partnerships for the last wicket – 84 v Hampshire at Southampton in 1939 (Wright 84*, Lewis 22), 63 v Essex at Gravesend in 1938 (Wright 51*, Lewis 19), 52 v Derbyshire at Tonbridge in 1938 (Levett 31*, Lewis 16) and 52 v Surrey at The Oval, 1939 when he achieved his personal top score (Levett 38*, Lewis 27).

Although as a bowler his career figures are not outstanding, over 62% of his wickets were top order batsmen including John Arnold seven times, Eddie Cooper, Laurie Fishlock, Charlie Harris, Frank Lee, Eddie Paynter and Les Townsend (four), Joe Hardstaff, Jack Iddon, Walter Keeton, Winston Place, Stan Squires, and Maurice Turnbull (three) and Harold Gimblett, Len Hutton, James Langridge, Maurice Leyland, Arthur Mitchell, Jack O'Connor and Andy Sandham (twice). As well as Hendren, batsmen he dismissed once included Charles Barnett, Arthur Carr, Walter Hammond, the Nawab of Pataudi (senior) and Cyril Washbrook.

Combined with his coaching duties, Lewis continued turning out in Second Eleven matches until 1957. In 1956, with figures including 6 for 21 v Norfolk at Tunbridge Wells, 4 for 26 v Surrey at Beckenham and 4 for 29 v Essex at Gravesend, his 21 wickets at 10.66 each put him at the top of the Second Eleven bowling averages.

As coach, in the opinion of many of those best qualified to judge, Lewis was in the very top flight, never seen to better advantage than when conducting the Easter Classes. His crucial role in the development of players such as Alan Knott, Brian Luckhurst – a fellow Sittingbourne man – and Derek Underwood, would in itself have been enough but, beyond that, with lesser talents there was a rare gift for developing strengths and eradicating, or compensating for, faults. He remained a man of his time. Derek Ufton

recounts being reprimanded and threatened with being reported to the committee, for calling the young, newly-arrived, Colin Cowdrey by his first name, even though Cowdrey had himself invited him to do so.

As scorer in the days before technology took over, he was quietly efficient and much liked around the county circuit, although fellow scorers and others not well-versed in British films of the 1940s were sometimes puzzled by his habit of referring to wicket maidens as 'Margaret Lockwoods'. While exemplifying as he did all that was best about the average professional cricketer of the inter-war years, he did not suffer fools, gladly or otherwise. One of the minor pleasures of talking to him, at least for the writer, was hearing him on the subject of a famously hirsute, somewhat bumptious, now deceased, media personality who had on several occasions been silly enough to upset him.

Recognition of his services came with a BEM in the 1989 New Year Honours. His benefit in 1952 raised £2,097; he was also awarded a Testimonial in 1978.

Sir William O'Brian Lindsay KBE (No. 584).

Born: 8.10. 1909; Canterbury. *Died:* 20.10.1975; Nairobi, Kenya.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1931.

Educated: Harrow School & Balliol College, Oxford.

Parents: Michael Egan Lindsay & Elsie Catherine Harriett Lindsay (*née* Riddiford).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	2	2	0	22	22	11.00	0	0	2
Overall	17	28	1	531	63	19.66	0	0	10/2

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	Did not bowl					
Overall	18	0				

No stylist but a determined batsman, strong on the leg side, William Lindsay was in the Eleven at Harrow from 1926 until 1928 and hit six centuries, including the first ever for Harrow against Winchester. In 1927 and in 1928, as well as keeping wicket, he opened the batting and, while captaining the side in the latter year, headed the averages with over 700 runs; this despite a hand injury. He kept wicket for the Public Schools against the Army at Lord's in 1927 and again in 1928.

At Oxford in 1929 he did little in the Freshmens' Match but played three times for the University, with a top score of 32, and in July kept wicket for Scotland against the South African tourists at Perth. Next year he scored 50 in the first Trial and, even allowing for a batting line-up including Aidan Crawley, the Nawab of Pataudi senr, Alan Melville and Denis Moore, he was perhaps unlucky to receive only one chance – against Leicestershire in which he scored 30 and 26 – the more so as the chosen wicketkeeper, John Mayhew, was struggling for form.

In March/April 1931 Lindsay toured Egypt with H.M.Martineau's Eleven, keeping wicket and scoring over 300 runs with two half-centuries. At Oxford in 1931 he at last won his Blue but seems to have been more than a little fortunate. He was one of four wicketkeepers tried, but the wicketkeeping place went to Donald Raikes (*q.v.*). As a batsman, Lindsay scored only 108 runs (avge.13.50) with a top score of 25, a score he reached three times in four innings.

In July he played two matches for Kent and in the first, against Warwickshire, deputised for Leslie Ames behind the stumps, took a catch and, opening the batting, scored 22, his highest score (and only

runs) in county cricket. With Colin Fairservice, he shared an opening partnership of 50. In 1932, his final year at Oxford, he played in only five matches and was unable to hold his place. He did however play his best innings in first-class cricket, 63 against Lancashire, ground out in 165 minutes.

Lindsay had a distinguished career in the Colonial Service but played on occasions for MCC when home on leave. He studied law, entered the Sudan Political Service in 1932 and, in 1936, became Commandant of the Administration and Police School in Khartoum. He entered the Legal Department two years later, became a Police Magistrate and in 1944 a Judge in the High Court. He was promoted to Chief Justice in 1950 and was a Member of the Chief Justice (Independent Judiciary) from 1954 to 1955. He was knighted for his services and retired as Chief Justice in 1956.

He married three times and had four children, three by his first wife and one by the second. His first wife, Sevilla Janey Glass Hopper (1910-2013), he married in Bridport, Dorset in 1937. In 1975 he married his third wife, Michaela Holdsworth (1914-2003), widow of Armand Denis, who had died four years earlier. Armand and Michaela Denis were well known in the 1950s and 1960s for their wildlife documentaries, widely shown on television and in the cinema.

Michaela Denis had a varied career - she was Deborah Kerr's double in the film *King Solomon's Mines* – and late in life she set up a clinic in Nairobi to exploit her newly discovered gift for healing. Sadly, William Lindsay, who had been Michaela's lawyer, did not derive any obvious benefit. He died in his sleep three months after the marriage. His estate in England & Wales was valued at £48,183.

Thomas Cuthbert Longfield (No. 564).

Born: 12.5.1906; High Halstow. *Died:* 21.12.1981; Ealing, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium pace bowler.

Kent 1927-1939.

Educated: Aldenham School & Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Parents: Rev Thomas William Longfield & Ellana Albina Josephine Longfield (*née* Gardiner.).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	30	43	6	731	72	19.75	0	3	13
Overall	82	127	18	2446	120	22.44	2	7	49

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	1524	23	66.26	4-96		
Overall	6416	195	32.90	6-12	7	0

The son of the vicar of High Halstow, Tom Longfield started early as a cricketer, gaining a place in the Eleven at Aldenham aged 15. In the side from 1921 to 1925, in his final year, when he also captained, he headed both batting and bowling averages with 467 runs (avge.58.38) and 43 wickets (avge.9.26). He also led the batting averages for Band of Brothers Babes and played four times for Kent Seconds, impressing with 3 for 15 against Buckinghamshire at Bickley Park.

At Cambridge in 1926 he failed in the Freshmens' match and progressed no further but made another ten appearances for Kent in the Minor Counties Championship, scoring 88* v Norfolk at Lakenham and taking 4 for 25 & 3 for 7 v Buckinghamshire at Bletchley Park. In the following year, a half-century and seven wickets in the Seniors' trial at Cambridge, led to selection for the opening game of the season against Yorkshire. An adaptable middle-order batsman with a stylish, mainly front foot technique, he bowled steady medium-pace with a near perfect action, movement off the seam and a useful outswinger and, with the addition of reliable slip catching, he quickly became the Cambridge side's leading all-rounder.

Second in the batting averages to Duleepsinhji (who averaged over 100 but, due to pneumonia, played only three matches), he scored 504 runs (avge.42.00), including a century against Gloucestershire, and took 46 wickets, with a best of 6 for 90 against the strong Nottinghamshire batting line up and 4 for 71 & 4 for 55 v the New Zealanders, both on the flat Fenner's wicket. Against Oxford, with a match return of 8 for 93 and a second innings 48, he had a major share in a Cambridge victory.

Making his first-class debut for Kent against Surrey at Blackheath, he hit 72 (in a total of 467), followed by 45 v Worcestershire at Dudley, but in a further five appearances he only once passed 30 and, although often given the new ball, he gathered only six expensive wickets. At the end of the season he was chosen for Gentlemen v Players in the Folkestone Festival where, although failing to take a wicket, he scored 43* batting number ten.

Beginning with 120 against Leicestershire at Fenner's, Longfield's second season in the Cambridge Eleven followed broadly the pattern of the first, with over 500 runs and 44 wickets. Against Northants at Wantage Road, he hit 90 to go with bowling figures of 3 for 42 & 3 for 49 but reserved his best performance with the ball for the Varsity match. With Oxford needing 335 in 215 minutes, Longfield's 4 for 49 from 23 overs took Cambridge close to victory, with the Dark Blue's last pair holding on for almost half an hour.

For Kent, Longfield played one game in May and nine at the end of Term, batting usefully without doing anything out of the ordinary, apart from a half-century at Leicester and 45* against Lancashire at Mote Park, top score when Kent were bowled out for 119.

In 1929 Longfield sailed to India to commence a business career in Calcutta (now Kolkata), mainly in tea and jute and destined to last until 1956. In 1931 and 1939 he made a further 13 appearances for Kent while home on leave, playing one innings of outstanding quality, 68* at Folkestone in 1931 against the full Yorkshire attack of Bowes, Robinson, Macaulay and Verity, top scorer as Kent slid to an innings defeat on a wearing wicket. As a bowler, he was a useful partnership breaker but never enjoyed the success of his university days or of his latter days on Indian wickets. While on leave in England, he played for MCC, Band of Brothers, Free Foresters, for Leveson Gower's Eleven against his old university and once more for the Gentlemen in the 1936 Folkestone Festival.

Tom Longfield was an important figure in Indian cricket and a leading light in the Calcutta Club. In 1939 he led Bengal to their only victory in the Final of the Ranji Trophy and represented the Europeans in the Bombay Quadrangular Tournament, taking 5 for 48 v the Parsees in 1929. As late as 1944, he opened the batting for the Bengal Governor's Eleven v a strong Services team including Denis Compton, Reg Simpson and Joe Hardstaff. Some of his best bowling performances were at Eden Gardens, Calcutta – 6 for 12 v Bihar and 6 for 57 v Central India in 1937, 5 for 27 v Central India and 4 for 48 v Southern Punjab in 1939. Longfield's last first-class match was for Free Foresters v Oxford University in 1951.

At Strood in 1936, he married Elizabeth Heath Garrett (1913-1978). There was one son and one daughter, Susan. One of the leading fashion models of the day, she married the Sussex and England captain Ted Dexter. On his death, Tom Longfield's estate was valued at £50,537.

In a letter to *The Cricketer* shortly after Longfield's return to England in 1956, the distinguished commentator Pearson Surita, who had played for Calcutta CC under Longfield's captaincy, wrote that 'His fluent batsmanship against all styles of bowling was always something to admire and study; the run-up and delivery of his right-arm medium-pace bowling would have had the purists groping for adjectives, while his catching at first slip might have qualified him for any first-class encounter. In short, he was the complete cricketer and, in addition, a captain of vast insight – "Even his cap was worn with a touch of style which a number of us tried to emulate but could never quite achieve'.

Richard Geoffrey Harvey Lowe (No. 560).

Born: 11.6.1904; Wimbledon, London. *Died:* 5.7.1986; Tunbridge Wells.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm fast medium bowler.

Kent 1926.

Educated: Westminster School & Trinity College, Cambridge.

Parents: Lionel Harvey Lowe & Florence Edith Lowe (*née* Watts).

First Class Career Record**Batting and Fielding**

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	2	2	2	17	9*	-	0	0	1
Overall	33	44	7	697	83	18.83	0	2	16

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	53	3	18.33	2-5		
Overall	1837	70	26.24	5-22	3	0

The son of a Civil Servant, Dick Lowe gained a great reputation at Westminster from 1920 to 1923, captaining in his last year, when he led both batting and bowling averages; *Wisden* rated him 'the outstanding public school allrounder of the year'. He represented the Public Schools against the Army at Lord's in 1922 and 1923 and the Rest against Lord's Schools in 1923. In August that year he scored 30 and claimed four wickets for Kent Second Eleven against Wiltshire at Blackheath.

At Cambridge in 1924 back trouble kept him away from cricket but runs and wickets in the 1925 Senior's Match and in the Trials brought an entry into first-class cricket, against Leicestershire, and ultimately the first of his three Blues. Used primarily as a stock bowler, his 32 wickets in 1925 included 5 for 31 v Free Foresters at Fenner's. Up until the fixture against Somerset at Bath, his batting had disappointed but, promoted to open after batting number ten in the previous match, he scored 83, adding 154 for the first- wicket with Eddie Dawson (67).

For Lowe, the 1926 University season was distinctly odd and, at this distance, he looks to have been a bit lucky to have held his place. Tried, unsuccessfully, as an opener, he settled in the middle order but scored only 193 runs (ave.19.30), 41% of them coming in an innings of 80 against Surrey at The Oval. As a bowler, up to the MCC match at Lord's, he had been used almost invariably as third change, bowled a mere 86 overs and taken only three wickets. Against MCC he took 0 for 81 in the first innings but, promoted to first change, dismissed four of the MCC top five for 25 runs in the second. Against Oxford, he was back to third change, but brought about a post-lunch collapse with 5 for 22, which included the wickets of Errol Homes and Geoffrey Legge and a hat trick to dispose of numbers nine, ten and 11 (W.N.McBride, M.A.McCanlis and J.W.Greenstock.). In the second innings, still third change, he took 3 for 34 (including Holmes, bowled for the second time.) In July he played two matches for Kent. In the first, against Surrey at The Oval, he came on fourth change and took 2 for 5 in two overs, again including Holmes, stumped.

Apart from 5 for 71 against Middlesex at Fenner's, Lowe was not more than useful for Cambridge in 1927 but he did enough for a third Blue. This ended his participation in the first-class game although he made one more appearance for Kent Seconds, when he took 4 for 13 against Norfolk at Lakenheath.

Although ill-health restricted his cricket, Lowe played intermittently for Band of Brothers from 1924 until 1936 and continued to serve as an umpire until well into old age. At Westminster he distinguished himself as a footballer, captaining the side in 1923.

At the time of his marriage to Joan Dorothy Lewis at All Saints Parish Church, Woodham, Surrey in 1929, Dick Lowe was a stockbroker but from 1935 until 1954 he was Headmaster of Parkfield Preparatory School, Heathfield, Sussex. On his death, his estate was valued at £61,512.

Charles Arthur Blake Mcvittie MBE (No. 575).

Born: 30 July 1908, Rugeley, Staffordshire. *Died:* 4 September 1973, Stowting Common.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1929.

Educated: Bedford School & Caius College, Cambridge University.

Parents: Arthur Craigie McVittie & Margaret Douglas McVittie (*née* Adie).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	1	1	0	30	30	30.00	0	0	2
Overall	4	4	2	58	30	29.00	0	0	3

Bowling

Did not bowl

The son of a doctor who moved his practice from Rugeley to Aldington, Charles McVittie was in the Eleven at Bedford School from 1924 to 1927, hitting two centuries and heading the averages in 1925 and 1926. In 1927 he was chosen to keep wicket at Lord's for the Rest v Lord's Schools and Young Amateurs v Young Professionals. While still at school in 1926 he was picked for Kent Second Eleven against Norfolk at Lakenham, but whether as wicketkeeper is unclear as both Les Ames and Jack Hubble were in the side.

At Cambridge in 1929 he played in the Freshmens' Match and was selected as wicketkeeper in three games but when the team went on tour the preference was for John Morgan (Glamorgan) and it was Morgan who kept against Cambridge.

There had been further appearances for McVittie behind the stumps for Kent Second Eleven in 1927, 1928 and in 1929, in the last of which, v Wiltshire at Blackheath, he scored 46 in a first-wicket partnership of 127 with George Watson (76). A week later, with Leslie Ames absent on England duty at The Oval, McVittie was called into the first team against Derbyshire at Dover. As well as holding two catches, he hit 30, his highest score in first-class cricket, in an eighth wicket partnership of 112 with Geoffrey Legge (113). This was his only appearance for Kent in first-class cricket.

McVittie remained at Cambridge for only four terms and left without graduating. Between the wars he had some success as a racehorse trainer but his post-war career was in air transport. Commissioned in the Welsh Guards in October 1940, he served with the regiment throughout the war and reached the rank of Captain. In 1945 was awarded the MBE for services in North-West Europe. In 1932 he married Everill Margery Hobbs in Ashford. On his death his effects were valued at £2,951.

Charles Stowell Marriott (No. 552).

Born: 14. 9. 1895; Heaton Moor, Lancashire. *Died:* 13. 10.1 966: St. Andrews Nursing Home, Dollis Hill, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg spin/off spin bowler.

Kent 1924-1937. Kent Cap 1924.

Tests: One for England.

Educated: Monkston Park School Dublin, Royal School, Armagh, St Columba's College, Dublin, Trinity College, Dublin & Peterhouse College, Cambridge.

Parents: Joshua Hyde Marriott & Gertrude Marriott (*née* Stowell).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	101	105	31	356	21	4.81	0	0	26
England	1	1	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	1
Overall	159	178	48	574	21	4.41	0	0	47

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	9391	463	20.28	7-52	32	8
England	96	11	8.72	6-59	2	1
Overall	14304	711	20.11	8-98	48	10

Unathletic, with the reputation of being one of the worst fielders and least productive batsmen ever to grace the county circuit, Charles 'Father' Marriott was, nevertheless, one of the most remarkable cricketers ever to appear for Kent. For well over a decade between the wars he was among the finest spin bowlers in the country and his bowling against West Indies at The Oval in 1933 gives him a reasonable claim to the title of England's greatest 'one Test wonder'.

Largely self-taught so far as the mysteries of leg breaks and googlies are concerned, few can have devoted so much thought to the art. His *The Complete Leg-Break Bowler* (Eyre & Spottiswoode, 1968) is surely not only the best and most comprehensive book ever written on the subject, but also the most readable.

Tall, with long, strong fingers and with tighter control than most of his type – he was described in *The Cricketer* in 1928 as 'probably the best length bowler in the country' - Marriott relied mainly on the leg break and top spinner, bowled at near medium pace, varied with a well-disguised faster ball which he delighted in using to batsmen who persisted in playing him off the back foot. Over 20% of his wickets came from lbw decisions. Very sparing with the googly – in his book he writes that for a time he bowled one per innings 'to please 'Tich' Freeman'. Far more important in his armoury was an orthodox, finger-spun off break which, normally bowled rather quicker than the leg break, was much used against left-handers.

Starting from the direction of mid off, he took a short, prancing run, once described as 'like marking time at the double' and, just before delivery, whipped his right arm behind his back, hiding the ball from the batsman's sight, and often hitting himself between the shoulder blades with a thwack audible to striker and wicketkeeper. According to Raymond Robertson-Glasgow, after bowling a batsman he would stand leaning forward with his hands behind his back 'like a doctor watching a patient from the end of the bed'. Like Terry Alderman of later vintage, he had a habit of bowling with, what appeared to be but was not, a smile on his face.

The son of a Stockport solicitor, Charles Marriott was educated in Ireland and it was there he learned to bowl. He was fortunate in that his main schooling was at St. Columba's College, where cricket was well established. One of the governors was Sir Stanley Cochrane, the most enthusiastic (and wealthiest) patron of cricket in Ireland and, incidentally, no mean cricketer himself. Regularly hosting visits from touring Test teams and full county sides, his private ground at Woodbrook, near Bray, was of Test match standard, with lavishly equipped dressing rooms, indoor practice facilities and its own railway station.

Before arriving at St. Columba's, in 1911 Marriott had been in the Eleven at the Royal School Armagh. At St. Columba's, encouraged by the master-in-charge of cricket, B.W.Burton, and the school professional, Tom Lawton, he developed his technique by hard work and application, helped by close study of the methods of some of the noted exponents of the leg spinner's art he watched at Woodbrook. Among the professionals employed there was the great South African googly bowler Ernie Vogler and

visiting teams included the immortal Sydney Barnes, 'Young Jack' Hearne, the Australian Dr 'Ranji' Hordern and South Africans Aubrey Faulkner, Sidney Pegler and Gordon White.

Marriott was in the Eleven at St. Columba's in 1912 and 1913 and in the latter year, when the school won the Leinster Schools Cup, he took 9 for 3 against St. Andrew's College Dublin, followed by match figures of 11 for 70 when Dublin High School were beaten by an innings in the Final. He was considered good enough to play two matches for Woodbrook. Sadly in view of Ireland's recently acquired Test match status, Cochrane abandoned cricket at Woodbrook in 1913, due largely to lack of support and public apathy as well as, it was rumoured, pressure from militant republican elements. What could have been a fully-fledged Test venue was switched to tennis and golf, with the indoor practice area turned into an opera house.

Entering Trinity College, Dublin in 1914, Marriott's education (and his cricket) was interrupted by the outbreak of war. He had been in the Officer Training Corps at St. Columba's and had joined the O.T.C. at Trinity. In October 1915 he was enrolled as a (Temporary) Second Lieutenant in the 21st (Reserve) Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers. His application for a commission was signed by his now widowed mother. In March 1916 he joined the 16th (2nd Salford Pals) Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers, 96 Brigade, 32nd Division, X Corps in France.

For Marriott, like so many of his generation, 1st July 1916 would be a defining moment in his young life. On that morning, still not 21, he was a platoon commander with C Company under orders to advance in support of 16th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (Newcastle Commercial) who, together with 1st Salford Pals, were leading the attack on the village and ruined chateau of Thiepval. Caught by German machine gun fire as they left their trenches and devastated by the counter bombardment, not a man in the first six waves reached the German wire and, with the survivors pinned down in shell holes or back in their now much battered trenches, only a last minute decision to call off the attack saved the follow-up troops, including Marriott's Company, from sharing their fate. Disorganised and much depleted in numbers by intense shelling of the crowded communication trenches on their way up, C Company spent the rest of 1st July and all of the of 2nd, holding the front line, recovering the wounded and clearing the dead.

In a 1964 unpublished memoir Marriott wrote -:

'After all these years I still see certain gruesome sights burnt in the memory as we struggled to the front line. At last we were ready and I was bracing myself for the hideous decision to go over the top when we were saved from further massacre in the nick of time by a sweating runner with a message from the CO to stay put. My God, what a moment!— No-man's land covered with dead bodies was a sight I can never forget'.

At the end of July, the by now much under strength Battalion was relieved and, after taking in replacements, posted north to the Bethune, Cambrin, La Basseé sector. Apart from a short spell in England for treatment of an elbow injured in a fall from an icy duckboard, Marriott served with the Battalion until November 1917 and experienced two further spells on the Somme, the advance to the Hindenburg Line and the Ypres Salient. He distinguished himself in several trench raids and, on one occasion at least, was clearly unlucky not to be awarded an MC. In November 1916 he was promoted to (temporary) Lieutenant, and twice found himself in command of the Company with the acting rank of Captain.

At different times, his Battalion was posted to the extreme right of the British line at St. Quentin and the extreme left among the sand dunes near Nieupoort. It was here that, in July 1917, while again acting Company CO, he and 12 of his men suffered from the effects of the recently introduced mustard gas. Returned to the UK on sick leave, in addition to the gas, he was diagnosed as suffering from neurasthenia, otherwise known at the time as shell shock, and classed as unfit for further overseas service. Posted to the 3rd Battalion, a reserve unit, in July 1918 he transferred to the RAF and served with the Cadet Wing at Hastings as 'Infantry Instructor'. He remained there for the remainder of the

War, leaving the service in April 1919. Further details of Marriott's Army service, and particularly of his participation in trench raids, will be found in Paul Lewis' *For Kent & County* (Reveille Press, 2014).

Apart from a few pre-war club games with Heaton Moor, Marriott had played little cricket in England and he was still in the RAF when he made his first appearance on a wider stage. Recommended to Pelham Warner by 'Wally' Hardinge (*q.v.*), who had seen him in services matches, Lieutenant Marriott bowled eight overs for 17 runs and no wicket for Col. F.S.Jackson's Eleven v Capt. Warner's Eleven, before a crowd of 8,000 at Lord's on 31st August 1918. A fortnight later, at Dover, he did better. For Capt. Warner's Eleven v United Services he took 7 for 59 and 8 for 69, his haul including Lance Corporal Andrew Sandham and Able Seaman 'Punter' Humphreys (twice). At the end of the season he played against The Army of the Rhine while touring with The Robins.

Shortly after demobilisation, on May 12th 1919, Marriott made his first-class debut, for the Gentlemen of England against Oxford in the opening match of the University season. *Wisden* thought the title Gentlemen of England 'a little too high-sounding' and it is hard to disagree. Captained by Cloudesley Marsham (*q.v.*), the Eleven contained no England cricketers, past or future other than Marriott who did not get his England cap until 1933. In the first innings the debutant accounted for numbers three, four, five and six in the Oxford order at the cost of 56 runs but bowled only five wicketless overs in the second.

Approached by Lancashire, Marriott agreed to turn out for them but he was living with his mother in Herne Bay which would limit his availability. In any case, he would shortly be going up to university. He nevertheless expressed a wish to play in a Roses Match and, in the event found time for eight Lancashire matches, four at Old Trafford, one each at Leyton, Lord's, The Oval and Trent Bridge.

His first appearance, against Essex at Leyton, was also the first time he had seen a county match. It was a personal success, 5 for 52 in the first innings but, after trailing by 35, Essex brought off an unexpected win by nine wickets. Marriott got his wish and played in the Roses Match at Old Trafford, but took only two wickets, Roy Kilner in both innings. There was a link between batsman and bowler. On 1st July 1916, Kilner was about three miles north of Marriott opposite Serre with 15th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Leeds Pals). Fortunately as it turned out, he was wounded in the wrist by shrapnel or shell splinters before he reached the assembly trenches and was evacuated. That day, his Battalion suffered 524 casualties, one of them Lieutenant Major Booth (Yorkshire & England).

Without making much impression, Marriott played twice against the Australian Imperial Forces, 2 for 87 for Lancashire at Old Trafford and 0 for 30 for a strong Gentlemen of England side at Lord's. The high point of his season was 8 for 98 v Notts on a Trent Bridge pitch which, according to *Wisden*, 'was far too good to give him the least assistance'. His victims included George and John Gunn, Arthur Carr and Joe Hardstaff senior. In contrast, in his last match of the season, when Surrey scored 404 at Old Trafford with centuries from Jack Hobbs and Donald Knight, his figures were 27-3-113-0. His record for the season, 37 wickets at 27.70, was expensive by later standards but creditable enough, given his limited experience. He finished the season with three successive ducks but twice scored 16, which would remain his highest score until 1924.

Going up to Cambridge in 1920, Marriott promptly made his mark with 3 for 55 (including Percy Chapman) & 6 for 58 in the Freshmens' Match, followed immediately with 6 for 103 & 3 for 15 in the University v the Next Sixteen trial. Despite missing three games, he continued in similar vein throughout the season with 5 for 42 & 4 for 39 against an admittedly weak Royal Navy side, 7 for 60 & 4 for 42 against a stronger Free Foresters, 6 for 60 & 3 for 47 v Sussex at Hove, culminating in 7 for 69 in the rain-ruined University match. 50 wickets at 13.58 placed him comfortably top of the Cambridge averages and 2 for 8 in his only other first-class match, Lancashire v Gloucestershire at Old Trafford, elevated him to second among regular bowlers in the national averages.

Marriott began the 1921 season at Fenner's pretty much where he left off with 3 for 54 & 4 for 67 against his native Lancashire, 4 for 45 & 4 for 75 v Somerset and 5 for 38 & 3 for 57 v Yorkshire who

were beaten by 123 runs. His bag in the latter fixture included Herbert Sutcliffe, Edgar Oldroyd and both Roy (again) and Norman Kilner. The shadow of 1st July 1916 persisted. In the second innings, Marriott was caught by Roy Kilner and in the first bowled for a duck by Abe Waddington, who was wounded that day in both legs and hand while serving with 16th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (1st Bradford Pals) in the same Brigade as Kilner.

Continuing in wicket-taking mode, Marriott took 6 for 93 v Warwickshire at Edgbaston, 4 for 27 & 4 for 51 v MCC at Lord's and 5 for 44 & 2 for 67 in the University match, where his was a major share in the Cambridge victory. He finished leading wicket-taker for the university (57 at 18.66) and second in the averages to Chapman who bowled only 41.4 overs. By now he was making a good impression in some of the right places and there followed selection for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's in which, in the first innings, he claimed the wickets of Hardinge, George Brown, Andy Ducat and Cec Parkin at the cost of 55 runs, followed by inclusion among the 15 chosen for the Fourth Test match at Old Trafford. He was not in the final Eleven.

On 18th April 1921 Lord Harris had informed the Kent Managing Committee that, although Marriott was qualified for Kent by residence, 'he had decided to continue with Lancashire'. He went on to play three times for his birth county that season, in the Roses match at Leeds where his two wickets cost 109, against the Australians at Aigburth where he failed to gather a wicket and Essex at Old Trafford. Something or someone subsequently persuaded Marriott to switch counties but there seems to be nothing on record. Lancashire, like most northern counties, tended to be less concerned with the amateur element than their Southern counterparts and they now had a professional leg spinner, Dick Tyldesley, who was having a good season; by 1924 Tyldesley would have seven England caps. Marriott's fielding reputation notwithstanding, in 1921 he played 13 matches and held eight catches. In no subsequent season would he achieve more than four.

There was no more first-class cricket for Marriott between Lancashire v Essex at Old Trafford in August 1921 and June 1924 when he appeared for Kent v Hampshire at Southampton. After a short spell at Tonbridge School, he was now teaching history (and master-in-charge of cricket) at Dulwich College and it seems likely that, despite Lord Harris' earlier reference to qualification for Kent, he had somehow broken it and was, in the event, obliged to serve the full qualification period. The Harris crusade against improperly qualified county cricketers was at its height and Kent, above all counties, had to be above suspicion. Following his marriage to Phyllis Madeleine Taylor (1893-1979) at Kensington in April 1924, he was now living in Sydenham Hill, near Dulwich College but just on the Kent side of the old border.

After one match in June, from late July and throughout August, he became a fixture with Kent, he and Freeman quickly establishing something almost unknown in English cricket, an all leg spin partnership. Complementing each other by their sharply contrasted method (and height), the pairing proved a fruitful one. In matches in which they bowled together that season, Marriott claimed 44 wickets, Freeman 56. Match figures of 10 for 110 (Freeman 7 for 96) on his third appearance, against Hampshire in Canterbury Week was followed by 11 for 79 (Freeman (6 for 113) at the expense of his former county at Dover. He was again chosen for Gentlemen v Players, this time at Scarborough. Unusually for a public school/Oxbridge cricketer of his class, this was his only appearance in the Scarborough Festival. With wickets coming at 15.40 apiece, he headed the Kent bowling averages. As a batsman his top score was six.

In the winter he toured South Africa with a team under the auspices of Solly Joel and captained by Lionel Tennyson. If not quite an England Second Eleven as suggested by some writers, roughly half of the party would have been in the selectors' minds when picking the team for Ashes tour which took place at the same time. Never quite coming to terms with the matting wickets, Marriott 'disappointed expectations' in the words of *Wisden*, and was chosen for only one of the five unofficial 'Test' matches. The most expensive of the regular bowlers, with 24 first-class wickets at 23.45, his best performance was 6 for 45 against a strong Natal team at Durban.

Back in England he finished the 1925 season with 51 wickets in all matches and second to Freeman in the Kent averages. Once again he excelled in Canterbury Week with 6 for 50 & 5 for 56 v Hampshire and 5 for 64 v Sussex followed by 5 for 31 v in the return at Hastings and 5 for 51 & 3 for 45 in a second successive victory over Lancashire in Dover Week.

Confined as he generally was to the latter half of the season, the arrangement of Kent fixtures was such that Marriott appeared on some Kent grounds only rarely – or not at all. While he played at least once in every Canterbury Week from 1924 to 1935 and in seven Dover Cricket Weeks, he appeared only once each at Blackheath and Tunbridge Wells, twice at Tonbridge, never at Gravesend. Similarly with away fixtures. Between 1924 and 1935 he missed only one Surrey v Kent match at The Oval, only two Sussex v Kent games at Hastings and, in the same period, appeared eight times against Middlesex at Lord's. In contrast, as a Kent cricketer he played only twice each at Trent Bridge and Old Trafford, once each at Derby and Edgbaston and just two matches in Yorkshire, one at Headingley and one at Bradford.

On his only appearance at Rectory Field, in 1926 against Middlesex, he sealed a Kent victory with 6 for 36 in the second innings, the highlight of a generally moderate season. Three of Frank Woolley's five slip catches in the innings were from his bowling. In the return at Lord's, he achieved his then highest score, 18 in a 34- run last wicket partnership of 34 with George Collins (52*). In 1927 he managed only six matches but in 1928, Freeman's wicket - taking *annus mirabilis*, he found time for 11 Kent games and finished second to Freeman in the Kent averages with 53 wickets at 20.15. When Sussex were beaten by 67 runs at Tunbridge Wells, the Marriott/Freeman pairing delivered 82% of the overs and accounted for all but one of the 20 wickets (Marriott 10 for 141, Freeman 9 for 153). They dominated again in Canterbury Week (Frank Woolley's benefit) when Somerset were beaten in two days (Marriott 9 for 77, Freeman 7 for 120).

Marriott appeared in only seven matches in 1929 and none at all in 1930 but returned in 1931 for his best season. Commencing with 5 for 43 & 4 for 50 at Aylestone Road, Leicester and 3 for 24 (including Walter Hammond) for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's, he ended top of the Kent averages, second highest wicket taker and fourth in the national averages with 76 wickets (avge. 14.61.), all for Kent except the three against the Players. Seven times he claimed five in an innings, twice ten in a match including 12 for 160 v the New Zealand tourists at Canterbury. In partnership, Marriott and Freeman took 160 wickets. Against Surrey at The Oval they bowled unchanged throughout the match (Marriott 7 for 113, Freeman 7 for 125), for all but three overs against Middlesex at Mote Park (Marriott 7 for 76, Freeman 11 for 102) and all but four against Nottinghamshire at Dover (Marriott 10 for 115, Freeman 9 for 155).

1932 was another highly successful season and, for the only time in his career he bowled more than 600 overs. 68 wickets (avge.17.19), all for Kent, placed him second in his County averages and again second to Freeman as leading wicket-taker. His best performances came in the closing weeks of the season. When Middlesex were beaten by 152 runs at Lord's he took 5 for 39 in the first innings and, with Freeman smitten by sunstroke, bowled 56 overs for his 4 for 110 in the second, operating in partnership with Hardinge (5 for 67). When Essex were beaten by an innings at Leyton, 19 of the 20 wickets fell to the Marriott/Freeman combination (Marriott 9 for 102, Freeman 10 for 167). In the Worcestershire match in Dover Week he took part in another of his occasional useful last wicket partnerships – 56 (Watt 32*, Marriott 16).

Starting well against Warwickshire at Tonbridge with 4 for 81 (from 44.3 overs) and 3 for 68, followed by 4 for 87 (including the wickets of Sutcliffe and Hammond) from 46 overs for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's, 1933 was a curious season. At Maidstone against Nottinghamshire he took 6 for 58 & 3 for 44 but then met a bad patch – 3 for 124 from 56 overs at The Oval, as Surrey amassed 482 for 8 and 0 for 130 match figures against Hampshire. He missed the second match (against Derbyshire) and thus experienced his first wicketless Canterbury Week.

The subsequent call-up for the Third Test match against West Indies at The Oval, especially at the age of almost 38, consequently came as a surprise to some – probably Marriott himself. It proved an inspired

choice. Rivalling the exploits of another Kentish Test debutant 'Nutty' Martin on the same ground 43 years earlier, he took 5 for 37 in the first innings, 6 for 59 in the follow-on. In gloomy but not otherwise particularly helpful conditions he, in words of *Wisden*, 'disguised his spin very well and never made the ball break too much' and by 'perfect length and spin' put in 'one of the best performances accomplished by a bowler when playing for England for the first time'. He had the great George Headley stumped by Ames for nine in the first inning and dismissed every West Indian batsman at least once, except wicketkeeper Ivan Barrow and tail ender Manny Martindale. The latter was missed off his bowling at least once. When the West Indians came to Canterbury in late August there was a repeat performance, the Marriott/Freeman combination claiming all 20 wickets. They bowled unchanged in the first innings (Marriott 5 for 36, Freeman 5 for 37) and delivered all but 12 of the overs in the second, (Marriott 5 for 54, Freeman 5 for 85).

In the 1933/34 winter Marriott was chosen, together with county colleagues Bryan Valentine and Howard Levett, for the MCC tour of India and Ceylon (as it then was) under the captaincy of Douglas Jardine. Marriott was not chosen for any of the three Test matches and, although he claimed 32 wickets at a fairly economical 20.90 each, he was in fact the most expensive of the six regular bowlers in the party. He nevertheless got through a lot of cricket, participating in 21 matches, 12 of them not first-class; all but one of the latter were of two or one day duration.

He had some success in first-class matches outside the Test series - 6 for 35 v Central Provinces at Nagpur, 4 for 37 v an India & Ceylon Eleven at Colombo and 5 for 43 v Madras at Chepauk where he achieved his only hat trick - A.G. Ram Singh stumped, R.Nailer and M.A.Uttappa bowled. He claimed another 30 wickets in non first-class fixtures.

In May 1934 the domestic season began badly for Marriott with 0 for 126 from 41 overs against the Australians at Lord's. Faced with a strange MCC team, containing ten amateurs and an attack of four spinners (three of them leg spinners), with Bob Wyatt and Valentine to open the bowling, the visitors totalled 559 for 6 (Ponsford 281, McCabe 192). On his next appearance, against Warwickshire at Tonbridge in June, he fared little better with 0 for 91, while at the other end Freeman bowled 49.2 overs for his 8 for 170. On his third appearance, against Surrey at The Oval, Kent were without Freeman, and Marriott toiled again, bowling 66.3 overs for match figures of 3 for 201 but, when a last day run-chase went wrong, he had the satisfaction of surviving through a 30 minute unfinished last-wicket partnership of 46 (Gerry Chalk 62*, Marriott 9*) to deny the brown cap fraternity their expected victory.

Predictably perhaps, all came right in Canterbury Week, with the major role in two innings victories. Against Somerset (Freeman's second benefit), Marriott out bowled the beneficiary with 5 for 78 & 4 for 28 and did even better with 4 for 27 & 7 for 56 against the powerful Nottinghamshire batting line - up on an admittedly bowler-friendly wicket followed by 5 for 83 v Lancashire at Dover and 3 for 36 & 4 for 54 at Worcester. At the end of the season he was top of the averages among regular Kent bowlers with 40 wickets at 21.42.

Injury restricted Marriott to six matches in 1935 but match figures of 9 for 163 at Bristol, 7 for 96 v Middlesex at Mote Park, 7 for 216 in a high-scoring Kent victory at The Oval and 7 for 105 at Hastings compensated for a moderate 11th and final Canterbury Week (four wickets for 161). 34 wickets at 21.79 placed him a narrow second to Freeman in the Kent averages.

This was Marriott's last season of any significance. He appeared in one match in 1936, at Frome, where he scored 18 in a 10th-wicket partnership of 31 with Levett (12*) and two in 1937. Now minus Freeman, at Bradford in early June he bowled 12 overs for one wicket (Cyril Turner) and was then 'absent hurt' for the remainder of the match. Almost six weeks later he was back, against Sussex at Maidstone. After conceding 80 runs in 13 overs without a wicket as Sussex scored 450, he was sent in at the end of the day with Doug Wright as joint opening batsmen cum nightwatchmen. Surviving overnight, they put on 32 and Marriott reached his personal best, 21, second highest score, before being bowled. In the second innings he reverted to number 11 and, appropriately, ended by being stumped for his 52nd and last first-class duck, his 31st for Kent.

He registered a duck against every first-class county except Kent, Glamorgan and Leicestershire (six against Sussex), every one of the then five Test playing countries and both universities. His three pairs were against the Australians, Gloucestershire and Sussex.

This concluded his career with Kent, but he played one final first-class match in 1938 and finished on a satisfyingly triumphant note when, for Free Foresters, in partnership with Jack Meyer, he bowled his side to a five wicket victory over a rather under-strength Oxford University in the Parks (Marriott 4 for 61 & 5 for 40, Meyer 5 for 63 & 4 for 44).

A cultured man of many and varied interests, Marriott seems to have played rather less recreational cricket than many cricketer/school masters of his era, but he appeared fairly regularly for Free Foresters as well as for Forty Club, for whom he played as late as 1948, and for Band of Brothers, for whom he made periodic appearances between 1926 and 1939. In the latter year he led the BB bowling averages with 4 wickets at 6.25 each.

During the Second World War Marriott served with the Home Guard, latterly in Anti Aircraft Command. In 1943 he took 2 for 41 for London Home Guard v London ARP at Lord's. His last match at Lord's seems to have been in the following year, for a Lord's Eleven v Public Schools.

Of his career total 35.6% were caught by fielders other than the wicketkeeper, 26.3% bowled, 19.4% lbw, 8% stumped, 6.8% caught by the nominated wicketkeeper and 3.2% caught & bowled. His victims included most of the leading batsmen of his day, the most frequent H.W.Lee (9) and A.F.Wensley (8). His notable scalps included G.Brown, J.H.Parks (7), E.H.Bowley (6), G.Gunn, W.R.Hammond, W.W.Keeton, C.A.G.Russell (5), E.H.Hendren, A.Sandham (4), K.S.Duleepsinhji, J.Hardstaff jun, J.W.Hearne, C.P.Mead (3).

He enjoyed most success against Sussex, 76 wickets (avge 21.02), followed by Middlesex 64 (avge.17.78), Hampshire 52 (avge.17.63), Nottinghamshire 49 (avge.17.40) and, most expensive, Surrey 41 (avge.35.56). In all matches against Oxford University he claimed 32 wickets at 15.46 each.

He played more cricket at Canterbury (26 matches) than any other ground and took 139 wickets (avge.17.41). He passed the 50 mark on four other grounds – Lord's 71 (avge.19.61) in 16 matches, Fenner's 67 (avge.17.80) in 12 matches, Dover 64 (avge.19.95) in 14 matches, The Oval 52 (avge.27.71) in 12 matches.

Marriott became something of a legend at Dulwich. Although it was at Cambridge that he first acquired the soubriquet 'Father', largely it seems because he was older – or looked older – than most of his year, he was known to the boys at Dulwich as 'Doggie'. As well as history, he had a deep knowledge of literature and drama and a gift for imparting it painlessly to others. He also played the trombone in the college orchestra.

As master-in-charge of cricket he helped to nurture an impressive array of Test and county cricketers including T.E.Bailey, H.T.Bartlett, A.C.L.Bennett, M.H.Bushby, G.W.Cook, S.C.Griffith, C.B.Howland, A.W.H.Mallett, A.C.Shirreff, O.J.Wait and D.R.Wilcox. It was to Marriott that Trevor Bailey, arguably the most distinguished of Dulwich's cricketing alumni, reputedly attributed the success of his defensive technique against leg spin. Equally, or perhaps more, important, numerous Old Alleynians owe their love of cricket to his gift for passing his own enthusiasm for the game.

His gift for sharing his love of cricket was mirrored in sharing his love of literature and a privileged few were, from time to time, able to enjoy some of his own accomplished verse.

Due to ill-health, Marriott retired in 1953, three years early, and moved to Warminster, Wiltshire. He died before his book, *The Complete Leg Break Bowler* was finished. It was published posthumously by his wife three years after his death, embellished with an introduction by Ian Peebles and a postscript by

Richie Benaud. Its scope extends beyond leg spin to orthodox left arm spin, ‘Chinaman’ and left arm googly. Possibly, had he lived, he might have extended it beyond that. His death was from prostate cancer in a Dollis Hill nursing home. His effects were valued at £15,663.

Further Reading:

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Robertson-Glasgow, R.C. *More Cricket Prints: some batsmen and bowlers 1920-1940*. T.Werner Laurie, 1948.

John William Martin (No. 609).

Born: 16. 2.1917; Catford. *Died:* 4. 1.1987, Woolwich.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast medium bowler.

Kent 1939 –1953. Kent County cap.1946.

Tests: One for England.

Educated: Brockley County Grammar School.

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	33	55	12	519	35	12.06	0	0	22
England	1	2	0	26	26	13.00	0	0	0
Overall	44	69	15	623	40	11.53	0	0	32

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	2906	129	22.52	7-53	7	1
England	129	1	129.00	1-111	0	0
Overall	3888	162	24.00	7-53	8	1

Despite a pronounced check immediately before his delivery stride, Jack Martin was capable of generating pace, if not fast, then well into the no-man’s-land between fast-medium and genuinely fast. Pelham Warner thought him ‘well above fast-medium’. First attracting notice with local clubs Catford Wanderers and Forest Hill, he took 4 for 62 for Club Cricket Conference against London University at Ealing Dean in 1938, one of three appearances for the Conference side that year.

Next season he marked his Second Eleven debut for Kent with 4 for 32 and 5 for 22 against Middlesex Second Eleven at Canterbury, followed closely by 8 for 35 and 2 for 33 v Gloucestershire Seconds at Gore Court. This led to selection for Kent v Nottinghamshire at Tunbridge Wells, the first of three first team matches, which produced ten wickets (avge.26.30), including Herbert Sutcliffe, bowled for nine.

Martin joined the Royal Artillery in 1940, was commissioned in the following year and posted to 109 Field Regiment in Northiam, Sussex. In September 1942 he was transferred to 138 Field Regiment in Scotland, where they were training for the Torch landings in North Africa. During his time in England prior to embarking, he played for the British Empire Eleven, Club Cricket Conference and a variety of ‘scratch’ teams for charity matches. In 1941 he took 5 for 34 for Frank Woolley’s Eleven v London Counties at Tonbridge and 9 for 52 for a Kent Eleven v S.C. Griffith’s Eleven at Mote Park.

Landing in North Africa with 78 Division, 138 Field Regiment took part in the action at Djebel Abiod in which Bryan Valentine (*q.v.*) won his MC. Martin’s Regiment fought with the Division through Sicily and Italy where, at Termoli, he suffered a wound to his eyes. At the time, his battery commander was Reginald Hewetson (Army & Europeans), who had played for Kent Seconds, and his brigade commander Kent’s ‘Swiftly’ Howlett (*q.v.*).

On leaving hospital, he served with an AA unit and at a training depot. After VE day in 1945, he took six wickets for East Italy v West Italy at Bari and toured England with the Central Mediterranean Force team, opening the bowling with Tom Pritchard (*q.v.*). The team included six other current or future Test cricketers –Tom Dollery, George Emmett, Arthur McIntyre, Bill Merritt, Frank Smailes and Arthur Wellard.

Martin began the 1946 season with 5 for 89 in Kent's opening game against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge and 5 for 59 against Yorkshire at Bradford, which was enough to bring him notice in high places. He was chosen for the Rest in the rain-ruined Test Trial at Lord's in June, where he enhanced his reputation by bowling Cyril Washbrook for two, Denis Compton for 0 and giving Walter Hammond some anxious moments. In six Championship appearances for Kent, he claimed 16 wickets at 26.06 but, unfortunately, due to injury and the call of business (insurance), he played no more first-class cricket that season.

For Martin 1947 could hardly have started better, 6 for 23 for MCC v Yorkshire at Lord's in the season's traditional pipe opener, including the wicket of Len Hutton, caught in the gully before he had scored. There followed 4 for 55 for MCC v the South Africans and 6 for 47 v Hampshire at Southampton. By the end of May his haul was 25 wickets in four matches at 17.08 and his call up for the first Test match against South Africa was well- received by the press pundits.

On a lifeless Trent Bridge wicket, the outcome was not happy – 1 for 111 & 0 for 18, a dropped catch at mid-on and a first innings duck. There was some consolation in the second innings. Though a useful batsman in club cricket, in first-class terms Martin was an old-fashioned tail-ender with a fondness for hitting sixes. Now, after following on, England led by only 175 with over three hours remaining when last man Eric Hollies, who regularly batted one place above the extras, joined Martin. Together they added 51, in a match saving 49 minutes, Martin's share 26, including two sixes.

After his Trent Bridge tribulations, Martin played only once more for Kent in 1947 but for a further five seasons he continued to be a useful addition to the Kent attack whenever his Woolwich- based insurance business allowed. Although never appearing in more than five games a season, he did enough to show what an asset he might have been had he been able to play regularly. In 1948, despite the handicap of an arm injury, he took 6 for 37 against Hampshire at Southampton and 4 for 63 against Essex at Gravesend.

In 1950 Martin reduced his run, cut his pace and went on to have his best season - 28 first-class wickets (ave. 19.14). At Folkestone, against Leicestershire, he took 7 for 53 and 3 for 30, followed immediately by 4 for 75 and 4 for 72 against the West Indians at Canterbury, including the wickets of Clyde Walcott, Everton Weekes and Gerry Gomez. Against Surrey at Blackheath, when Kent had their first success in the traditional fixture for 16 years, he took only two wickets but contributed with the bat - top score of 35 and a last wicket partnership of 46 with Ray Dovey in the first innings, 33* and a 42-run last wicket partnership, again with Dovey, in the second.

In 1952 he again excelled against Hampshire at Southampton with 4 for 81 and 5 for 52. His final first-class match was against Hampshire, for MCC at Lord's in 1953. In all first-class matches against Hampshire he took 31 wickets at 15.12.

After giving up the first-class game, Martin continued to play club cricket and odd matches for MCC. A prominent Lord's Taverner, he played regularly for the Taverners Eleven, making his last appearance for them against Old England at Lord's in 1966. On his death he left £15, 617.

Some writers on cricket have perhaps tended to overlook Martin's undoubted talent, placing too much stress on one fairly disastrous Test match. John Arlott's comments in his *Gone to the Cricket* (Longmans Green, 1948) betray a lack of proper research and, in places, seem downright silly. As well as other qualities, Martin displayed a considerable talent for dismissing good players. Over 20% of his wickets were Test batsman – not merely Test cricketers - including Denis Compton, Bill Edrich (twice), Joe

Hardstaff, Len Hutton, Morris Leyland, Peter May, Alan Melville (twice), Dudley Nourse, David Sheppard (twice), Raman Subba Row, Herbert Sutcliffe and Cyril Washbrook, in addition to, as already observed, Weekes, Walcott and Gomez. His bag also included an impressive number of other prominent openers, notably 'Dickie' Dodds (twice) and John Langridge (three times).

In his younger days he gained a considerable reputation as a Rugby footballer with Old Brockleyians.

Thomas Frank Mitchell (No. 569).

Born: 22. 10.1907; Johannesburg, South Africa. *Died:* 20 .5.1960; St. John's Wood, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler.

Kent 1928-1934.

Educated: Tonbridge School.

Parents: Thomas Mitchell & Therese Mitchell (*née* Kelly).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	24	39	3	546	64	15.16	0	1	12
Overall	31	50	3	711	64	15.12	0	2	15

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	67	0				
Overall	247	2	123.50	1-48		

As a cricketer, never progressing beyond the 'useful' stage at first-class level, it was perhaps inevitable that Thomas Mitchell would be to some extent over-shadowed by his high-achieving father Frank Mitchell. Mitchell Senior, who died in 1935, was a triple Cambridge Blue, played cricket for Yorkshire, Transvaal, England and South Africa, leading the latter on two tours of England. He also gained International honours for England at Rugby football and, as an Association footballer, played in goal for Sussex. He became secretary to Sir Abe Bailey, served with distinction in both the Second Boer War and the First World War, and after the war became a highly esteemed sporting journalist.

Thomas Mitchell was a late choice for the Tonbridge Eleven in 1922 but remained in the side for four years, scoring over 500 runs in 1923 and leading the batting averages in 1924, when he was chosen for Lord's Schools v the Rest and Public Schools v the Army. In 1925, when he also led the side, he emphasised his all-round credentials with 60 wickets and 364 runs, including 70 against Clifton.

He was again picked for the two representative Public Schools games at Lord's in 1925 and turned out in five matches for Kent Second Eleven, scoring 31 on his debut against Norfolk at Lakenham. At the end of the season he joined Kent on their five-match Scottish tour. In his only match, against Berwickshire, he scored 26 and 13.

On his next appearance for Kent Second Eleven, against Buckinghamshire at Rectory Field in 1927, Mitchell scored 123 and in June the following season made his entry into county cricket, against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, where he scored 47 in the second innings. He played intermittently for the next six seasons, usually in May or June, never in Canterbury Week, his appearances ranging from six in 1929 and 1930 to only one in 1934. Although only once exceeding the 47 of his debut match, 64 v Northants at Peterborough in 1930, there were 13 scores between 20 and 33. For the Second Eleven, between 1925 and 1933 he played 15 matches.

For MCC, Mitchell scored 60 against Oxford University in 1928 and 105 against the Netherlands club Flamingos, the latter not of course first-class. While still at school, he played for the BB junior section

BaBes and made occasional appearances for Band of Brothers up to the outbreak of war. His other clubs included Blackheath and Old Tonbridgians. He represented Kent at Rugby football.

A Lloyd's broker, Mitchell served during the Second World War in the RAFVR, attaining the rank of Squadron Leader. After the war, he learned to fly, gaining his pilot's licence in 1949. In 1925 he married Joan Margaret Kathleen Hall (1905-1970) in Ryde, Isle of Wight. At the time of his death he was living in Portland Place. His estate was valued for probate at £11,300.11s.7d.

William Murray-Wood (No. 599).

Born: 30. 6.1917, Dartford. *Died:* 21. 12.1968, Southwark, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg spin bowler.

Kent 1936-1953. Kent County cap 1951.

County captain 1952-1953.

Educated: Mill Hill School & Oriel College Oxford.

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	77	135	13	1658	107	13.59	1	2	29
Overall	106	177	15	2262	107	13.96	3	3	45

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	1913	47	40.70	4-67		
Overall	3850	100	38.50	6-29	2	0

Except as a fielder, where he was often outstanding in the covers or at mid-off, and despite his century on first-class debut, Bill Murray-Wood was a useful all-rounder at Second Eleven and club level but, although he had some good days, never perhaps quite up to county standard. Away from cricket, he was a successful fruit farmer and during the 1939-1945 War served with the cloak-and-dagger Special Operations Executive. Nevertheless, it is his fate to be ever-remembered as the man who, dismissed from the Kent captaincy during the second match of the 1953 Canterbury Cricket Week, learned of his dismissal while on the field, thanks to a crassly insensitive committee and a seller of evening newspapers who combined a loud voice with a serious deficiency in tact.

Murray-Wood was in his school Eleven from 1932 to 1935, three times heading both batting and bowling averages. As captain in 1935 he averaged 48.50 with the bat and took 61 wickets at 9.80 with his flighted leg-breaks. He impressed as a bowler in the two representative matches at Lord's with 6 for 45 & 3 for 36 for the Rest v Lord's Schools and 2 for 27 & 6 for 80 for Public Schools v the Army.

At Oxford in 1936 he performed well with bat and ball in the Freshmens's Match and, picked against Gloucestershire in the opening game of the season, scored 106* in 140 minutes (10 fours). Coming in at 119 for 5 against an attack including Tom Goddard and Reg Sinfield, he saw the total through to 348, putting on 125 in 80 minutes for the eighth wicket with Randle Darwall-Smith (54). He took 3 for 53 v Worcestershire – 3 for 10 from two overs - and concluded his season in the Parks with 104 (one 5, nine 4s) and 5 for 84 against Leicestershire. Again he took part in a century eighth-wicket partnership, 128 in 95 minutes with Peter Whitehouse (91*) (*q.v.*). According to *Wisden*, his innings was a 'faultless display'.

When Oxford went on tour, Murray-Wood completely lost form with a run of low scores including three ducks and ending with a pair in the University Match. The *Wisden* summary considered him 'a fine free stroke-player but apt to be reckless' and his bowling, 'useful but expensive'. At the end of the university season, he played two matches for Kent in Maidstone Week in which he contributed, two, five, 23, 0 and bowled ten overs costing 64 runs.

In his remaining two years at Oxford, Murray-Wood was unable to hold down a place in the team. In eight matches in 1937 and three in 1938, he only twice exceeded 20, his best 43* v Sussex at Hove in 1937. Although in that year he took 17 wickets, 6 for 29 against the Army was his only performance of note. He played his first Second Eleven game for Kent in 1937, and in the following year hit a maiden 50 in Second Eleven cricket, against Sussex Seconds at Bognor. At the end of the 1938 season he toured Jamaica with a combined Oxford and Cambridge side and hit a century and two 50s in minor matches but did less well in the two first-class matches against Jamaica – 0, 0, one, 24.

On leaving Oxford, Murray-Wood worked briefly for Shell-Mex as their South West England representative. Called up on the outbreak of war, he enlisted in the Royal West Kent Regiment and was commissioned in 1941. Following parachute training, he became an instructor and continued in that capacity when, in 1943, he was transferred to the Special Operation Executive. He married in Dublin during the war.

Murray-Wood played in a number of wartime charity matches and in 1945 took 6 for 51 for Kent v Northamptonshire at Beckenham. At Canterbury in the same year, he was top scorer (33*) when the Rest were dismissed by Kent for 89 (Norman Harding 10-32).

With the war over, he played for St. Lawrence and made occasional Second Eleven appearances. In 1947 he produced arguably the best bowling performance of his career – 9 for 54 from 23 overs against Surrey Second Eleven at The Grove, Sittingbourne. Among his wickets were Bernie Constable, Stuart Surridge and Tony Lock. This led, not only to more frequent Second Eleven appearances, but also, at a time when Kent considered a leg-spinner an essential part of their attack, regular calls into the first team when Douglas Wright was not available.

In four seasons, 1947, 1948, 1950 and 1951, Murray-Wood made 22 first team appearances and claimed 25 wickets at 43.80 each. Although expensive, in 1947 and 1948, under Bryan Valentine's captaincy he bowled 232 overs and was often used as a main bowler rather than a change. When Essex totalled 502 at Mote Park in 1947, his figures were 50-12-118-1. Against Yorkshire at Bradford in 1948, he took 4 for 118 from 34 overs. He hit 50* batting number nine against Essex at Ilford in 1951 and 45 in the same season when captaining against Northants at Dover, but he failed to reach double figures in 60% of his innings.

Even given Kent's continuing commitment to amateur leadership, on the strength of his fairly moderate first team record, Murray-Wood might seem an unlikely choice to succeed David Clark as captain in 1952. There were, however, virtually no other candidates with time to spare and over the same period he had done well for the Second Eleven - 519 runs (avge.26.15), highest score 91, and 65 wickets (avge. 19.93). As well as his career best 9 for 54, he took 7 for 39 against Norfolk at Dartford in 1950.

In his first season in charge of the county side there was a slight, very slight, improvement in terms of results – five wins against four in 1951 and a rise from 16th to 15th in the table. It was generally agreed that the captain set an excellent example in the field, but 684 runs (avge.13.41) and ten wickets (avge.35.70) was disappointing. Once again he fell for single figures in over 60% of his innings, but against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells he scored 107, his highest for Kent. Joining Dickie Mayes at 53-5 and helped by dropped catches, 233 were added in 180 minutes (Mayes 134). The next highest score was 21. Three times he got into the 40s (twice not out).

Murray-Wood began his final season as captain with a convincing victory at Edgbaston to which the skipper contributed 42*, but there followed a sequence of eleven defeats, three by an innings, and five draws. Against Surrey at Blackheath, he was one of five ducks when Kent were bowled out for 63 by Peter Loader (9 for 28). Surrey declared at 302 for 5 and Kent were 125 for 7 when the captain joined Ted Witherden. Together they put on 143, of which Murray-Wood scored 93. Witherden (125) and the tail took the total 323 and, aided by a timely rain shower, the local derby was drawn. The Witherden/Murray-Wood eighth-wicket partnership was only five runs short of the then Kent record.

There came a welcome break in the prevailing gloom with an emphatic innings win against Worcestershire at Mote Park, to which the captain again contributed 42*, but by mid-season the committee had become aware of a state of near mutiny in the team. Some senior players were contemplating refusing to take the field unless there was a change of captaincy. The skipper was asked to resign but refused, pointing out that he had been appointed for the season.

With 13 defeats in 23 games, matters came to a head in Canterbury Week. During the Middlesex game, the committee took the unprecedented step of announcing the captain's immediate dismissal and replacement by Douglas Wright, Kent's first official professional captain since the days of Ned Wenman. Unfortunately, the announcement was bungled and Murray-Wood was in the field when he overheard the news via a newspaper-seller.

A full report of the matter was given to members at the AGM, and it must have come as a further blow when it was revealed that the timing of the dismissal was due mainly to pressure from his fellow amateurs. A proposal that a request be made to members of the press to treat the Chairman of the Committee's note 'as a private one to members' was carried and, surprisingly, seems to have been, on the whole, successful.

Other than a certain tactical naivety, it is difficult now to discover precisely why Murray-Wood's leadership drew such extreme reaction from his team. He was said to be a poor judge of wickets, to lack a feeling for the game and possibly there was a reluctance to take advice or a tendency to seek it from the wrong people. It was not, apparently, personal, and in the field he was as good as anyone and better than most. Results were certainly against him. Of 59 matches, he won eight (13.56%) and lost 33 (55.93%). Of those who captained in ten or more matches, only Arthur Fagg (*q.v.*) has a more unfortunate record. On the other hand, he led a very weak team, and many who have played team games will recall occasions when an under-performing side, rather than look inwards for causes, blames the skipper. *Wisden* commented 'Whatever were Murray-Wood's failings, Kent were primarily let down by their professionals'.

In their next match Wright was absent and Kent were led by the 20 year-old Colin Cowdrey. They lost, but after Wright took over Kent won two, drew two and lost to the Australians. After leaving Kent, Murray-Wood played several matches for MCC, three of them first-class, and in 1961 toured Bermuda with a convivial team led by Stuart Surridge. As well as MCC, he played club cricket for Band of Brothers, Beckenham, Buccaneers, St Lawrence, Old Millhillians and Yellowhammers.

Understandably, after his dismissal Bill Murray-Wood never seemingly set foot on the St. Lawrence ground again. It is however, pleasant to record that in 2008 his son and daughter were presented with their father's numbered cap in front of the pavilion.

Charles William Peach (No.577).

Born: 3. 1.1900. Egerton. *Died:* 27. 2.1977, Coxheath.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium pace bowler.

Kent 1930-1931.

Parents: Robert James Peach & Eliza Louisa Peach (*née* Standen).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	19	25	10	108	20	7.20	0	0	9

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	830	30	27.66	4-38		

The son of a gamekeeper, Charles Peach came from a family with strong cricketing associations. His Maidstone-born cousin Alan, having failed to secure a place with his native county, went on to play 324 games for Surrey between 1919 and 1934. Another cousin, Bill, served as head groundsman at the Mote for 35 years and gave almost equally lengthy service to the club as an allrounder. It was as ground bowler with the Mote that Charlie Peach came to the notice of the Kent management. An eye-catching match return of 10 for 87 against Eton Ramblers in 1926 was followed by a haul of 69 wickets in 1927, 112 in 1928 including 8 for 36 against Bluemantles, and 119 wickets at 12.25 each in 1929.

Peach further advanced his cause in 1930 with 9 for 20 v St Lawrence and 6 for 42 v Eton Ramblers, enough to propel him straight into the Kent first team, where he made an immediate impression with 4 for 38 on his debut against Yorkshire at Headingley. This included the highly-prized wickets of Edgar Oldroyd and Morris Leyland. 18 wickets in his first four matches was a promising start but, although unable to sustain this form, he nevertheless finished the season with a respectable 29 wickets (avge.25.86) from 17 first-class matches.

Around the counties, there were however mutterings about his action and in the following season Peach was chosen for only two first-class matches in which he took just one wicket. He continued to bowl with considerable success for the Second Eleven, claiming 46 wickets at 15.86, once ten in a match, six times five in an innings, but doubts about his action persisted and at the end of 1931 his contract was not renewed.

Charlie Peach emulated his father by becoming a gamekeeper but continued to take wickets for the Mote until the outbreak of war. In 1937 he married Dorothy Barker in Maidstone.

Thomas Alexander Pearce (No.581).

Born: 18.12, 1910, Hong Kong. *Died:* 11. 8.1982, Tunbridge Wells.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, off spin bowler.

Kent 1930-1946. County cap 1932.

Educated: Charterhouse School.

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	52	77	8	1177	106	17.05	1	3	20
Overall	55	82	8	1213	106	16.39	1	3	23

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	22	1	22.00	1-22		

The son of Thomas Ernest Pearce, a Hong Kong businessman who played for the colony (as it then was), from 1903 until well into the 1930s, Alec Pearce was in the Eleven at Charterhouse from 1926 to 1928 and scored prolifically in club cricket for Butterflies, Charterhouse Friars and MCC. He was less successful when given his chance in the county side but, an outstanding and versatile fielder; he played more often than some other amateurs with more obvious credentials but less spare time.

Alec Pearce's career with Kent started badly. After two games in Dover Week in 1930, against Lancashire and Northants, and ten matches in the following season, he was still averaging single figures with a top score of 31.

In 1932 he did better. Starting with 117* at Canterbury for Kent Seconds against a South American touring side, including the formidable Clem Gibson, he played 19 matches for Kent (plus one for MCC) and totalled 545 runs (avge. 22.70). Although his record was marred by 14 single-figure scores, he

played some valuable innings. In the first match of Tunbridge Wells Week, against Middlesex, Pearce joined Leslie Ames with the score 163 for 7. Together, they put on 120 in 100 minutes, of which Pearce contributed 48; Ames finished 130*. Against Northants in the second half of the Week, the same pair added 194 in 60 minutes (Ames 149, Pearce 83), playing what *Wisden* described as 'brilliant cricket'. Opening the batting at Canterbury against the Indian tourists, he scored 65, the second of his two half-centuries. He was three times dismissed in the 40s. For the Second Eleven he headed the Kent Minor County Championship averages and hit successive centuries, 109 v Surrey Seconds at Blackheath and 207* v Wiltshire at Canterbury.

In 1933 Pearce returned to Hong Kong to join the family business and became a stalwart of the Hong Kong Cricket Club, frequently playing under his father's captaincy. In addition to his batting, his off spin proved highly effective on matting wickets. Returning on leave in 1937, he played a number of useful innings in 11 matches for Kent, including 59 in the first innings of the famous Gloucestershire match at Dover, when Kent won by scoring 219 for 2 in 71 minutes. He also hit a century at Lord's for MCC against the Netherlands.

Alec Pearce's father was one of the most prominent citizens of pre-war Hong Kong. The son of a missionary, 'Tam' Pearce joined the Hong Kong import/export company J.D.Hutchinson & Co in 1903 and in 1917 acquired the controlling shares. By 1922, in partnership with his brother-in-law Philip Cassidy, he had turned the company into one of the largest and most successful trading companies in the Far East. He also became Chairman of the Hong Kong Shanghai Bank, a Member of the Legislative Council, as well as being a J.P. and Chairman of the Hong Kong Jockey Club.

Together with his two sons, Alec and younger brother John, Tam was a member of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps, but when war broke out in 1939 the brothers both received wartime commissions in the Hong Kong-based 5th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment RA. Their father, aged 67, remained, technically at least, still a ranker with the HKVDC.

The Japanese invaded Hong Kong on December 8th 1941 and by December 19th, British and Commonwealth troops had retreated from Mainland Hong Kong to Hong Kong Island, and some 80 to 100 of the rather elderly HKVDC group known as the *Hughesiliers* were deployed to defend the North Point Power Station. Although reinforced by a detachment of regular troops, surrounded and outnumbered by highly experienced, battle-hardened Japanese troops, after an 18 hour battle, the defences were overrun. 'Tam' was one of the first killed while using a wrecked bus as cover. Both his sons were among more than 10,000 prisoners.

In the early days of the Japanese occupation there had been a steady trickle of successful escapes by POWs but as security was tightened and escaping had become more and more hazardous, Major General Maltby, formerly GOC British troops in China and now responsible for the prisoners, became increasingly concerned with their welfare.

It was obvious that the Japanese were no respecters of the Geneva Convention and, successful or not, escape could, and almost certainly would, mean individual and collective punishment. Thus, Maltby concluded that prospective escapers endangered the lives of anyone caught or connected with them. Red Cross parcels and medical supplies were being withheld, rations reduced and that further privations would endanger the health of most and the lives of many. Despite the usual convention in the armed forces that soldiers had a duty to escape if practicable, in these circumstances, he decided to forbid the escape of small parties or even individuals.

In April 1942, led by Captain J.D. Clague RA with two Gunner subalterns, Alec Pearce's younger brother John and Lynton White, together with Sergeant David Bosanquet of the HKVDC, discovered a hidden, weed-covered typhoon drain which led under the camp to the sea. Advised of the planned escape, General Maltby refused to sanction it but the four men went ahead, succeeded in swimming to a nearby boat yard and, with friendly Chinese help, escaped to the mainland. After a journey of over 600 miles, they reached Chunking.

Although he knew nothing of the escape, Alec Pearce was imprisoned, beaten and tortured, and his mother Evelyn Maria Pearce (née Leitch) was similarly imprisoned and ill-treated. Although in some quarters there was criticism of Maltby's decision, within the next four months four Canadian Winnipeg Grenadiers and two Royal Engineers were caught escaping and executed without trial.

Lieutenant (later Major) John Pearce and Captain (later Colonel) Douglas Clague, who was awarded the MC, spent the remainder of the war using their experience working with the British Army Aid Group set up to assist POWs and internees in escaping and organising intelligence.

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Both became leading figures in post-war Hong Kong. Pearce was a member of the board of John D Hutchinson & Co but was even better known as a racehorse owner and bloodstock breeder, winner of the Ascot Gold Cup and runner-up in the 2006 Derby. Clague, who became Sir Douglas Clague Kt., CBE, MC, was Chairman and Managing Director of John D Hutchinson & Co and of Hutchinson Whampoa 1977/1979. For some years, he was known colloquially as the King of Hong Kong.

On returning to England, Alec Pearce played a further nine games for Kent. On his third appearance, against Northants at Wantage Road, he hit 106 in 165 minutes with 12 fours, adding 120 for the seventh wicket with Doug Wright (56*). Subsequently returning to Hong Kong, he resumed local cricket, captaining against Malaya in 1955.

On retiring to Hawkhurst, he served on the Kent General Committee from 1971 to 1973 and was President in 1978. A noted racquets player in his schooldays, he was also a scratch golfer. On his death his estate was valued at £261,627.

Following Alec Pearce's death in 1982, his widow Mrs Nina Pearce donated a collection of framed photographs of every capped Kent player which now hang in the pavilion at Canterbury.

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Arthur Povey (No.536).

Born: 16. 5.1886, West Bromwich, Staffordshire. *Died:* 13. 2.1946, Tonbridge.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1921-1922.

Parents: Alfred Povey & Sarah Jane Povey (née Taylor).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	5	8	4	64	21*	16.00	0	0	5/1

Bowling

Did not bowl

If his batting is not a strong second string, the lot of a reserve wicketkeeper is often not a happy one. This was certainly true in the case of Arthur Povey. He came to Kent's notice *circa* 1911, 'highly recommended by Fred Huish' according to the Kent trial book. It is not clear how Huish came to hear of him. Unlike his two elder brothers, Arthur Povey did not follow his father's trade of 'sad iron polisher' (i.e. polisher of solid flat irons), and in the 1901 census, though living in Smethwick with his family, he is, aged 14, a house painter. Ten years later he is still a house painter but living in lodgings in Dartford.

In the Kent General Committee minutes for a meeting in February 1912, there is a note referring to him as a promising young wicketkeeper they would be 'glad to try in some match but not yet'. In the event he made his Second Eleven debut against Surrey at The Oval that year and, although he is not listed as being on the Nursery staff until 1919, by the outbreak of War he had appeared in nine Minor County Championship matches and had seven catches and 11 stumpings to his credit.

In 1915 he joined the Kent Fortress Engineers, his attestation papers witnessed by none other than Corporal C. Blythe. Serving with the 73rd Division in England, he reached the rank of Acting Sergeant but dropped to Second Corporal in April 1918 when he embarked for France. Serving with 9 Field Company attached to the 4th Division, he was wounded in the fighting during the closing German offensive but was able to remain on duty with his unit.

During his time in France, he was also involved in a bicycle accident due to problems in braking, although whether the fault lay with brakes or rider is not clear from the official record. His unit was extensively involved in bridging and repairs to roads and railways during the series of successful actions collectively known as 'the Hundred Days' and was at Valenciennes at the time of the Armistice. He returned to England in February 1919.

With Fred Huish and Jack Hubble firmly entrenched as wicketkeepers before the war, and Hubble and George Wood – both better batsmen - similarly placed in the immediate post-war years, opportunities for first team cricket were bound to be limited. In the event, in Povey's first two first-class matches, at Northampton and at Edgbaston, Hubble was also in the side and certainly kept in the first, if not in both. Not until his third match, against Notts at Catford, was Povey the only wicketkeeper in the team.

There is no suggestion that he was not a talented keeper. He played five first-class matches in all, in which he caught five, stumped one and scored 64 runs (avge.16.00) with a top score of 21*, scored in 1921 on debut. In 50 Minor Counties Championship matches between 1912 and 1924, he caught 49 and stumped 41, once five in an innings, twice six in a match. Despite scoring only 676 runs (avge.12.75), he occasionally opened the batting, although when reaching his top score, 90 v Bedfordshire at Tonbridge in 1921, he was batting number nine. Apart from two 40s, this was his only innings of substance in Second Eleven cricket.

In 1924, at a Club & Ground match against Hythe, new coach Gerry Weigall instructed a young trialist named Leslie Ames to go behind the stumps; Povey lent his gloves and thereby ended his career. With moderate batting talent and age against him, there could hardly have been any other outcome.

From 1925 until 1945 he was professional at Tonbridge School, a cheery, much-loved character according to an Old Tonbridgian's obituary in the 1983 *Wisden*. He was due to retire in December 1946 and this seems to have brought on a fit of depression. He was founded hanging in a building near the school pavilion. He was replaced for the 1946 season by Bill Astill.

In 1916 he married Agnes Paice. There seem to have been no children. On his death, his effects were valued for probate at £273. 19s.

Lionel Walther Recordon (No.566).

Born: 25. 2.1907, Anerley. *Died:* 6. 10.1988, Godalming, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, leg spin bowler.

Kent 1927-1929.

Educated: Brighton College.

Parents: John Walter Recordon & Frances Caroline Recordon (*née* Carter).

First Class Career Record Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	11	16	3	242	64*	18.61	0	1	9

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	86	0				

Prominent in South London club cricket, Lionel Recordon was the son of a 'soft goods manufacturer's agent', living in a substantial house in Park Road, Anerley. In the Eleven at Brighton College from 1923 to 1925, captain in the latter year, he achieved considerable success as a leg-spinning allrounder in school cricket. In 1924, helped by the wicketkeeping of team mate Howard Levett, he headed the bowling averages with 24 wickets at 10.45 and led the batting averages in the following season.

Following an uneventful debut for Kent against Surrey at The Oval in 1927, Recordon scored 64* against Northants at Northampton in 1928, 40 in the return at Folkestone and in his four matches there were three other scores in the 20s. In his final season, 1929, he played half a dozen matches with a top score 24. He performed usefully for the Second Eleven and in 14 matches between 1927 and 1932 hit 334 runs (avge.22.26). His leg spin brought 20 wickets (avge.21.25). Against Norfolk at Foxgrove Road, Beckenham in 1928, he scored 80 and took 4 for 29.

An outstanding club cricketer with Purley and Honor Oak, in 1933 he appeared twice for the Club Cricket Conference, against the West Indians at Catford Bridge and MCC at Lord's, and played a second match against the West Indians, for G.J.V. Weigall's Eleven in a one-day fixture at Mote Park. In 1926 he scored a record 251 for Honor Oak v Civil Service and finished the season top of both batting and bowling averages. In the following season he scored 124* in a 368 record opening partnership against Old Charlton. 1934 was another prolific season in which he scored 815 runs (avge.45.20) for the Saturday Eleven and 627 runs (avge.69.60) for the Sunday team. He captained Honor Oak in 1937-1938 and, in the latter season led both the Saturday batting and bowling averages. Against Gravesend that year he took 7 for 14.

During the 1939-1945 war he served with RAF Balloon Command, reaching the rank of Flight Lieutenant. In wartime cricket he appeared frequently for RAF teams against sides such as the British Empire Eleven, London Counties, AA Command and other services teams. In the Balloon Command team he played regularly alongside Surrey cricketers Bob Gregory (also a Flight Lieutenant) and Jack Parker, as well as footballers Flying Officer Ted Drake and Vic Buckingham. He played little cricket after 1946.

Lionel Recordon also excelled at lawn tennis – he was a regular at Queen's Club – and table tennis. In 1934 he married Violet M Busby (1907-1982) in Camberwell. There was one son and one daughter. Probate was granted for the sum of £102,306.

Edward James Sheffield. (No.587).

Born: 20. 6.1908, New Eltham. *Died:* 28. 4.1971, Chobham, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, fast medium bowler.

Kent 1933.

Parents: Robert David Sheffield & Mabel Nellie Sheffield (*née* Wells.).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	5	9	0	143	51	15.88	0	1	2
Overall	28	26	3	319	64*	13.86	0	2	17

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	379	10	37.90	4-57	0	0
Overall	1871	78	23.98	7-123	2	0

Primarily an inswing bowler, Ted Sheffield came to Kent from Surrey where his career had stalled after a promising start. Joining the staff at The Oval in 1928, he made his Second Eleven debut that year, and in the following season made his mark with 29 wickets at 16.72, including 7 for 86 v Devonshire at Exeter and 7 for 46 v for Buckinghamshire at High Wycombe. This was enough to gain him selection for one first team match in 1930 but it was his first game in the following season that secured him a regular place. Against Somerset at The Oval he took 7 for 123 and followed with 3 for 48 v Leicester at Leicester, 3 for 39 v Essex at The Oval, 5 for 35 v Sussex at Horsham. He also displayed all-round credentials with 64*, 2 for 34 & 3 for 28, in the return with Essex at Leyton. When illness ended his season with seven matches to go, he had picked up 64 wickets at 19.64.

Unfortunately, fitness problems and moderate form reduced him to four first team and four Second Eleven matches in 1932 and, although his 16 Second Eleven wickets cost only 16.62 each, he was not re-engaged at the end of the year. In his book *The Long Run*, Alf Gover, who was frequently his new ball partner, suggests that Sheffield needed a helpful wicket but his record at The Oval, 38 wickets at 24.02 is quite good for a ground which was, at the time, considered something of a graveyard for pace bowlers.

With Kent, Sheffield began with three wickets in each of two pre-season, one-day games against the West Indian tourists, for AP Freeman's Eleven at Gravesend and G.J.V. Weigall's Eleven at Mote Park (neither recorded in *Wisden*), and continued with 4 for 57 in his debut match against Gloucestershire at Bristol. Going on to Taunton, he claimed only one wicket but top scored in the first innings with 51 and shared a vital last wicket partnership of 48 with Doug Wright. Coming to the wicket at 71 for 7 in the second innings, he contributed 23 to the 51 added for the last three wickets.

Handicapped by recurring back problems, he achieved little in his last three matches and, despite having reached double figures in each of his first seven innings, at the end of the season Kent dispensed with his services. Rather unusually, although he played two Club & Ground games, Kent did not give him a run in the Second Eleven.

The son of a fishmonger, Ted Sheffield married Mary Richmond Burrows at Chobham in 1938. There was one son and one daughter. He was coach for some years to Dudley in the Birmingham League, before returning to his wife's home town of Chobham, where he worked in industry.

Gerard Amyatt Simpson. (No.571.).

Born: 29. 3. 1886, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland. *Died:* 22. 2. 1957, Chartham.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent: 1929-1931.

Educated: Wellington College.

Parents: Colonel George Gregory Simpson CMG & Beatrice Caroline Simpson (*née* Amyatt).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	3	4	1	14	5*	4.66	0	0	0
Overall	4	6	1	50	26	10.00	0	0	0

Bowling

Did not bowl

Gerard Simpson did not find a place in the Eleven at Wellington College and failed to reach double figures in his three appearances in the County Championship but although, in the words of Bob Arrowsmith, 'no more than a good club player', he contributed hugely to Kent cricket as captain of the Second Eleven and Club & Ground from 1930 to 1949. He was also a long-serving committee member.

He first made his mark as a cricketer in Argentina where he spent much of his life, initially as a factory manager, subsequently breeding cattle and horses. When Lord Hawke took an MCC side to Argentina in 1911-12, Simpson was chosen for the first of the three Argentina v MCC 'Test Matches' and scored 26 and 10 at the Hurlingham Club, Buenos Aires – his first-class debut. In all, he played against MCC three times, a team which included Eric Hatfeild and Lionel Troughton (*q.v.*), as well as Archie Maclaren and the Surrey Secretary Billy Findlay. The latter was later a chief of BB and the non-striker in the famous Chevallier Tayler painting of the 1906 Canterbury Week.

In 1921 Simpson represented Argentina against Brazil and, between 1907 and 1923, played eight times in the annual North v South match in which his top score was 84. For Rosario, in the 1920/1921 Argentine Cricket Championship, he scored 86 and took 6 for 40 against Lomas and 83 v Belgrano.

Simpson's first appearance for Kent was for the Second Eleven, v Staffordshire at Gore Court in 1922, but not until 1929 did he make another. By then settled in England, at the age of 43 he played two first team matches on Kent's Northern tour. In the second, at Old Trafford, he was obliged to retire with a broken finger when, having scored five, he was hit on the hand by Lancashire's Australian fast bowler Ted McDonald. According to Arrowsmith, McDonald told Simpson 'You're the first man whose finger I've broken who hasn't said it was my fault'.

In 1930, when asked by Lord Harris to take over the captaincy of the Second Eleven, Simpson replied that he would do so, but only if he could also lead the Club & Ground side. He did so until 1949, by then aged 63. To quote Arrowsmith again 'No one would suggest that the young players learnt much cricket from him and least of all much strategy or tactics; what they did learn was the spirit of the game and how to behave'. Under him the game 'could never become dull or solemn, or even silent'. For a bet, he even made the great Sydney Barnes laugh, although it took him two days to do so.

Short, with broad shoulders, Simpson normally put himself in low in the order but he nevertheless hit nine half-centuries, usually when the rest of the batting had failed. His top score was 89 v Middlesex Seconds at Ealing in 1938. On one occasion he hit a ball out of The Oval on to a passing tram.

An enthusiastic club cricketer, he reputedly scored over 3,000 runs in a season, although not, of course, for one club. Most of his cricket was for Beckenham, Cobham Park, St. Lawrence and Band of Brothers. Between 1924 and 1937, he hit eleven centuries for the latter, a record for BB. In a match against St. Lawrence College, Ramsgate, he hit his first three balls out of the ground for six and was bowled attempting a fourth. In 1945, he was in the Rest side against Kent in a charity match at Canterbury in aid of Kent & Canterbury Hospital. He served on the Kent General committee from 1929 to 1932, 1934 to 1937, 1939 to 1948, 1950 to 1953 and in 1956.

Gerard Simpson was the son of a Colonel in the Royal Artillery who was mentioned in despatches and received a CMG for his services during the Second Boer War. Following the outbreak of the First World War, Gerard Simpson returned from Argentina in January 1915 and within six days was a Temporary Second Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery.

Within a further two months he was in France, attached to the RHA and serving with the Divisional Ammunition Column, Second Indian Cavalry Division. In November 1915, a fire broke out in his unit's billets at Ramburelles, west of Amiens. While fighting the fire, he fell off a ladder and injured a leg, necessitating a cartilage operation. He also aggravated an old injury which made riding and, for a while even walking, difficult. He also suffered from a stammer which presented problems when giving orders. After several Medical Boards, he was found permanently unfit for service. In October 1916 he resigned his commission and, shortly afterwards, returned to Argentina.

During the Second World War and after, he was County/ Local Army Welfare Officer until 1949, when he retired with the honorary rank of Captain.

In 1919 he married Annie Kathleen O'Brien (1877-1962) in St John's Cathedral, Buenos Aires. He died in St Augustine's Hospital, Chartham. his estate valued at £18,686, 18s.

Edward Philip Solbé. (No.533.)

Born: 10. 5.1902, Bromley. *Died:* 28. 11.1961, West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire.

Right-handed batsman, slow left-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1921-1924.

Educated: Tonbridge School.

Frank de Lisle Solbé & Mabel Solbé (*née* Phillips).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	15	24	2	371	66	16.86	0	2	8

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	6	0				

The son of Frank Solbé (*q.v.*), Edward Solbé was in the Eleven at Tonbridge from 1917 to 1920 and headed the batting averages in his first and last years. In 1920, when he was captain, he scored 580 runs (avge.52.72) and hit 195 against Westminster on the Tonbridge ground and 66* to clinch victory over Clifton at Lord's. In August he was chosen for Lord's Schools v the Rest.

Solbé commenced his brief first-class career with Kent with scores of 19 and 14 as an opener against MCC at Lord's. In a run of five matches, all in May and June, his best effort was 61 (top score) at Tonbridge, facing an attack including Maurice Tate and Arthur Gilligan. Next year he played six games, again all in early season, when he reached his personal best of 66 in a high scoring game against Worcestershire at Gravesend. Possibly his best innings for Kent was in the following year at Aylestone Road, Leicester when, coming in at 40 for 6, he was top scorer with 19 as Kent were dismissed for 73 by Ewart Astill and 'Benny' Benskin, bowling unchanged.

In the early 1930s Edward Solbé began working in Sir Julien Cahn's extensive business empire, originally as a sales representative. In 1931 he played his first game for Sir Julien's Eleven, against Devonshire at Torquay and next year scored 125* against Warwickshire Imps on the team's ground at West Bridgford. In 1933 he toured North America, also taking in Bermuda. Sir Julien's party included Ian Peebles, Walter Robins, the New Zealander Roger Blunt and Jim Swanton. Solbé's best innings were both in the USA, 32 v New York on Staten Island and 43 v the Crescent Athletic Club at Greenpoint, Long Island. Solbé played club cricket for a variety of teams including Band of Brothers, Bickley Park and West Kent.

In 1933 Solbé married Bromley-born Daphne Mary Henly (1908-1989) in Bromley. On his death his estate was valued at £5,069 with probate granted to his widow.

Thomas William Spencer OBE (No.598.).

Born: 22. 3. 1914, Deptford. *Died:* 2. 11.1995, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium-pace bowler.

Kent: 1935-1946.

First Class Career Record**Batting and Fielding**

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	76	120	13	2152	96	20.11	0	12	36

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	19	1	19.00	1-19		

Tom Spencer's 76 first-class appearances without being capped is a record for Kent, (although Robbie Joseph (*q.v.*) played more if List A matches are included) but if his playing career was ultimately disappointing, there was consolation in that he went on to become one of the most highly regarded umpires of his time. His services were rewarded with a hugely popular, and richly deserved, OBE.

Brought up and educated in Hastings, Tom Spencer excelled at most sports as a schoolboy, boxing and football as well as cricket. At Association Football, he represented Sussex Schoolboys and went on to play as a fast left winger or inside forward for Tunbridge Wells Rangers. As a cricketer, a steady flow of runs in school and local cricket led to a trial with Kent in 1934.

Judged in the Kent Trial Book 'an athletic fellow with a good eye but bats with too much flourish'. Nevertheless, he was taken on the staff and made his Second Eleven debut in June 1934 against Cornwall at Penzance. In ten appearances that season, he scored 320 runs (avge.24.61) and hit a maiden century, 102 v Wiltshire at Canterbury. In his second season, Spencer headed the Second Eleven averages with 819 runs (avge.51.18), including two centuries in successive matches, 150* v Wiltshire at Salisbury and 124* v Norfolk at Lakenham. This was enough to gain him a chance in the first team, against Essex at Ilford in the final county game of the season. He scored 40 (second highest score) and retained his place for the Festival match against MCC at Folkestone.

Spencer was leading scorer for the Second Eleven again in 1936 and in ten first team appearances hit 337 runs (avge.25.92). Strong on the leg-side and with a powerful square cut, he was still considered too impetuous but he enhanced his reputation considerably with an innings of 60 against Larwood and Voce at Trent Bridge. In the corresponding fixture in 1937, he claimed his only first-class wicket, Joe Hardstaff caught off a full toss when he had scored 146.

For the next two seasons he was frequently in the first team but without ever doing quite enough to make his place secure, especially when the full cast of amateur talent was available. The fact that he was outstanding in the covers and in the deep, made him the ideal choice for twelfth man and when the 'fancy caps' appeared he was generally the first to be dropped. Still prone to giving his wicket away, he lost form in the final pre-war season and, though still scoring runs for the Second Eleven, he played only eight first team matches. By the outbreak of war, he was averaging a relatively modest 20.40 with 68 the highest of his eight half-centuries.

At the end of the 1939 season Tom Spencer enlisted in the RAF, becoming a physical training instructor with the rank of Sergeant. He played a lot of cricket for RAF representative sides and for various services teams, as well as for the two main wartime wandering elevens, London Counties and the British Empire Eleven. As a footballer, before the war he had short spells as a professional with Fulham and Lincoln City. Now, in wartime matches, he guested for Wolverhampton Wanderers and Watford. While

stationed in the North-East, he met his wife, Noreen Bateman (1920-2007) in an RAF canteen. They married in Northumberland in 1945. There was one daughter.

On demobilisation, Spencer rejoined Kent – surprised to discover the hidden store of girlie magazines, collected in his youth, still where he had left them - and for the first time found himself a first team regular, at least for the first three months of the season. A touch more circumspect than before the war, at Northampton he scored 46* (in a first innings all-out total 144) and 77 in the second innings when, with Godfrey Evans (52), 117 were added for the fourth wicket. At Tunbridge Wells against Sussex, he reached his personal best, 96 in four hours – relatively slow going at 1946 over rates. He hit 11 fours, ‘most of them beautifully timed cuts’ according to *Wisden*, and only a soggy outfield, saturated by rain a few days earlier, deprived him of his hundred. Jim Swanton was not greatly impressed. In Kent’s 296, Tony Mallett had taken the aerial route, hitting 97 in 48 minutes; Bryan Valentine (44) had also hit freely. To Swanton, in an uncharacteristic flight of fancy, Spencer’s innings was ‘beer to Valentine’s cider and Mallett’s champagne’. Unfortunately, in twelve of his 23 innings he failed to reach double figures – there were five ducks – and at the end of the season he was not re-engaged, apparently by mutual consent.

Looking back, Kent should probably have given him further opportunities. Over much of the next decade, Kent’s batting line-up would prove one of the most vulnerable in the country and another batsman with pre-war experience might have made a difference. More than once, Spencer had shown himself at his best in a crisis, a situation of which there would be no shortage in the coming seasons. Above all, his fielding might have enlivened an often pedestrian fielding side. Instead the committee decreed that ‘he be thanked for his services and that a gratuity of not less than £50 and not more than £100 ‘be paid to him.

Deciding not to seek another county, he took up a coaching appointment at Wrekin College and also spent several winters coaching in South Africa. While coaching at the Christian Brothers College, Kimberley, he played for the school team and scored over 1,000 runs in nine innings.

In 1950, at the suggestion of Frank Chester, Spencer joined the umpire’s list and in 1954 was awarded a Test Match, England v Pakistan at Trent Bridge. For unknown reasons he did not receive another for 15 years. This rankled, as he told the *Northern Echo* in an interview many years later ‘I was a bit disgusted but determined to become a bloody good county umpire’.

In this he succeeded. By the time he was appointed to the Test Panel in 1969 he was one of the best-liked and highly-respected on the circuit. When he retired in 1980, he had officiated in 702 first-class matches plus one more in which he came on as a replacement after the game had started. Only Chester stood in more (763), but Spencer holds the record for the County Championship, 569 to Chester’s 533. During the last 20 years of his umpiring career he preferred not to travel by car, believing that the train imposed less strain on the eyes.

Between 1954 and 1978 Tom Spencer officiated in 17 Test Matches and six Limited Overs Internationals, including the inaugural World Cup at Lord’s in 1975. It was here that he was involved in the most famous incident of his career. With Australia needing 21 from 12 balls and their last pair, Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson, at the wicket, Lillie skied a no-ball from Vanburn Holder to Roy Fredericks at cover and began running. Not hearing the call, a crowd of jubilant West Indian supporters invaded the field. Meanwhile, with the batsmen still running, Fredericks threw at the stumps, missed and the overthrow was picked up by a West Indian supporter. According to some accounts, dead ball was called several times but in the prevailing chaos the batsmen carried on running and when, with the aid of the police, order was eventually restored, Spencer had the tough job of telling the batsmen who had, in the words of Jeff Thomson (expletives deleted), ‘been running around here all afternoon,’ that the ball had been dead on being picked up by a spectator. All they could have for their efforts was three. Fortunately perhaps, Thomson was run out shortly afterwards. Spencer was also one of the umpires when Lord’s had its first staker.

Mrs Spencer originated from the North East and the couple lived in the region for most of their married life. Tom Spencer's considerable reputation as a raconteur made him much in demand for cricket dinners and other social occasions but, although his death received considerable coverage in the *Northern Echo* and other local northern papers, inexplicably in view of his status as a leading umpire, it went unnoticed by the national press and specialist cricket publications. His obituary did not appear in *Wisden* until 2003 and in the Kent Annual until 2004.

Tom Spencer claimed to have played four sports professionally – cricket, football, boxing and table tennis, albeit the latter two only briefly.

Peter Regan Sunnucks. (No.595.)

Born: 22. 6.1916, Boughton-Monchelsea. *Died:* 2. 2.1997, Marden.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1934-1946.

Educated: Maidstone Grammar School.

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	68	121	8	2016	162	17.84	1	8	11

Bowling

Did not bowl

A free-scoring batsman at Maidstone Grammar School, Peter Sunnucks joined the Kent staff in 1932 and played his first match for the Second Eleven, against Devonshire at Blackheath, before his 16th birthday. In the following season he hit his first, and as it turned out, his only, Second Eleven hundred – 113* v Buckinghamshire at High Wycombe.

On his first team debut in 1934, he scored 16 against Sussex at Maidstone, and in the following season made seven first team appearances. In the local derby against Surrey at Blackheath, he was top scorer in Kent's second innings with 83, leading a late order rally and adding 93 for the eighth-wicket with Doug Wright (23). In a 130 run seventh wicket partnership against Somerset at Maidstone, he played steadily for 46* as Percy Chapman hit a hurricane 107.

1936 was a disappointing season. Given eleven first team games, he averaged only 14.31, the one bright spot being an innings of 62 at Gloucester when, with Les Todd (98), 160 were added for the fifth wicket. In 1937, with Arthur Fagg recovering from rheumatic fever, Sunnucks was given an extended run in the first team as Bill Ashdown's opening partner. Although registering a relatively modest 719 runs (avge.19.97), he was clearly better opening and took part in two notable century first-wicket partnerships, 165 v Worcestershire at Gillingham (Ashdown 109, Sunnucks 59), a record for the ground, and 153 v Champions Yorkshire at Bradford (Ashdown 89, Sunnucks 62), a Kent first-wicket record against the White Rose county. At Trent Bridge, Sunnucks hit 162 in 330 minutes with 21 fours, his first and only first-class century. Again he was involved in lengthy partnerships, 175 in 162 minutes for the third wicket with Les Ames (98), and 138 for the fourth with Les Todd (100*).

Still in and out of the team, 1938 was another moderate season for Peter Sunnucks. – 572 runs (avge.19.06), most of them scored batting down the order. Arthur Fagg was now back and, in his final season, Frank Woolley preferred to open. As a result, of his 18 first team matches, Sunnucks opened in only six. When Fagg made his epic two double centuries at Colchester, Sunnucks was his opening partner and, although failing in the first innings, he scored 82 at the second attempt when the pair put on 283, the Kent first wicket record until 1991, and still the highest against Essex.

In the final pre-war season Sunnucks' average dropped to 15.87, but he managed to write his name in the record books just once more, again with Fagg. An unfinished fifth wicket partnership of 161 at Tonbridge (Fagg 169, Sunnucks 54) remained the Kent record against Glamorgan until 2009.

When war came, Peter Sunnucks might well have been on the threshold of better things but, as things stood, although often looking a high-class batsmen, he never did quite enough in weight of runs, or in terms of consistency, to become an automatic first team choice - certainly not when the best of the amateurs were available. In first-class matches 69% of his completed innings were between 0 and 15; even in Second Eleven cricket the figure was 57%.

Serving in the RAF during the 1939-1945 war, Sunnucks played a great deal of cricket, mostly in Southern England for the RAF, and for teams such as the British Empire Eleven, Capel & District, Coventry, London Counties, Northern Command, South of England, Southern Command and United Services, as well as elevens raised for charity matches by the likes of Denis Compton, George Duckworth, Alf Gover etc. In addition to hastily got together Kent sides, on half a dozen occasions he played for Sussex, although the teams were often made up from players with little or no county affiliation. In 1943, playing against Sussex for United Services at Hove, he scored 114 and team mate Keith Miller hit 134*. Shortly afterwards, playing for Sussex against the RAF at Horsham, he was bowled by Miller for five.

After leaving the RAF, Peter Sunnucks played two more matches for Kent before deciding on a less uncertain way of making a living with the building industry. He became a prominent member of the Marden cricket and hockey clubs. In 1940 he married Winifred J Stanley in Maidstone.

Howard Taylor (No.601.).

Born: 5. 4. 1908, Woolwich. *Died:* 30. 12.1985, Tunbridge Wells.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium pace bowler.

Kent 1937.

Educated: Mill Hill School.

Parents: Isaac Septimus Taylor & Annie Taylor (*née* Stanley).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	3	6	0	53	29	8.83	0	0	0

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	121	2	60.50	1-34		

An accurate medium pace bowler who concentrated on line and length, and a useful lower middle-order batsman who could open, Howard Taylor was an outstanding schoolboy cricketer. During his three years in the Eleven he took 165 wickets at 11.26 and in 1925 when he also scored 403 runs including a century against Cranleigh, he was chosen for the Rest against Lord's Schools and for Public Schools v the Army. He was captain in 1926 and, as well as again representing Public Schools against the Army, he played for a Public Schools Fifteen against the Australians at Chiswick, a two-day fixture never staged before or since. Taylor scored 0 and 19 but failed to take a wicket. In the course of these matches he played alongside four other future Kent cricketers, Aidan Crawley, Ian Fleming, 'Hopper' Levett and Bryan Valentine (*q.v.*).

Although his career in stockbroking seriously interfered with his cricket, Taylor quickly earned a considerable reputation in club cricket, primarily with Blackheath, but also with Nondescripts. In 1930 he was selected for a two-day Club Cricket Conference match against the Australians. The team included Bradman, who obliged with 70. Taylor's main contribution was 14 accurate overs for 45 runs.

In 1937 Taylor played three successive county matches, against Yorkshire and Glamorgan at Tonbridge, and Somerset at Bath. Again he bowled economically and had the distinction of claiming Herbert Sutcliffe (bowled) as his first wicket. Batting number nine, he began with a duck and six but, promoted to number six in the Glamorgan match, he batted competently for 29. Promoted to opener in the second innings, he was dismissed for one. At Bath he scored 15 and two. These would be his last runs for Kent until 1945, when he scored 101 opening the batting in a one-day Kent Eleven v Northants charity match at Beckenham.

The son of a draper, Howard Taylor was one of eight children. During the Second World War he served with 11 (City of London Yeomanry) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment RA in the Middle East (1941-1943) and France (1944). On his death, his estate was valued at £37,553.

Horace James Taylor. (No.543.).

Born: 26. 12.1895, Sevenoaks. *Died:* 13. 10.1961, Tunbridge Wells.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium pace bowler.

Kent 1922-1925.

Educated: Sevenoaks School.

Parents: Alfred Taylor & Emma Mary Taylor (*née* Hills).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	12	13	3	181	33	18.10	0	0	2

Bowling

Did not bowl

The son of a saddler and harness maker in London Road, Sevenoaks, Horace Taylor was in the Eleven at school and came into the Kent side in 1922 on a flurry of runs – 107 for Kent Club & Ground v Bromley, 102 for Club & Ground v Cyphers and 143 for Kent Second Eleven v Bedfordshire at Bickley Park.

Although unable to sustain this form at county level, he began with an excellent 30 in a low scoring game at Edgbaston and followed with two more useful innings, 33 (joint top scorer with George Collins) against Sussex in Tunbridge Wells Week and 23* in the return with Warwickshire at Mote Park. For the Second Eleven, he continued to prosper – 88 in the return with Bedfordshire, 42 & 62 v Surrey Seconds at Hythe – and at the end of the season he led the Second team averages with 531 runs (avge.37.92).

Taylor did nothing comparable in his occasional appearances over the remainder of his short career with Kent, but he scored 32 in helping Charlie Wright (48*) add 81 for the eighth- wicket against Northants at Gravesend in 1925 and 56* for the Second Eleven against Wiltshire at Swindon in 1926. He also picked up a few wickets in Second Eleven cricket, notably 4 for 24 v Devonshire at St. Lawrence in 1928, his last season.

On leaving school Taylor worked in a bank and, in August 1914, enlisted in the West Kent Yeomanry at Maidstone, his attestation witnessed by his future county captain Stanley Cornwallis. He signed for overseas service and, in October 1915, landed with his unit on W Beach, Cape Helles. Here they saw considerable action and suffered casualties, including their CO and Second-in Command. While at Cape Helles, Taylor was given extra guard duty for being late on parade by another Kent captain, Cloudesley Marsham (*q.v.*). Evacuated to Egypt in December, the West Kent Yeomanry were initially employed on Suez Canal defences but were subsequently deployed to the Western Desert for operations against the Senussi.

In December 1916 the West Kent and East Kent Yeomanry were amalgamated and absorbed as conventional infantry into the 10th Battalion Royal East Kent Regiment, 74th Division. Taylor served with the 10th Battalion in the Second Battle of Gaza, in the capture of Beersheba and in the advance to Jerusalem. When the Division was deployed to the Western front, Taylor was posted back to England in June 1918, for officer training. In the event he spent the remainder of the war at Larkhill reception centre and, apart from two spells as acting corporal, he did not progress beyond the rank of private.

Post-war, Horace Taylor joined the Civil Service and after 1928, his career in the Colonial Service more or less terminated his cricket in England. Although there were interludes in North America, most of his time was spent as an agricultural officer in Kenya and Nigeria. In 1945 he was in Kenya as an 'Inspector of Produce'.

In 1929 he scored 65 for Officials v Settlers in Nairobi and in 1936, 84 for Nigerian Europeans v Gold Coast Europeans in Lagos.

In 1935 he married Doris Janet Mildred Austin (1903-1952) in Sevenoaks. There was one son and one daughter. Retired from the Service, he died from a cardiac infection.

Leslie John Todd. (No.561.)

Born: 19. 6. 1907, Catford. *Died:* 20. 8. 1967, Buckland, Dover.

Left-handed batsman, left-arm medium pace/ slow left- arm spin bowler.

Kent 1927-1950. Cap. 1929.

Educated: Grove Vale School & St John's College, Brixton.

Parents: Henry William Todd & Anne Todd (*née* Rhodes).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	426	709	93	19407	174	31.50	36	96	226
Overall	437	727	93	20087	174	31.68	38	100	236

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	15197	555	27.38	6-26	20	1
Overall	15883	572	27.76	6-26	20	1

Leslie Todd could look back on a record of solid achievement as a county cricketer. War years excluded, between 1933 and 1949 he only once failed to score his 1,000 runs and in 1947 exceeded 2,000. In 1936 he achieved the double for his County, the last Kent cricketer to do so. Only Jack Mason and Frank Woolley had done so previously and it is highly unlikely that anyone will emulate them in future years. He hit a century against every one of the then sixteen other first-class counties, except Yorkshire, and scored over 1,000 runs against 11 of them.

Yet, rather unfairly, it is probably not for his successes for which he will best be remembered. To the late E.M. Wellings he was 'the most perverse and infuriating cricketer of his generation'. While 'Lynn' Wellings was himself a leading contender for the title of the most cantankerous cricket writer of all time, many who played with or against Todd – or even merely knew him – agreed. Whether his captain was an old-school disciplinarian or one of the arm round the shoulder persuasion, he could be a nightmare to handle. Much of the time he appeared to play according to some personal whim, often sparked by a casual remark from a team mate, opponent, umpire, committee man or spectator. If quick runs were needed, he might retreat into his shell and not play a stroke. If survival was the order of the day he would, as likely as not, start playing extravagant shots and get out. Team mates tended to regard him with exasperation mixed with affection.

Wellings, who played against Todd for Oxford University and Surrey and with him in wartime matches, recalls fielding in the slips alongside Todd and Percy Chapman and being surprised to observe that, when Todd chased a ball, Chapman followed him halfway to the boundary. Knowing that Todd was a considerable athlete and had a good arm, Wellings asked why and received the reply 'I know he can easily throw the distance but he won't if nobody backs up'. Kent historian Bob Arrowsmith thought Todd an example of 'a cricketer who missed the top class, not from lack of talent, but from some defect of character or temperament'. To Raymond Robertson-Glasgow, Todd was 'the cricketer who never quite arrived'. One who 'faced with the red carpet and the brass band, slipped out at some little wayside station and was gone down some windy highway of his own'. It did not help that, being Kentish and left-handed, he was inevitably compared with Frank Woolley. Playing alongside the likes of Woolley, Percy Freeman and Les Ames, Todd came to feel, as Robertson-Glasgow expresses it, 'his own act didn't matter very much'.

Whatever his personal hang ups, Todd the batsman had a sound technique, excellent against the new ball, a wide range of strokes when he chose to use them and few apparent technical faults, although there were suggestions of a weakness against high quality spin – Tom Goddard claimed his wicket 17 times, Hedley Verity 12. His scoring rate was sometimes said to slow down noticeably once the spinners came on. Once the attempt to turn him into a left arm spinner had been abandoned, he developed into a highly effective left- arm medium pace bowler with an often deadly late inswinger.

Les Todd's father Henry had worked in the printing industry but was employed in the office of a building construction company when his son came for a trial at Canterbury. At the time, the family were living in the Grove, Camberwell, technically in Surrey, but the boy was qualified by birth. Not yet 16, he was judged to have 'a good idea of batting, a promising bowler' and was signed on for the 1924 season. It was to be quite a long apprenticeship.

Todd began moderately for the Second Eleven in 1924 with 0 and 11 on debut against Bedfordshire at Bedford School, with the consolation of three tail-end wickets for nine runs. His call-up for the first team at Derby on 28th May 1927 seems, at first sight, a bit premature. At that point in his career he had only once scored more than 20 in a Second Eleven match and, little used as a bowler, taken only seven wickets. For the Club & Ground however, he had over the previous fortnight struck a rich seam of form with 120* & 3 for 35 v St. Lawrence, 103* v Gore Court and 65* & 2 for 32 v Bexley.

His first-class career too began with a duck but in the following match, at Northampton, he was second top scorer with 32*. He made five first team appearances in all that year and nine in 1928, when he registered his first-half century, 51* v Somerset at Taunton. Against this, there were seven single figure scores, including twice lbw for four to Maurice Tate at Tunbridge Wells and a duck against the great left arm spinner Charlie Parker, who would go on to claim his wicket on another five occasions.

In 1929 he appeared in 27 of Kent's 31 fixtures and, despite spending most of his time in the lower-middle order, narrowly missed his 1,000 runs (983 at 29.78).and hit six half centuries. Batting at number eight, he scored 54 (top score) against Gloucestershire at Bristol, 60* v Surrey at Rectory Field and 72 in the return with Gloucestershire in his first Canterbury Week.

According to several sources, Todd had a preference for opening but, on first given a chance to do so, against Sussex at Maidstone, he was lbw to Tate for a duck and, tried again two matches later against Surrey at The Oval, scored an unremarkable seven and 13. Batting number five against Middlesex at Lord's, he put on 124 for the fourth wicket with Woolley (Todd 44, Woolley 176*) and, given a rare chance to bowl, took 3 for 27 in the Middlesex first innings, including the wickets of 'Patsy' Hendren and Walter Robins. Tried for a third time at the top of the order in the final match of the season, against MCC in the Folkestone Festival, he hit 57 & 68, sharing partnerships of 91 for the first wicket with Bill Ashdown (50) in the first innings, and 186 for the second wicket with Woolley (142) in the second. Nevertheless, at the start of the 1930 season it was back to number eight against Oxford University.

It was something of a false dawn. Over the next three seasons, although playing with fair regularity, 27 matches in 1930, 15 in 1932, progress was sluggish. Always liable to be edged out when any of Kent's annual crop of amateurs made themselves available – he was not picked for the 1930 or 1932 Canterbury Weeks – his batting declined from 884 runs (avge.26.00) in 1930 to 212 (avge. 15.14) in 1932. Wisden commented that he 'did little more than display style'. Although he hit 94 v Warwickshire at Tonbridge in 1930, 92 v Oxford University in the Parks in 1931 and, at The Oval in 1931, had been run out for 88 to end a 154 run sixth wicket partnership with Colin Fairservice (87), he had yet to register three figures, even for the Second Eleven.

Nor was much progress evident in his bowling. Todd had been considered promising as a bowler and it seems to be generally accepted that Kent were attempting to develop him as a left- arm spinner but, judging from the amount of bowling actually given to him, Kent captains were not doing much to help. In 1932 he bowled 125 overs and took six wickets. This was the most he had ever bowled in a first-class season; in 1931 he delivered only 36 balls.

1933 brought real progress, 1,743 runs (avg.34.86) with a maiden century, 104 at Northampton, followed by 121 against Gloucestershire at Folkestone, where he shared a third wicket partnership of 259 in 210 minutes with Ames (295). He scored 121 again, against Surrey at Blackheath, once again with Ames (137), they added 230 for the fourth wicket. There were 11 half-centuries including 90 v Nottinghamshire at Mote Park and a further three century partnerships with Ames.

Now established and very occasionally opening, although batting mainly at numbers five or six, Todd exceeded 1,000 runs in every subsequent pre-war season but one. His best year was 1934 with 1,897 runs (avge.52.69), with three centuries, 13 half centuries and a 200 run fourth wicket partnership with Ames against Hampshire at Portsmouth (Todd 127, Ames 109). 1935 saw him progress to authentic allrounder status. As well as 1,587 runs with three centuries, he bowled over 800 overs in his quicker style and took 88 wickets. Still treated as a change bowler at the beginning of the season, the breakthrough came in mid-May with 6 for 90, after coming on as fourth change at Trent Bridge. By the end of June he was regularly opening the bowling with Alan Watt.

There was a purple patch in late July/early August –104* & 4 for 78 at Worcester and 128* & 3 for 45 v Gloucestershire at Canterbury in successive matches, followed a fortnight later by 114 & 5 for 50 v Lancashire at Dover. At Ilford, Todd bowled unchanged with Watt to dismiss Essex in their first innings for 97 (Watt 6 for 49, Todd 4 for 37). *Wisden* named him as 'far the best allrounder in the side' and as a batsman 'the most difficult man to dismiss. Often his left-handed batting stemmed the tide of disaster, and occasionally he developed unexpected powers of punishment'.

After coming close in 1935, Todd achieved the double in 1936, with 1,320 runs and 103 wickets. He hit only one century but scored 98 at the Wagon Works ground Gloucester and 79 for An England Eleven v the Indian tourists in the Folkestone Festival where, with Bryan Valentine (115), 170 were scored for the fourth wicket in 90 minutes. In scoring 113 against Glamorgan at Folkestone, he took two and a half hours over his first 50. This prompted a message from his captain Percy Chapman, 'Tell Toddy he is boring me, unless he gets his hundred he is dropped for the next match.' The next 50 came in as many minutes.

At Tonbridge, he again bowled unchanged with Watt when Nottinghamshire were dismissed for 78 in their first innings (Todd 6 for 26, Watt 4 for 44). 5 for 38 in the second innings gave him the first (and only) ten wicket return of his career. His haul included Walter Keeton, Charlie Harris and Willis Walker (twice) but, given the opposition, even better perhaps was his 4 for 61 & 4 for 83 against Yorkshire at Dover, when the current Champions were beaten by nine wickets. Among his victims were Len Hutton (twice), Morris Leyland, Arthur Mitchell and Wilf Barber.

Todd narrowly missed another double in 1937 with 1,323 runs and 91 wickets and briefly, looked destined for higher things. Chosen for the North v South Test Trial at Lord's, he was twice dismissed for single figures by Verity and claimed only one wicket, albeit that of Leyland. In the following match,

MCC v the MCC Australian touring team, he fared a little better with 24 in the first innings, but fell again to Verity for single figures in the second. With the ball, he began badly with 50 runs from 9 overs without a wicket, but partially redeemed himself in the second innings with 2 for 46 (Hammond & Leyland).

There were further near misses, 921 runs & 96 wickets in 1938, 1056 runs, 84 wickets in 1939. Between 1937-39 he registered seven centuries, including two against Nottinghamshire in 1937 and two in successive matches in the 1939 Tonbridge Week, 143 v Sussex when he hit two sixes and 16 fours and shared a 148 run seventh wicket partnership with Wright (57*), and 115* v Glamorgan. The 1939 *Wisden* pronounced on Todd's pre-war career, 'Todd once more merits the description of Kent's best allrounder without reaching the high position in the game to which his talent points. His left-hand bowling often deserved better reward than the analysis showed.'

During the Second World War Todd served in the RAF, reaching the rank of Sergeant. Stationed throughout in the UK, most of the time in Southern England, he appeared in more than 80 of the matches listed in wartime *Widens*, scoring well over 2,000 runs and picking up over 100 wickets. Much of his cricket was for the two main travelling clubs formed during the war, London Counties and the British Empire Eleven. In 1940, for the former, before he was called-up for the RAF, he scored 745 runs beginning with a run of five half-centuries in his first seven innings. He played 15 times for RAF representative Elevens - six times against the Army- and appeared at Lord's for England Elevens, twice against the West Indies, once against the Dominions and once against the RAAF, when he claimed the wicket of Keith Miller.

He is credited with four wartime centuries, one each for the British Empire Eleven, London Counties, the RAF and a Lord's Eleven, the latter his highest, 151 v Canada at Lord's in 1944. He played for a variety of other clubs between 1939 and 1945, including Buccaneers, Catford, Dulwich Hamlet and Forty Club,

In 1945 Todd played as professional for Rawtenstall, earning his money with 512 runs (avge.46.54) and 42 wickets (avge. 16.61) in 18 matches. His top score was 89* against Burnley, whose professional was the West Indian left-arm spinner Ellis Achong, and best bowling 7 for 55 v Haslingden.

Todd's pre-war efforts as an opening batsman had not been crowned with a great deal of success - three half-centuries and an average of 18.42. Asked to open in the first match of the 1946 season, v Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge, he scored 57 and 106 against a new ball attack of Harold Butler, Arthur Jepson and Frank Woodhead, which was probably as good as any in the country. Except for the Notts game at Gillingham, he continued to open throughout the season, finishing top of the Kent averages and leading scorer with 1,864 runs (avge.44.38), six centuries and two nineties.

During the season Todd opened with nine different partners – Ames, Percy Davis, Jack Davies, Arthur Fagg, Peter Foster, John Larking, Peter Nelson, Alec Pearce and Peter Sunnucks, although only Davies (24) did so with any regularity. Among the others, only Pearce (six) did so more than twice. Of his four century opening partnerships, three were with Davies including the Middlesex match at Lord's when Todd scored 162 in 320 minutes, putting on 219 for the first wicket with Davies (128) and 171 for the second with Ames (114*). Against Lancashire at Mote Park, Todd opened for the first time with Fagg, who was playing his only county match of the season. Together they shared a partnership of 167 (Todd 125, Fagg 86).

Although in that first post-war season eight batsmen averaged over 50 and eight amassed over 2,000 runs, it was a damp summer and there were many bowler- friendly pitches. On a drying wicket against Gloucestershire at Gravesend, Todd scored 98 in Kent's first innings. The next highest score was 17. Twice he carried his bat through a completed innings, 59* in a team total of 140 at Worcester, and eight days later 133* in a team total of 265 against Leicestershire at Tunbridge Wells.

Although he opened the bowling in Kent's first post-war fixture, he bowled less and less as the season went on and finished with 16 wickets at an expensive 39.56. Half his wickets came in two innings, 4 for 28 at Worcester and 4 for 48 v Somerset in Canterbury Week.

Todd had his best season, at least statistically, in 1947 which was also his benefit year. In that golden summer for batsmen, only seven scored more runs than Todd's 2,312 (avge.46.24), 2,057 of them for Kent. He hit seven centuries, six for Kent, and was twice dismissed in the 90s; there were ten half-centuries in all. He shared five second wicket century partnerships with Ames including 273 against Essex at Maidstone (Todd 136, Ames 152), 204 v Leicestershire at Dover (Todd 125, Ames 127) and 196 v Hampshire at Southampton (Todd 78, Ames 179). With Fagg as a regular opening partner, he took part in five century opening partnerships (four for Kent), the highest 193 against Northants at Gravesend (Todd 127, Fagg 81). After putting on 166 for the first wicket with Fagg (82) at Taunton, he went on to 173, scored in 320 minutes with 17 fours.

In his benefit match, the Hampshire game at Canterbury, Todd contributed a fairly cagey 69 to an opening partnership of 170 with Fagg (123) and, with Hampshire following on and collapsing in their second innings, it was all over in two days. However, 13,263 paid for admission on the Bank Holiday Monday – a record for a match which did not involve the Australians - and a collection raised £277.19.s.6d. The final figure was a respectable (for the time) £3,896. For South v North in the Kingston-upon-Thames Festival he came close to two hundreds in a match with 104 & 90.

In the opening game of 1948, against Lancashire at Gillingham, Todd and Fagg began with a 119-run first wicket partnership (Todd 53, Fagg 60) and continued in the same vein through to the final county match of the season when they added 125 against Gloucestershire at Dover (Todd 54, Fagg 75). In all, there were ten Todd/Fagg century opening partnerships, the highest 230 v Northants at Tunbridge Wells (Todd 104, Fagg 167). Against Warwickshire at Edgbaston they added a match-saving 191 (Todd 127*, Fagg 106) and 180 against Essex at Maidstone (Todd 67, Fagg 136). Twice they took the score into the 90s before being parted and their average opening partnership for the season was 54.91.

Despite his consistency as an opener, due largely to a lean spell in August during which in ten innings he only once passed 50, his final record of 1,590 runs (avge.36.13) was disappointing when compared with the two previous seasons. True, only Fagg and Ames scored more but he missed the final two county fixtures following his encounter with Ray Lindwall at Canterbury. Accounts vary but, according to Tony Pawson, who played in the match, in his *Runs & Catches* (Faber & Faber, 1980) Todd received the first ball, a full toss, on his instep and, on the appeal being turned down, 'Todd appeared to hobble down the wicket and argue that he had been plumb lbw. Getting no satisfaction, he made no attempt to play the next ball which bowled him'. Back in the pavilion, he claimed to be unable to take a further part in the match and, after a physiotherapist's examination found no damage, 'as Todd still declined to take part, he was suspended for the remainder of the season'. The *Wisden* account merely says 'Todd, nursing a heavily bruised instep after being struck by a full toss from Lindwall, did not bat a second time'. In fairness, it is worth mentioning that at Trent Bridge in 1930 he had been hit in the face when attempting to hook Harold Larwood.

At any event, whatever the extent of his injuries, Todd was fit for the two matches of the Kingston Festival and for East v West registered his fourth hundred and, with 'Dickie' Dodds, his 11th century partnership of the season (Todd 107, Dodds 46). Although still very much a change bowler, 22 wickets at 20.04 apiece placed Todd top of the Kent bowling averages. This was due largely to two successive matches in August - 3 for 44 & 2 for 34 v Notts in Canterbury Week, 4 for 41 v Sussex at Hastings, all but one top of the order batsmen.

Handicapped in 1949 by an eye operation in the previous winter, Todd's form was patchy in the first half of the season but from mid-July and throughout August he ran into form scoring 838 runs and averaging 52.37 with four centuries and three half centuries. His first hundred was his personal highest, 174 v Leicestershire at Mote Park, scored in 250 minutes with a six and 21 fours. With Fagg (124), 251 were added for the first-wicket, their only century partnership of the year, the highest and also the last

of their 17. With Ames, he shared three more century second-wicket partnerships, the highest 193 v Sussex at Hastings (Todd 127, Ames 125). When Kent lost in two days to Worcestershire at Dover, in the course of his 100 in the second innings he put on 97 for the sixth wicket with his new captain David Clark (56). His final figures 1,460 runs (avge. 30.41), did not reflect his value to the side in the closing weeks of what proved to be his penultimate season.

Kent, more perhaps than most counties, seem to have a gift for allowing the careers of long-serving professionals to end on a sour note. Batting number five, Todd began 1950 with 73 in the second innings against Gloucestershire at Bristol, but over the next five matches his top score was 23. He was not in the team for the first match of Gravesend Week but, restored as Fagg's opening partner for the second, against Somerset, he contributed scores of ten and 14 to partnerships of 43 and 31. At, or shortly before, the end of the match (lost by 103 runs) he was told that his services were no longer required. Reputedly, team mates found him sitting in the pavilion in tears.

After Ames, Todd was the oldest member of the side and the news cannot have come as a great surprise but, although he was thanked for his services in the Committee's Report in the 1951 club Annual – 'There are few professionals who have served their county so well', there seems to have been a lack of tact, to put it no stronger. With hindsight, given Todd's form in the latter half of 1949, there seems to be a case for giving him another season, if not as an opener, then to stiffen the middle order. Kent were stepping up their search for young players, nine made their county debut in 1950, but the batting struggled and the next generation was slow to emerge. From the time of Todd's departure until the end of 1952, Kent tried 12 different opening combinations.

Leslie Todd is ninth in the list of runs scorers for Kent. Statistically he enjoyed most success against Essex, 1,256 (avge.39.25). He averaged over 30 against 11 others, Worcestershire 1,091 (37.62), Warwickshire 1,190 (36.06), Glamorgan 960 (35.55), Sussex 1,492 (35.52), Nottinghamshire 1,264 (34.16), Somerset 1,341 (33.52), Surrey 1,363 (31.69), Middlesex 1,263 (31.57), Leicestershire 945 (31.50), Hampshire 1,221 (30.52), Lancashire 1,249 (30.46). He hit four centuries against Gloucestershire, three against Hampshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Somerset.

He took part in 80 century partnerships, 78 of them for Kent - First wicket: 20 (18 for Kent), Second: 11, Third: 9, Fourth:24, Fifth: 10. Sixth: 3, Seventh: 2, Eighth: 1.

As already noted, the bowler who dismissed him most frequently was Tom Goddard (17), but the list of those who claimed his wicket seven times or more, not altogether surprisingly for an opener, consists mainly of seamers or genuine quicks – 14: O.W.Herman, A.W.Wellard, 13: A.R.Gover, 12: H.Verity, 11: M.S.Nichols, R.T.D.Perks, 9: H.A.Smith, W.Voce, 8: W.H.R.Andrews, J.H.Mayer, M.W.Tate, 7: W.E.Bowes, W.H.Copson, L.H.Gray, H.Larwood, T.B.Mitchell, G.A.E.Paine, C.I.J.Smith, T.P.B.Smith.

Although he had a long career, Todd had only five seasons as a first-line bowler. Nevertheless, the list of batsmen he dismissed most frequently contains some famous names - 13: F.S.Lee, 7: A.H.Dyson, H.Gimblett, R.A.Sinfield, M.J.Turnbull, 6: W.H.R.Andrews, C.B. Harris, J.L.Hopwood, L.Hutton, N.T.McCorkell, E.Paynter, A.B.Sellers, C.Washbrook, 5: G.M.Bennett, E.R.T.Holmes, J.Iddon, W.W.Keeton, H.Larwood, E.F.Longrigg, R.T.D.Perks, L.F.Townsend, W.Voce.

Other notable wickets claimed include – S.G.Barnes, C.J.Barnett, A.W.Carr, W.R.Hammond (twice), J.Hardstaff, A.L.Hassett, E.H.Hendren (four times), M.Leyland (four times), S.J.McCabe, C.P.Mead, Mushtaq Ali (three times), A.D.Nourse, J.D.B.Robertson, A.Sandham (three times), R.T.Simpson (twice) and H.Sutcliffe.

In 1951 Todd became a first-class umpire and stood in 23 first-class matches that year. Although apparently highly-regarded, due reputedly to eyestrain troubles, he did not stand for another full season

but made occasional appearances and officiated in two MCC first-class matches at Lord's as late as 1966. He continued to play recreational cricket, for Forty Club and for Catford, into the late 1950s.

In 1938 he married Ivy Elizabeth Stone (1906-1983) at Church of St John the Evangelist, East Dulwich, 1938. There were no children. He died in Buckland Hospital, Dover from prostate cancer. At the time he was living at St.Margaret-at-Cliffe. His estate was valued for probate at £4,578.

Perhaps the final words on Leslie Todd should be left to the obituary written by Jack Davies for the 1968 Kent Annual – ‘When he plays in the Elysian fields (for his sins will be forgiven as they always are to fundamentally ingenuous people), his deepest satisfaction will derive from the moment when the first slow wingclap breaks out among the angelic spectators and he has demonstrated once again his capacity to try the patience of saints’.

Further reading:

Robertson-Glasgow, R.C. *More Cricket Prints, some batsmen & bowlers*. T. Werner Laurie, 1948.
Wellings, E.M. *Vintage Cricketers*, (George Allen & Unwin, 1983)

James Richard Tylden. (No.545.)

Born: 26.4.1889, Milstead. *Died:* 2. 2. Whitechapel, London, 1949.

Left-handed batsman.

Kent 1923.

Educated: Rugby School & St. John's College, Oxford.

Parents: Richard James Tylden & Edith Marion Tylden (*née* Jones).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	1	2	0	19	19	9.50	0	0	0

Bowling

Did not bowl

From a prosperous family who owned more than 450 acres (182.2 hectares), James Tylden farmed at Milsted Manor for most of his life, although in the Census Returns he is invariably shown as ‘living on own means’. At Rugby, he was in the Eleven in 1906 and 1907 and on the winning side against Marlborough in both years. At Oxford, he missed the Freshmen's Match due to injury but, having been top scorer with 85 in the 1909 Seniors' Match, he could consider himself unlucky to have progressed no further. He did not, apparently take a degree. He was Deputy Lieutenant of Kent and, like his father, a JP.

For Kent, in 1920 he hit 50 against Dorset at Sherborne on his second appearance for the Second Eleven and 48 in the next match against Surrey Seconds at Hythe. In the following season he reached his personal best, 53 v Staffordshire at Gore Court and in 1923 he was Second Eleven captain. In that season he made his only first-class appearance for the County, against Oxford University at The Parks in 1923 where his scores were 19 and 0. From 1920 to 1923, and from 1929 until 1932, he served on the Kent General Committee.

Commissioned in the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles in 1909, by 1912 James Tylden was commanding the Shorncliffe & Sheppey troop, as had his father before him. A distinguished horseman, at the Summer Camp in 1912 he won the Officers' Race on his own horse ‘Bill Dree’.

Following mobilisation on the outbreak of War, Tylden was promoted to Lieutenant and the regiment spent the remainder of the year training and working on coastal defences. In September 1915 they embarked for Gallipoli and landed at Cape Helles, part of the South East Mounted Brigade. They fought

dismounted, under command of 42nd (East Lancashire) Division who had suffered heavy casualties in the initial landings. Tylden himself was employed on base duties on the island of Mudros and did not actually join his unit until October.

When the evacuation began Tylden, by now a Captain, was assigned as an ADC to the OC 42nd Division, Major General William Douglas, and shortly after the Division returned to Mudros he was struck off the strength of the REKMR and assigned permanently to staff duties, serving with the Division in Egypt and in the advance across the Sinai Desert.

In February 1917, the Division returned to Egypt to prepare to embark for France, where they served for the remainder of the War. In October 1917, Tylden was appointed ADC to the new Divisional Commander, Major General Solly Flood. In February 1918 he was re-assigned as ADC to Sir Thomas Marsden, GOC 6th Division, where another Kent cricketer, J.S.R. Tufton, was Assistant Provost Marshal. He remained with the Divisional HQ during the German Spring offensive, throughout 'The Hundred Days' and the breaching of the Hindenburg Line. He served briefly with the Army of Occupation before resigning his commission in April 1919, due to ill-health.

An enthusiastic club cricketer, Tylden played for Band of Brothers, East Kent, the Mote (captain in 1929) and I Zingari. For BB, he played on Lord Harris's ground at Belmont against the Philadelphians in 1921 and the West Indians in 1923. In 1928 he captained his own side, Captain JR Tylden's Eleven against the Loyal (North Lancashire) Regiment at the Bat & Ball, Gravesend. During World War Two, he served from 1940 to 1942 as Captain & Adjutant to the 2nd (London) Battalion, Home Guard.

In 1913 he married Mary Estelle Clayton Swan at St George's Hanover Square. There were five daughters. A JP, he was Lord of the Manor of Milstead and, for ten years Honorary Secretary of the Tickham Hunt. He was brother-in-law of Billy Findlay (Oxford University & Lancashire). Findlay was Secretary of Surrey (1907-1920), MCC (1926-1936), President of MCC 1951-1952, Fourth Chief of BB and the non-striker in the famous Chevallier-Taylor painting of the 1906 Canterbury Week, although he did not in fact play in the match.

In February 1949, James Tylden fell down the stairs at the Bath Club, breaking several ribs. Pneumonia set in and he died in the London Hospital, Whitechapel. There were two probate valuations, property £5,300, effects £20,625. His death went unnoticed by *Wisden*.

Bryan Herbert Valentine MC. (No.563.)

Born: 17. 1.1908, Blackheath. *Died:* 2. 2.1983, Otford.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1927-1948. County Cap 1931.

Deputy captain 1931 to 1936, Joint captain 1937. County captain 1946-1948.

Tests. Seven for England.

Educated. Repton School & Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Parents: George Herbert Valentine & Catherine May Clifford Valentine (*née* Christopherson).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	308	491	28	14131	242	30.42	25	73	243
England	7	9	2	454	136	64.85	2	1	2
Overall	399	645	38	18306	242	30.15	35	90	289

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	648	18	36.00	2-8		
England	Did not bowl					

Overall 1125 27 41.66 3-58

Bryan Valentine, whose father was a Lloyd's underwriter and mother one of the Christopherson cricketing family, was arguably the best of Kent's amateur batsmen between the wars, or at least the one who made the most of his talent. Writing on Public School cricket in the 1926 *Wisden*, Harry Altham doubted 'if there are any more gifted school players than Valentine' although he was 'at present just a little too inclined to have a dash before he has played himself in'.

If, on his own admission, Valentine never quite lost the latter tendency, which was not unknown among the 'fancy caps' of his day, there seems no doubt that he worked hard on his technique. As Raymond Robertson-Glasgow puts it 'he schooled gifted abandon into orderly freedom'. Beginning as a fairly typical Public School/Oxbridge batsman of his period, good to watch but liable to struggle a bit if the ball was turning or seaming, by applying himself, studying the professionals and benefitting from coaching by Frank Woolley, he tightened his defence, learned to watch the turning ball, all without curbing his natural aggression. Always a fine off driver and cutter, by the early 1930s he had extended his range of strokes, especially in the arc between long leg and mid on's right hand, scoring freely off his legs, on driving with a full swing of the bat and excelling against the large crop of off spinners and inswing bowlers spawned by the 1935 revised lbw Law. He could improvise when he felt like it. In the Ames benefit match at Gravesend in 1948, the late Jack Fingleton recalls seeing him hit a six over point. A personal quirk was a ritual tap of the thigh as the bowler ran in.

Usually cap less, in the field he was high-class both in the deep, where he had a powerful, long, accurate throw, and latterly at slip. The cricketer/journalist Teddy Sewell thought him worth an England cap on his fielding alone. Although he opened the bowling (with Bob Wyatt) for MCC v the Australians at Lord's in 1934, Valentine was modest about his medium pace inswing, suggesting that Chapman used him because nobody else was quicker at getting the shine off for Freeman. His 27 first-class wickets nevertheless included Percy Fender (twice), Percy Holmes, Arthur 'Ticker' Mitchell, Eddie Paynter, Tom Pearce and George Mann.

Valentine was fortunate in that, thanks to his insurance connections and association with both the Gradidge and Slazenger organisations, he was able to find time for cricket (and other sports) more often than most amateurs of his time. In captaincy too, he gained more experience than most. Although he won no silverware, among Kent captains he surely ranks in the top ten. During his term of captaincy Percy Chapman (*q.v.*) was, for business and social reasons, a not infrequent absentee and, from 1931 to 1936, Valentine gained valuable experience as his deputy. Only in the latter year did he (officially) share the duty, with Ian Akers-Douglas. When Chapman gave up, Valentine was Joint Captain with Ronnie Bryan in 1937 and County Captain in his own right from 1946 to 1948.

Of his 131 games in charge, he won 58, lost 40 and drew 33. A sound tactician, he aimed always to play to win but could never treat cricket as a matter of life and death – especially after his experiences between 1939 and 1945. Convivial by nature, in his own words 'I tried to make sure that everyone had some fun in the Kent side when I took charge of it, both on and off the field'. He could nevertheless play the disciplinarian when needed, as in the case of Leslie Todd in the 1948 Australians match at Canterbury (*q.v.*).

Valentine was three years in the Eleven at Repton, leading the batting averages in 1925 and captaining in 1926. Without doing anything outstanding, he was selected for the Rest v Lord's Schools in 1925 and 1926, as well as captaining Public Schools v The Army at Lord's in the latter year. In 1924, while still at school, he made his Second Eleven debut for Kent, against Wiltshire at Foxgrove Road, Beckenham, and in the following year scored 56 against the same opponents at Swindon.

Before going up to Cambridge, in June 1927 Valentine made his first-class debut for Kent, against Yorkshire at Tonbridge. Coming in at 89 for 5, and fortunate to receive a (probably unintentional) first ball half volley from Abe Waddington to get off the mark, he went on to score 60, adding 106 for the seventh wicket with Charles Capes (43), and hitting Wilfred Rhodes for two successive sixes. He was

caught attempting a third and was rebuked by his captain John Evans for having done so. In one of his seven further appearances that season he scored 61 against the eventual Champions at Old Trafford. Missed several times according to *Wisden*, he added 130 for the seventh wicket in 90 minutes with acting-captain 'John' Knott (96). Among his nine innings were three ducks and three other single figure scores.

Arriving at Cambridge in 1928, Valentine opened the batting, scored 114 (retired) in the Freshmens' match and went on to make five first team appearances for the University. Confined to the early matches, his top score was 45, against Sussex at Fenner's. and, with eight Old Blues available, a Blue as a Freshman was never very likely. A handful of appearances for Kent produced only one half-century and, all in all, it was a fairly uneventful season.

Valentine's Blue in 1929 did not come easily. Top scorer with 89 in the Seniors' match, he was picked for the opening game against Yorkshire but, after two single figure scores, was left out for the next four fixtures against county sides and for the match against the South Africans. Brought back against Free Foresters for the last match at Fenner's before the team went on tour, he almost won the match with 101* in 85 minutes. This, and two half-centuries against Surrey at The Oval, earned him his Blue. Against Oxford, when Cambridge were chasing runs in the second innings, he gave a 'brilliant display' (*Wisden*) ended by a sacrificial run out after hitting 52 in 45 minutes with a six, five fours and seven for an overthrow. Five matches for Kent, with one half-century, concluded his 1929 season and he was restricted to just two matches in 1930.

With Chapman otherwise engaged, Valentine made his debut as Kent skipper against Essex at Gravesend in the opening match of the 1931 season. Thanks chiefly to the bowling of Freeman, the batting of Hardinge, a rain-affected pitch in the Essex second innings and a vigorous 54 as a personal contribution, he led the team to an innings victory. He missed only two matches all season, played another five as captain (won one, lost two, drawn two) and narrowly missed his 1,000 runs (961). There were seven half-centuries, six for Kent, with a top score of 85 against Hampshire at the Nevill. There were also a few failures, ten ducks and eight other single-figure scores.

In the winter Valentine toured Jamaica with a strong team, raised by Sir Julien Cahn and captained by Lord Tennyson. Apart from a half-century in the first match against the full Jamaica side, he did nothing exceptional but it seems that it was after this tour that he began serious work on his technique.

In 1932 he missed only two games but, up to Canterbury Week, had scored a little over 500 runs and averaged only 20. Highest of his three half-centuries was 71 for MCC v Oxford University. Over the next eight matches, he hit 55 v Glamorgan at St. Lawrence, 69 v Sussex at Hastings, 91 v Worcestershire at Dover, 94 v Middlesex at Lord's and 180 v Essex at Leyton. Captaining the side against an attack including Kenneth Farnes and Morris Nichols, his first century in county cricket came in 185 minutes, the next 79 in 40. It included 2 sixes and 16 fours and Kent won by an innings. This was one of eight matches in which he captained, winning five, four by an innings, with three draws. For the first time he totalled four figures – 1,226 (avge.29.19) with one century and eight half-centuries.

From 1932 until the outbreak of war he was a regular member of the Kent Eleven and by far the most consistent of the amateurs. He scored over 1,000 runs in every season except 1937 when, while officially sharing the captaincy with Ronnie Bryan, business restricted him to ten matches, all but one in July/August. His most prolific seasons were 1933, 1,738 runs in all matches (avge.33.42), with five centuries and nine half-centuries, including 90 against Yorkshire at Dover, 1938, 1,593 runs (avge. 44.25) with six centuries and five half-centuries, and 1939, 1,693 runs (avge.34.55), four centuries and nine half-centuries.

In 1933 Valentine was a late addition to H.M.Martineau's team on a pre-season tour of Egypt but he played only two matches (not first-class), both against All Egypt. His scores were 0, 49* at Gezira, 44 and 195 at Alexandria. In the 1933/1934 winter he was selected for the MCC tour of India & Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) under the captaincy of Douglas Jardine. The tour was an arduous one, consisting in all

of 34 matches, 18 of them first-class, involving a prodigious amount of travelling to venues as far apart as Amritsar and Peshawar in the North, to Galle in what is now Sri Lanka. A little surprisingly perhaps, the urbane, highly gregarious Valentine seems to have got on well with the aloof patrician Jardine and deputised as captain in two first-class fixtures, both of which ended in victory.

Beginning well with three half-centuries in four (non-first-class) matches in what is now Pakistan, he scored 75 in his opening first-class fixture, v Southern Punjab at Amritsar, followed by 24 against Patiala and 145 against a strong Viceroy's Eleven in Delhi. As a curiosity, in all three innings he was dismissed by the fast bowler Mahammad Nissar. He lost his wicket to Nissar again, against the Maharaja Kumar of Viziahagram's Eleven at Benares and once again in 1936 when playing for MCC against the Indian tourists at Lord's. On his Test debut on the Gymkhana ground in Bombay (now Mumbai), he hit 136 in under three hours with 1 six, 1 five and 12 fours, adding 145 for the fifth-wicket with Jardine (60). He played 'brilliant cricket' according to Wisden. He scored 40 in the Second Test at Calcutta (now Kolkata), missed the Third Test but finished the tour second highest scorer with 834 runs (avge. 39.71) to Jardine's 835.

By the mid-1930s Valentine was generally recognised as being among the leading amateur batsman in the country and, until Walter Hammond turned amateur, probably only Maurice Turnbull and Bob Wyatt were his rivals among those who played regularly. Nevertheless, although he scored 108* for the Rest v England in a Test Trial at Lord's in 1934 and was picked regularly for MCC against the tourists at Lord's - the Australians in 1934, the Indians in 1936, the West Indians in 1933 and 1939 - as well as for Gentlemen of England v the Australians in 1934 and 1938 - he was never selected for England at home.

Before the commencement of the 1938 season he made his second tour of Egypt with H.M.Martineau's team, once more hitting two centuries including 194 against RAF Aboukir.

In 1938/39 he toured South Africa with MCC under Walter Hammond, playing in all five Test matches. He hit 97 in the First Test at Johannesburg and 112 in the Second at Cape Town. In both cases, he was batting number seven in what was an unusually strong batting side, especially on the abundance of batsman-friendly pitches. At Johannesburg, he came in at 292 for 5 and was last out with the total 422, after batting 138 minutes with 11 fours. At Cape Town, he joined Hammond at 338 for five and departed 160 minutes later at 537 for 8, having hit one six and 12 fours and batted with, what *Wisden* described as 'a freedom which at times almost amounted to recklessness'.

Hammond and Ames also scored centuries in this inning the first time three English batsmen had scored centuries in a Test innings. Valentine (4*) was at the wicket at the conclusion of the infamous 'Timeless Test' at Durban. In a high scoring series, he ended third in the averages with 275 runs (avge.68.75). In all first-class matches he scored 590 runs (avge 45.38),

On the outbreak of war in 1939, Valentine enlisted in the Royal West Kent Regiment and was commissioned early in 1941. In August 1940, as Cadet B.H.Valentine, he played for Sir Pelham Warner's Eleven against the West Indies at Lord's in front of a crowd of 7,000. Sir Pelham's team included Sergeant Instructor L.Hutton, Sergeant D.Compton, Major G.O.Allen, Flight Lieutenant R.W.V.Robins, Lieutenant F.R.Brown, Captain S.C Griffith, LAC K.Farnes and Pilot Officer R.M.Taylor (Essex) D.F.C. Wicketkeeper for the West Indies was Leslie Compton. Valentine also played twice that season for Aldershot Command.

In 1942 Captain Valentine landed in Algeria with the 6th Battalion RWK, 36 Brigade, 78th Division. In November, while commanding the battalion's anti-tank platoon, a column of tanks and motorised infantry were seen approaching the important cross roads village of Djebel Abiod. Valentine ordered the platoon, still equipped with the obsolescent 40mm calibre two-pounder gun, to hold their fire until the tanks were within 250 yards, when they disabled 11 tanks and armoured vehicles and assisted significantly in repelling the attack. For this and other actions, he was awarded the MC.

Valentine was later seriously wounded and returned to the UK but recovered sufficiently to appear for the British Empire Eleven in July 1943, for the Army at Lord's, the Army at Edinburgh and for Combined Services at Kilmarnock in August that year. In August 1945 he appeared for the BLA (British Liberation Armies) team v the Netherlands at Haarlem.

With the war ended, Valentine resumed very much where he left off but now as captain in his own right. Commencing with 60 & 169 (1 six, 14 fours) in the first post-war fixture, against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge, he ended second in the Kent averages with 1,566 runs (avge.41.21). In all matches, he totalled 1703, his highest aggregate since 1933. His five centuries and seven half-centuries included 95 and 144 in the return with Notts at Gillingham, 49% of the runs scored by his team and 32% of the runs scored in the match. This was nearest he ever came to two hundreds in a match. The team finished a comfortable joint sixth, one place lower than 1939, won eleven, lost eight, drawn seven.

At 38, Valentine was still apparently in the selection committee's thoughts. In May he captained MCC against the Indian tourists, in June led the Rest against England in a Test Trial at Lord's and in July played under Hammond's captaincy for Gentlemen v Players. Unfortunately, his top score in these matches was only 24 and in his three matches against the tourists he averaged 15. At the end of the season he took his own team, including Tony Pawson, Eddie Crush and Howard Levett, to play against the Netherlands at Capelle aan den IJssel.

Valentine was not chosen for the MCC party which, under Walter Hammond, departed for Australia & New Zealand shortly before the season ended; the vice-captaincy went to the younger Norman Yardley (born 1915). It was not however, apparently a matter of age. In addition to Hammond, two of the tourists, James Langridge and Laurie Fishlock, were older than Valentine, and Peter Smith his junior by only eight months.

With the inestimable benefit of hindsight, many, notably Jim Swanton, insisted that Valentine would have been a better choice as skipper. That is not quite how it looked before the team sailed. Up to the time of their departure – and in the early tour matches for that matter - Hammond was batting as well as ever. As England's captain, he had won four, lost one and drawn ten and was still generally seen as the country's leading cricketer, his position virtually unassailable. Nor should it be overlooked that, in nine matches against Australian touring teams between 1934 and 1938, Valentine averaged 16.72 with a top score of 49 and had seven times fallen to Australian wrist spinners.

Kent ended 1947 fourth in the table, won 12, lost eight, drawn six. Bad times were ahead and not until 1966, would they again finish so high. Valentine reached his 1,000 runs for the last time – 1,463 in all matches (avge. 29.85) – but, until the last week of June, his top score was 39 and there had been three ducks and six other single figure scores. From Tunbridge Wells Week onwards he hit 11 half-centuries, the highest 92 against Middlesex at Lord's, an epic match in which the destined Champions were beaten by 75 runs in the last five minutes of extra time. Previously, against the same opponents at Canterbury, Valentine (56) and Tony Pawson (44), chasing a target of 232 in two hours, had hit 95 together for the fifth wicket in 37 minutes. This was the first year since 1931 that Valentine had failed to reach three figures.

In 1948. Bryan Valentine's last year as County captain, Kent experienced their worst season since 1895, 15th in the Championship, won four, lost 12, drawn 10. The captain did not have the best of seasons, 937 runs (avge.21.29) in all matches, but he played several innings worthy of his best days. Against Hampshire at Southampton, he hit his last first-class century, 104 in a little over two and a half hours. At Bradford, he scored his highest against White Rose county bowling, 97 in under two hours and at Mote Park 87 against Somerset, sharing a fourth-wicket partnership of 102 in 55 minutes with Leslie Ames (123), the last of many such. The season almost ended on a sad note – 0 and five v the Australians at Canterbury followed immediately by his first and only pair at Old Trafford – but 41 (run out) and 26 at Gloucester ensured his county career came to an appropriate end.

Two matches in the Hastings Festival rounded off Valentine's last full season. Included was a final innings against the Australians, ended at 25 by the unlikeliest of bowlers, Bill Brown.

Insurance with Holmwood, Back & Manson now became his main summer occupation but he found time for a visit with Free Foresters to Fenner's and both matches in the Hastings Festival, including one against the New Zealanders. His last first-class match was Cambridge University v Free Foresters at Fenner's in June 1950, where he scored 67 in his last first-class innings.

Among amateurs, only Colin Cowdrey and Jack Mason scored more runs and hundreds for Kent. He scored a hundred against every one of the then 16 other first-class counties except Derbyshire, Glamorgan, Surrey and Yorkshire, four against Essex, three each against Hampshire, Nottinghamshire and Sussex. Against Nottinghamshire he totalled 1,417 runs (avge.48.86). He averaged over 30 against Essex (38.86), Hampshire (32.22), Lancashire (32.50), Surrey (33.78), Sussex (36.05) and Warwickshire (32.05). His record against Surrey is unusual in that, although he scored 1,365 runs with 13 half-centuries, his top score was 74.

Valentine's name features rather less frequently in Gentlemen v Players matches than might be expected for an amateur of his standing – at Lord's in 1934, 1939 and 1946, at Folkestone in 1932, 1934, 1935 and 1936. His top score – and his only score over 20 - was 47 at Folkestone in 1934. He also appeared for Gentlemen of England v the Australians at Lord's in 1934 and 1938. Once again, there was only one score over 20, 49 in 1938.

He took part in 61 century partnerships, 51 of them for Kent, two for the second-wicket, 18 for the third, 20 for the fourth, ten for the fifth, five for the sixth, five for the seventh and one for the ninth. 18 of them were in excess of 150.

He shared seven double century partnerships – three for the third wicket – 220 (Woolley 162, Valentine 118) v Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, 1936, 215 (Chalk 124, Valentine 104) v Sussex, Hastings, and 202 (Ames 201, Valentine 113) v Worcestershire at Worcester, both in 1939; - three for the fourth wicket – 205 (Ames 145*, Valentine 104) v Northants, Dover, 1933, 218 (Ames 295, Valentine 113*) v Gloucestershire, Folkestone, 1933, and 202 (Ames 170, Valentine 151) v Essex, Gravesend, 1938 - and one for the sixth - 223 for MCC v Viceroy's Eleven (Valentine 145, Jardine 93), Delhi, 1933.

There were two double hundreds, 242 (3 sixes, 28 fours) v Leicestershire at Oakham School in 1938 and 201 (1 six, 28 fours, his first hundred in 90 minutes) v Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge in 1939. Three times he scored centuries in successive innings, in 1933, 113* v Gloucestershire and 127 v Essex, both at Folkestone, and twice in 1938, 151 v Essex at Gravesend and 100 v Worcestershire at Dudley and his double hundred at Oakham (see above) was followed by 114 v Somerset at Wells. In the 1933 Dover Week he also hit 104 v Northants & 90 v Yorkshire.

Throughout his career, Valentine reputedly scored his runs at around 50 an hour and he had a hand in many epic run chases. Against Gloucestershire at Folkestone in 1933 he scored 113* out of 218 in 100 minutes. In 1938, during his 202-run partnership with Ames against Essex at Gravesend, the scoring rate reached three runs a minute. At Worcester in the following year, the same pair scored their 202 in 135 minutes and, playing for an England Eleven against the New Zealand tourists in the Folkestone Festival in 1937, he scored 102 and shared a ninth wicket partnership of 121 in an hour with Chapman (61*), his second 50 containing 3 sixes and 7 fours.

The bowlers who dismissed Valentine most frequently were Hedley Verity and Arthur Wellard, 12 times each, followed by 11: T.W.Goddard, 8: W.E.Bowes, W.H.Copson, A.R.Gover, L.H.Gray, E.A.Watts, 7: O.W.Herman, C.W.L.Parker, 6: J.H.Cornford, G.E.M.Heath, A.Kennedy, J.Mercer, Mohammad Nissar, J.F.Parker, C.I.J.Smith. Among other well-known bowlers, Harold Larwood claimed his wicket five times, A.P. Freeman and M.W.Tate four and W.J. O'Reilly three.

A little over 22% of his dismissals were to left-arm bowlers, which appears to be rather above the average. Of other left-arm bowlers, G.S.Boyes, claimed his wicket five times, D.C.S.Compton, H. Hazell and J.L.Hopwood four times each, J.Bailey, A.Booth, James Langridge, V.Mankad, J.E.Walsh, and W.Voce three.

Valentine seems to have had a gift for giving his wicket away to very occasional bowlers. Reference has already been made to Bill Brown; others included H.T.Barling, C.S.Dempster, M.P.Donnely, T.A. Higson and F.G. Mann, while on tour he provided South African batsman Trevor Cook with the only wicket of his first-class career.

37.4% of Valentine's dismissals came through catches by a fielder other than the bowler or regular wicketkeeper, 31.6% bowled, 11.4% caught at the wicket, 7.8% lbw, 6.1% stumped, 3.8 caught & bowled, 1.6% run out, and 0.4 % hit wicket.

He played a great deal of minor cricket for Blackheath, Forty Club and Repton Pilgrims, as well as for Free Foresters and MCC. His sister Carol (1906-1992) played one Test match for England Women in 1934.

An all-round sportsman, at Repton Valentine partnered H.W. 'Bunny' Austin in winning the Public Schools LawnTennis Championship. According to Robertson-Glasgow 'each thinks the other gave up the wrong game'. He won a Football Blue in 1928/1929 and played for the Corinthians. He later became a scratch golfer.

Off the field Valentine gave the Club many years of service. President in 1967, he was on the General Committee from 1932 to 1935, 1949 to 1956, 1958 to 1966, 1968 and from 1971 to 1977. In addition, he was the A.K.C.C. co-opted member on the committee in 1967 and from 1969 to 1970. He was Chairman of the Cricket Sub-Committee from 1970 to 1974.

In 1944 he married Elizabeth Hamilton Errol McNair (1915-1990). There was one son and one daughter. On his death his estate was valued for probate at £34,145.

Further reading:

Marshall, Michael. *Gentlemen and Players, conversations with cricketers.* (Grafton Books, 1987)
Robertson-Glasgow, R.C. *Cricket Prints.* (T. Werner Laurie, 1943).

George Sutton Watson (No.568).

Born: 10. 4. 1907, Milton Regis. *Died:* 1. 4. 1974, Guildford, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman, left-arm, medium pace bowler.

Kent 1928-1929.

Educated: Shrewsbury School.

Parents: Louis Sutton Watson & Edith Watson.

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	8	13	1	133	52*	11.08	0	1	4
Overall	236	393	20	8566	145	22.96	5	52	87

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	Did not bowl					
Overall	51	1	51.00	1-21		

The son of a corn and feed merchant, George Watson played for Kent as an amateur but, on joining Leicestershire, turned professional, unusual at the time for a public schoolboy. Notable for his ability to throw with either hand, he was in the Eleven at Shrewsbury in 1923 and 1924 and in the latter year headed the batting averages, *Wisden* describing his cricket as ‘brilliant’ – ‘once he had learned discretion.’ In May 1926 he made his debut for Kent Second Eleven against Bedfordshire at Bedford School and, in the return, at Tunbridge Wells, scored 69, his first half century.

After playing only once for Kent Seconds in 1927, Watson began 1928 well with 53 against Surrey Seconds at The Oval and 132* against Norfolk at Foxgrove Road, Beckenham, which gained him selection for the first team against Northants at Folkestone. Opening the batting with ‘Wally’ Hardinge, his scores were 0 and six and he received no further opportunities that season but was back in the side for eight matches in 1929. Although there were further failures, eight times he was dismissed for single figures, batting number eight against his future county at Tunbridge Wells, he was top scorer with 52*.

Although never perhaps doing quite enough for a regular place in the First Eleven, Watson finished the 1929 season top of the Second Eleven averages with 584 runs (avge.41.70) including 141 v Devonshire at Exeter, 76 & 57 v Wiltshire at Blackheath and 70 & 81 in the return at Swindon. A brief taste of representative cricket came in 1930 when he appeared for Minor Counties v Wales at Colwyn Bay, but two more Second Eleven appearances that year concluded his career with Kent. When, in 1931 he applied to be taken on the staff, Kent declined.

In 1934, ‘Wally’ Hardinge went to Leicester as coach and Watson joined him. After qualifying, he went straight into the first team and held his place until the outbreak of War, reaching his 1,000 runs in 1937 and 1938 and narrowly missing in 1939 with 932.

During the war he seems to have played rather less cricket than most professionals who spent all or most of their service in this country, but between 1940 and 1942 he appeared in seven one-day games for his county and in 1944, as Lance Corporal Watson, scored 87 for Northern Command v an RAF Eleven at Bramall Lane.

Returning after the War, Watson had his best season in 1947 – 1,314 runs (avge.25.76) - and hit the last of his five centuries in 1950, his final season with the club. Normally a fairly defensively inclined batsman, in his last century, at Westcliff in 1950, he hit 105 in 120 minutes with 1 six and 11 fours. He went on to become coach at Cranleigh and also coached Shropshire. For one season he played club cricket for Catford.

George Watson was an accomplished footballer. Starting with Corinthians (before they merged with Corinthian Casuals) and Maidstone United, he played two Amateur Internationals for England before turning professional with Charlton for whom he made 19 first team appearances as a winger and scored two goals. He later moved to Crystal Palace, Clapton Orient (now Leyton Orient) and Nuneaton Borough.

In 1931 he married Winifred Eva Brenchley in Croydon. On his death his estate was valued at £31,565.

Alan Edward Watt (No.572).

Born: 19. 6. 1907, Limsfield Chart, Westerham. *Died:* 3. 2.1974, Pembury.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent 1929-1939. Kent cap.1932.

Parents: Alexander Watt & Bertha Watt (*née* Cassam).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	226	326	37	4020	96	13.91	0	9	130

Overall	230	330	37	4100	96	13.99	0	10	134
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Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	17325	608	28.49	8-100	34	6
Overall	17586	610	28.82	8-100	34	6

Alan Watt's chief contribution to Kent cricket was as a fast medium bowler of top county standard, ready and willing to bowl long spells. In the words of Robertson-Glasgow 'never known to tire, never willingly relieved'. From a short run, and a good classical sideways action, he hit the pitch hard, bowled a tight line and full length with, on his day, a lethal outswinger.

If, like several other Kent new ball bowlers, when he first came into the side his main function seemed to be to remove the shine for Freeman and Marriott, by the time war brought his career to a premature end, he was one prong of among the best seam attacks in the country. A veritable sandbank at mid-off, and brilliant to his own bowling, he was seemingly impervious to pain.

Nevertheless, a little unfairly, it is probably as a hitter that he will be best remembered. For all the stroke play of the likes of Frank Woolley, Les Ames, Bryan Valentine *et al*, there was always a stir when Watt came to the wicket. Although his career figures are unremarkable and never in the class of his contemporary, the Kent-born Arthur Wellard, on his day he could be devastating, – especially when he forgot the square-leg boundary and concentrated on hitting straight, After one battering the great Tom Goddard declared him 'not fit to bowl at'.

The son of an agricultural traction engine driver, Watt came to Kent for trial at the age of 15 and was judged 'Right medium. Good length and action'. He was called back for further trial in 1925 and again in 1926, when he was recorded as 'good action, shows promise' and 'could make bat'. He joined the staff in 1927 and made his Second Eleven debut that year, against Buckinghamshire at Bletchley Park where, under the often idiosyncratic captaincy of Gerry Weigall (*q.v.*) he batted number five, scored eight and two and, brought on as fourth change, bowled nine wicketless overs for 28. In the following season, still under Weigall's captaincy, he was given the new ball in every innings but two and made ten Second team appearances in which he took 18 wickets at 30.22 each. His best bowling was 3 for 33 against Surrey Seconds at Hythe, his top score 14.

At Northampton in 1929 he made his first-class debut. It was a modest start, 6*, 0 and no wicket for 30 and he was not called-on again that season. He did much better for the Second Eleven. Playing in seven matches, 26 wickets at 18.88 each placed him as joint highest wicket-taker with George Beslee (*q.v.*). Against Wiltshire at Swindon he attracted rather more than purely local attention with 9 for 49 and 3 for 47.

Watt played four more first team games in 1930 but it was not until the opening fixture of 1931, at Gravesend against Essex, that he picked up his first wicket in first-class cricket – Dudley Pope bowled. This was followed quickly by 4 for 101 at Oxford, including the wickets of two future Test captains, the Nawab of Pataudi and Alan Melville, and 4 for 5 from 21 balls (three wickets in seven balls) to finish off the tail at Derby. This was enough to win him an extended run in the first team. At Tonbridge, he bowled unchanged with Freeman in a seam/ spin combination to dismiss Northants for 79 in their second innings (Watt 4 for 44, Freeman 6 for 26) and up to the end of July he had appeared in all but two of Kent's fixtures.

In Canterbury Week however, like many before and a few since, he found himself dropped. In the two matches of the Week Freeman and Marriott bowled 230.4 overs between them (more than 89% of the total), such seam bowling as thought necessary being entrusted to Bill Ashdown and Aidan Crawley who, between them, were called on for only 15 overs. Spin predominated for the remainder of the season and Watt, with 30 wickets to his credit, was not picked again until the following year.

Chosen against the University at Cambridge in the opening game of 1932, Watt was then dropped for the next five matches in favour of Arthur Blunden (q.v.). Returning at the end of May, he made a slow start but took 41 wickets in July and August with his first 'five fers' – 5 for 24 against Leicestershire at Maidstone - including 4 for 4 in his first seven overs - and 5 for 90 v Sussex at Hastings. For the first time he bowled over 500 overs and his season's tally rose to 55 wickets at an economical 23.36 apiece. Batting number ten against MCC at Lord's he gave proof of his quality as a hitter with 96 in 65 minutes (1 six, an on drive into the back row of seats at the Nursery End, and 14 fours) from an MCC attack featuring three past or future England bowlers, Jim Smith, Vallance Jupp and Jim Sims. In the following fixture, Yorkshire at Tonbridge, he acquired his first pair.

Now shouldering a greatly increased workload, Watt bowled over 900 overs in each of the next two seasons. By the standards of the time he was somewhat expensive – 67 wickets (avge.34.49) in 1933, 73 (avge. 34.12) in 1934 - but in the former year he achieved his first ten in a match, 5 for 47 & 5 for 57 v Leicestershire at Aylestone Road. Freeman claimed the other ten.

Promoted to number eight, he also hit the only half-century of the match, 50 in 40 minutes. He did even better in the return at Mote Park with 89, 4 sixes and 11 fours including 1 six and 3 fours in an over from Haydon Smith. With Hugh Dinwiddy (43), 124 were added for the eighth wicket in 55 minutes. At Trent Bridge he followed 68 in 33 minutes (3 sixes, 10 fours) with 42 in 17 minutes entirely in boundaries (4, 6, 6, 6, 6, 4, 6, 4). For the first time he topped 500 runs, 629 at 16.55.

For Alan Watt, 1935 was a curious season. In May and June he played nine matches, missed four but was not much used, bowling only 135 overs and taking just eight wickets. In the second half of the season he was dropped for three matches but took 28 wickets in the other 15. Curiously, although primarily known for his late outswing, a third of his 36 wickets – expensive at 45.50 each - were lbw. This was the first year of the revised LBW Law and, although only three of his wickets appear in *Wisden* as 'lbw (N),' (which was intended to indicate lbw under the new Law), there seems little doubt that Watt benefitted from the change. Up to the time of the Law change 11% of his wickets came from lbw decisions. From 1935 until the end of his career the figure rises to more than 18%.

1935 had its bright spots. In 14 matches Watt opened the bowling with Les Todd and, against Essex at Ilford, the pair bowled unchanged to dismiss Essex for 97 (Watt 6 for 49, Todd 4 for 37). With the bat he scored 683 runs (avge.17.07), including 56 out of 70 in 30 minutes with 4 sixes (three out of the ground) and 6 fours against Hampshire at Tonbridge and 54 in 39 minutes (2 sixes and 5 fours) in the aforementioned match at Ilford. In scoring 40 against Warwickshire at Edgbaston, he twice hit the slow left-arm George Paine over the pavilion and out of the ground.

The Watt/Todd new ball pairing made substantial progress in 1936. On 16 occasions opposing opening pairs failed to reach double figures, another 13 were parted at fewer than 20, and 33 times opening batsmen were dismissed for single figures. Todd took 100 wickets and Watt might well have done the same had he not missed five late-season matches through injury, which restricted him to 88 wickets at a highly satisfactory 23.92 each. He took 7 for 37 when Essex were bowled out for 137 in Tunbridge Wells Week and 6 for 46 against Surrey at Blackheath. Exploiting the short boundaries at the Bat & Ball, Gravesend, he smote the Gloucestershire bowling for 25 in five minutes (4 fours) and 54 in 25 minutes (6 sixes, 1 four). He again ended the season with over 500 runs.

With the retirement of Freeman, seam bowlers now played a greater role in Kent cricket than at any time since the retirement of Arthur Fielder, and 1937 was Watt's busiest season. Despite missing four games in August due to injury, he bowled 962 overs and claimed his 100 wickets for the first and only time - 108 at 27.09 each. Seven times he took five in an innings, notably 8 for 100 v Leicestershire at Tonbridge, 6 for 34 at Derby, 6 for 99 at Bradford (including the wickets of the cream of Yorkshire's batting, Herbert Sutcliffe, Len Hutton, Arthur Mitchell, Morris Leyland and Brian Sellers) and 5 for 68 (including Cyril Washbrook and Eddie Paynter) v Lancashire at Maidstone.

With the bat he had his most prolific year – 688 runs (avge.18.59) with several examples of his quick-scoring talents. Promoted to number eight in the second innings against Yorkshire at Tonbridge, he hit 69 out of 73 in 40 minutes with 5 sixes (three out of the ground) and 5 fours. According to legend, one of his sixes went over the pavilion into a railway truck, and another ended in the Medway. In the return at Bradford he scored 37 in 12 minutes with four sixes, all off Hedley Verity. At Dover, when Kent scored 219 in 77 minutes to beat Gloucestershire, Watt hit 39* of the last 51 in ten minutes, ending the match with a straight six out of the ground. The ball was not found until after World War Two. He also had match figures of 10 for 198. For Over 30 v Under 30 in the Folkestone Festival he rounded off his season with 77 in 30 minutes, 72 of them in boundaries, (4 sixes, all over the wall at mid-on at the Eastern edge of the ground, and 12 fours). This was his last half century. For the remainder of his first-class career his top score was 34.

Boosted by the arrival of the genuine pace of Norman Harding, for the last two pre-war seasons Kent could reasonably claim one of the best seam attacks in the 17 counties. In both years Watt, Todd and Harding accounted for over half the wickets. Now mostly used as first change, Watt bowled fewer overs, 734.4, in 1938, but, despite missing five matches through injury, finished with 76 wickets. He started the season slowly, by mid-June he had only five wickets to his credit, but found form in July and August, notably in Maidstone Week with 6 for 80 & 3 for 56 v Glamorgan and 7 for 55 & 7 for 35 v Middlesex. There followed 4 for 102 v the Australians, including Bradman (caught at cover for 67) and both openers, Jack Fingleton and Bill Brown. He ended the season with 5 for 33 v Notts at the Crabble.

In 1939 Watt missed three games through injury and the West Indies match due to the war. Bowling fewer than 500 overs, he nevertheless again finished with 76 wickets and, at 21.57 each, his final season proved to be his best-ever in terms of economy. Beginning with 6 for 27 v Essex at Gillingham, he followed with 4 for 38 v Sussex at Tonbridge, 4 for 25 v Glamorgan at Neath, 5 for 50 & 6 for 67 v Notts at Tunbridge Wells, 5 for 22 v Somerset at Mote Park which included a spell of 33 balls in which he claimed 4 wickets for no runs, and 5 for 29 v Essex at Chelmsford.

Like his father, during the war Watt worked in agriculture as well as serving in the A.R.P., as it was originally called, and the Home Guard. There is the tiniest hint that he did not take it all - or perhaps just authority – too seriously. In the 1939 England and Wales Review his occupation is listed as ‘rabbit catching land worker’.

From 1940 to 1943 he played a lot of cricket for London Counties, less frequently in later years. Despite the Battle of Britain, he played at least 23 matches in 1940, followed by 33 in 1941 and 23 in 1942. He claimed over 50 wickets in each of these seasons – 62 in 1940, 57 in 1941, when he also scored over 500 runs, and 65 in 1942. For wartime spectators seeking entertainment, his hitting was naturally a huge attraction. Against Bexleyheath in 1941 he hit 89 with 4 sixes, (three from successive hits out of the ground) and 10 fours.

According to the Kent CCC minutes, Watt was offered ‘an engagement’ in 1946, on condition that he explained why he was ‘turned out’ of the Home Guard. More than 70 years later, it is not easy to understand why such matters could possibly be any concern of a cricket club committee but, although times were indeed ‘a-changin’, they were changing more in some respects than in others, and old attitudes were a long time a-dying. In the end it did not matter as Watt had business interests and shortly afterwards began a long and successful career as landlord of *The Star* at Matfield.

In 1947 there was one last first-class match, for Morris Leyland’s Eleven v The Rest, one of three matches comprising the short-lived Harrogate Festival. He scored two and 0 and took one wicket (Jack Timms, Northants, lbw). This was also the last first-class appearance of two other between-wars county stalwarts, Bill Ashdown and Bill Andrews (Somerset).

Alan Watt never progressed beyond county cricket and his main claim to fame remains his reputation as a hitter. The nearest he came to representative cricket was in the 1933 Folkestone Festival, when he

appeared for an England Eleven v the West Indians and for Players v Gentlemen. The net result was one run and one wicket for 94. His was a relatively short career, only nine full seasons, and he took over 50 wickets against only one county, Middlesex 53 (avge.21.79). He exceeded 40 against Derbyshire, Essex, Hampshire, Leicestershire, Notts, Surrey, & Sussex. He was most economical against Derbyshire – 44 at 18.06.

Opening batsmen naturally predominate in the list of Watt's dismissals although, a little surprisingly 'Patsy Hendren is joint top of the list -:8: E.H Hendren, W.W.Keeton. 7: N.F Armstrong, J.Arnold, C.J.Barnett, R.W.Gregory, C.B. Harris, J.L.Hopwood, H.S.Squires, T.S.Worthington. 6: J.Langridge, A.E.Pothecary, D.Smith (Derbyshire). Among other notable scalps were 5: D.R.Jardine, M.Leyland. 4: L.Hutton, C.P.Mead, E.Paynter, H.Sutcliffe, C.Washbrook, 3: K.S.Duleepsinhji, D.C.S.Compton, W.J.Edrich, W.R.Hammond.

He achieved most success at Mote Park, 75 wickets at 17.80 each. He took 55 wickets at Tunbridge Wells, 51 at Canterbury, 50 at Folkestone. 39 at Dover and Tonbridge.

30.4% of Watt's wickets were bowled, 32.7 % caught by a fielder other than the wicketkeeper or bowler, 14.9 % lbw, 14.9 % caught by the nominated wicketkeeper, 3.7% stumped and 3.2% caught and bowled. Wicketkeepers – especially Kent keepers - spent more time standing up in those days but 23 stumpings is a lot for a bowler of his type. For comparison purposes - Alec Bedser 2.2%, George Geary 2.5%, Maurice Tate 2.3%, Derek Shackleton 0.8%. One who comes near is Jack Mercer (3%).

Watt scored over 300 runs on four grounds – Tonbridge, 410 (avge. 18.63), Canterbury, 347, Folkestone, 320 and Maidstone 315. His ten half-centuries were spread around seven counties, two against Leicestershire, one against MCC and one in the Folkestone Festival. Three of his half -centuries were at Tonbridge, one each at Folkestone, Gravesend, Ilford, Leicester (Aylestone Road), Lord's, Maidstone and Trent Bridge,

In 1945 he married Norah Tapsfield in Tonbridge. There was one child.

Further reading:

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Peter Michael William Whitehouse (No.603).

Born: 27. 4.1917, Minnis Bay, Birchington. Died: 19. 11.1943, Archi, Italy.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1938.

Educated: Marlborough College & New College, Oxford.

Parents: Henry Charles Whitehouse and Marjorie Winifred Whitehouse (née Richardson).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	8	15	1	160	30	11.42	0	0	0
Overall	24	39	7	927	91*	28.96	0	7	4

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	340	11	30.90	3-46	0	0
Overall	1267	43	29.46	5-33	1	0

Peter Whitehouse spent his early years in India. A useful all-rounder of the 'bits & pieces' variety, he represented Marlborough from 1933 to 1935. His best season was 1934, when he scored 355 runs (avge.35.50) and took 31 wickets (av.22.67). In 1936, in company with RC Fletcher, he saved his side against Harrow. Coming together at 21 for 6, they played out time, taking the score to 124 for 6 (Fletcher 57*, Whitehouse 54*). At the end of the Marlborough season, he was selected for Lord's Schools v the Rest.

In August 1935, while still at Marlborough, Whitehouse played five games for Berkshire in which he claimed one wicket and had a top score of 33, against Hertfordshire at Reading. In January 1936, shortly before he went up to Oxford, his life was hit by tragedy. His parents were divorced some years earlier and his mother, now Mrs Nicholson, was living in Maidenhead. They had, however, kept in close touch for the sake of their son and daughter. Henry Whitehouse was General Manager in India for Strauss & Co, a large, London-based, seed & grain merchants with branches all over India and what is now Pakistan.

In the aftermath of receiving a cablegram from Head Office instructing him to 'Stop payment and cease trading', he became depressed, travelled to Bombay (now Mumbai), visited the Taj Mahal and then threw himself from a fourth-floor balcony of the Taj Mahal Hotel. The news caused a panic on the Bombay grain market which closed down for an extended period. Henry Whitehouse left a note to the effect that he might have been able to avoid the crash, had he been kept informed of what was happening. A cablegram of sympathy and encouragement from his former wife was found with his effects.

On going up to Oxford shortly after his father's death, Whitehouse did little in the Freshmen's match but distinguished himself as a batsman when given his chance in two first-class matches. Against Minor Counties he scored 50* in a 120-run eighth wicket partnership with Michael Matthews (68) and in his second, v Leicestershire, he hit 91*, adding 128 in 104 minutes with Bill Murray-Wood (104), again for the eighth wicket. Nevertheless, although he also took six inexpensive wickets, he was not included when the team went on tour.

At the end of the Oxford Summer Term, Whitehouse played three games for Kent Second Eleven, beginning against Norfolk at Gravesend where he took 2 for 34 and scored 22 and 0, caught off the bowling of Bill Edrich. Against Wiltshire at Swindon he hit 46* and 29 and against Middlesex Seconds at Hornsey he took 4 for 90 in the first innings.

In 1937 he again failed to win a Blue. Beginning well with 55 and 29* in the Seniors' match, in his three first-class matches he took only five wickets (avge.29.60) and his one innings of consequence was against Free Foresters, when he was joint top scorer with 77 in 115 minutes (one 6, seven fours).

Again called on by Kent, he began with 67 in a non-Championship Second Eleven match against Sussex at Ashford and, possibly on the strength of this innings, he was chosen for three first-class fixtures, v Somerset at Bath, Gloucestershire at Cheltenham and Middlesex at the Nevill. His top score was only 18 but at Bath he took 2 for 60 and 3 for 49. He failed in two more Second Eleven games, his last as it turned out, his scores a pair, 0 and one; his three wickets cost 40 runs each.

Whitehouse missed the Seniors' match in 1938 and was not picked until the third game of the season, when he hit 61* (top score) against Minor Counties and followed with 72 against Leicestershire and shared a seventh wicket partnership of 134 with Michael Magill (80). Retaining his place for the remainder of the season, he was duly awarded his Blue. His final record for the season was 531 runs (avge.37.92) and 21 wickets (avge.32.09). His best efforts were 72 & 3 for 66 v Surrey at The Oval, 55 & 4 for 87 v Sussex at Hove and 45, 15*, 2 for 25 & 5 for 33 v Free Foresters in the Parks. In the University Match he failed to take a wicket but batted usefully in both innings for 36 & 26*.

Five more games for Kent completed Peter Whitehouse's first-class career. In Surrey's first innings at The Oval he took 3 for 46 and, although never playing a long innings, he more than once contributed

useful lower-order runs, notably in his final game, against Sussex at Hastings, when he scored 25 and 30.

Peter Whitehouse was living in Ascot when, in March 1941, he joined the Army and was posted to the Black Watch. Promoted to Lance Corporal in May, he was identified as officer material for the Indian Army (his father had been a Lieutenant in the Karachi Volunteer Artillery) and in December he embarked for India as an officer cadet.

In May 1942 he was commissioned in the 6/13 Frontier Force Rifles. Serving with 19 Brigade, 8th Indian Division, Eighth Army, Lieutenant Peter Whitehouse lost his life in Italy while commanding his battalion's Sikh company. During the fighting for the approaches to the River Sangro, his battalion was sent to occupy the small town of Archi, some 2000 yards from the river, where they came under fire from German rearguards dug in among the tombstones of the town cemetery. He was one of a considerable number of casualties suffered before the town was cleared.

At the time of his death, his UK residence was Hoylake, Cheshire. His estate, valued at £3,137, was bequeathed to his sister, Marjorie.

George Edward Charles Wood MC (No.523).

Born: 22. 8.1893, Blackheath. *Died:* 18. 3.1971, Christchurch, Hampshire.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1919-1927. Kent cap 1920.

Educated: Shirley Hall, Cheltenham College & Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Tests: Three for England.

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	41	60	6	855	63*	15.83	0	1	43/27
England	3	2	0	7	6	3.50	0	0	5/1
Overall	101	157	18	2773	128	19.94	1	10	119/53

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	9	0				

It is not easy to determine where George Wood ranks in the hierarchy of Kent wicketkeepers. As far as one can tell after more than four decades, he was a very high-class keeper but, in the words of Leslie Ames, one 'more noted for brilliance than for consistency'. In his obituary *Wisden* described Wood as a 'brilliant amateur wicketkeeper' who stood up to the stumps for the fastest bowlers of his day.' In his Kent history, Bob Arrowsmith is of very much the same opinion and just about everyone who has written about Wood seems to be agreed that he was (a) brilliant and (b) stood up to everything.

Experts on the wicketkeeper's craft are divided on the wisdom of standing up to genuine pace but for most of Wood's career there was very little truly fast bowling in English, still less Kentish, cricket. In any case, clearly he did not 'always' stand up. According to *Wisden*, Wood was standing back in the Lord's Test Match in 1924 when he dropped a relatively straightforward catch offered by Bob Catterall who went on to score a century, as he was when, in the same match, he caught Herby Taylor off Arthur Gilligan for his second Test wicket. Naturally, the majority of his stumpings were from spinners (Freeman 12 Woolley 11) but three were from the bowling of Arthur Gilligan, who in his early days was distinctly quick, two from Clem Gibson who was genuine fast-medium and one from Kent's Bernard 'Swifty' Howlett (q.v.).

England's selectors and others influential in the game clearly regarded Wood highly. For business reasons (the Stock Exchange), he had to decline an invitation to tour Australia in 1920-1921 but was picked for all three Tests against South Africa in 1924. Apart from dropping Catterall, he seems to have acquitted himself well but a rather grumpy *Wisden* thought that England's superiority was 'marked at every point except wicketkeeping'. Wood was asked to join the party for Australia in 1924/1925 but was again obliged to decline. Between 1920 and 1932 he played eight times for Gentlemen v Players, three at Lord's, four at The Oval, one at Scarborough, and was twice selected for England v the Rest in Test Trials.

In the Eleven at Cheltenham from 1910 to 1912, Wood headed the batting averages in his first two seasons and in 1912 played for Public Schools v MCC. In his first year, when he averaged over 30, he played purely as an opening batsman but kept wicket in 1911 and 1912. *Wisden* in 1912 rated him 'a good bat, with good defence and great forcing power' who 'kept wicket excellently, his main fault being that he lets too many byes on the leg-side', a rather curious judgement.

On going up to Cambridge in 1913, he did enough in the Freshmen's Match and for the Rest in the Trial to gain selection as a batsman for matches against Sussex, Northants and Yorkshire but, with a top score of 32, he progressed no further. His first-class debut as a wicketkeeper, for Lionel Robinson's Eleven against the University at Old Buckenham Hall, Attleborough, was marked by three catches and one stumping which may have served to offset the indignity of a pair. He played two matches that season (not as wicketkeeper) for Surrey Second Eleven, both at The Oval, the first against Kent Seconds.

Despite, or perhaps because of, a reputed penchant for substantial breakfasts including a few beers, Wood won a Hockey Blue at the start of 1914 but was not chosen for the two opening matches of the cricket season. Once given his chance, he retained his place behind the stumps and was awarded his Blue. Against Oxford he caught three and stumped two and his first innings 61 was the highest in the match for Cambridge. He also hit 75 v MCC at Fenner's, sharing a 102 run opening partnership with JSF Morrison (75). On 31 July Wood made his debut for Kent, keeping wicket for Kent Second Eleven v Lincolnshire at Woodhall Spa.

George Wood enlisted within days of the outbreak of war and by September was a Temporary Lieutenant in the 7th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment, a New Army 'Kitchener' battalion. Part of 39 Brigade, 13th (Western) Division, he served, mainly in staff appointments, in Gallipoli, Egypt, Mesopotamia (now Iraq) and in the Caucasus. In Gallipoli, Wood served briefly as Brigade Machine Gun Officer, subsequently as Brigade Staff Captain. Taken ill and evacuated prior to the general withdrawal from the Gallipoli Peninsula in December, on rejoining the Battalion in Egypt he was appointed Adjutant. While with his Battalion in Mesopotamia, during the attempt to relieve Kut-el-Amara, Wood was slightly wounded but remained on duty. After the fall of Kut, he resumed duties as Brigade Staff Captain.

Following the capture of Baghdad, 39 Brigade was detached to join Dunsterforce in the Caucasus, involved mainly in operations in and around Baku, fighting, not only the Turks, but with and against Russians. For an extended period he served as Brigade Major. Following the Armistice, he left Baku in February 1919, returning to England for demobilisation via Constantinople. He was awarded the MC in the 1919 New Year & Birthday Honours.

Back at Cambridge and its substantial breakfasts, Wood began 1919 with a Rugby Blue and went on to his best cricket season to date. *Wisden* considered him 'an exceptional wicketkeeper' 'no such wicketkeeper had been seen in the (University) match since Martyn and MacGregor'. His leg-side stumping of Frank Naumann from the fast bowling of Arthur Gilligan was 'dazzling'. Opening the batting throughout the season, he was leading scorer with 630 runs (avge.45.00), which included his only first-class century, 128 v Free Foresters at Fenner's.

Against Oxford at Lord's he scored 62 and put on 116 for the first wicket with future county colleague Con Johnstone (78). He captained the University in three matches but not from behind the stumps. In

July he made his debut for Kent, against Hampshire at Tunbridge Wells, the first of four appearances in 1919 but, with Jack Hubble still first choice, the only one in which he seems to have kept wicket. It proved his best season with the bat, in all matches 664 runs (avge.34.94).

In 1920, his final year, Wood captained one of the strongest-ever Cambridge sides, a team containing three other distinguished Kent cricketers, Con Johnstone, Percy Chapman and 'Father' Marriott. Beaten only once, the one disappointment was the University Match, ruined by rain. Wood, who stood down for several matches, had an unremarkable season, averaging only 19.00 with two half-centuries and eighteen dismissals.

The tendency of his schooldays to concede leg-side byes referred to in *Wisden* seems to have surfaced on occasions, at least in relatively unimportant fixtures. When the Army played the University, there were 27 byes in the first innings, 46 in the second. He made three more appearances for Kent, two in Canterbury Week, but Jack Hubble kept in all but the first, although it is always possible that he and Hubble switched during a match as Les Ames and Howard Levett would do in the 1930s.

The 16 matches George Wood played for Kent in 1921 were to be the nearest he would come to a full county season. In all but four he was behind the stumps, with Jack Hubble playing as a batsman, and in those 12 matches he caught 21 and stumped 15 – exactly three dismissals a match. Against Leicestershire at Gravesend there were six stumpings, three in each innings, five off Freeman, one off Woolley. With 442 runs at 22.10 he also contributed usefully in front of the stumps. There were seven scores of 30 or more including 63* v Middlesex in Canterbury Week when, with Freeman (32), 90 were added for the last wicket.

As well as playing in all three Gentlemen v Players matches, Wood was wicketkeeper when, at the end of the season, Warwick Armstrong's hitherto all-conquering Australians were beaten twice, by an all-amateur England Eleven at Eastbourne and by CI Thornton's Eleven at Scarborough.

As well as three Test matches, George Wood played twice for England in Test Trials, four more times for Gentlemen v Players and would continue to rank among the country's top wicketkeepers but, after 1921, the Stock Exchange was leaving him less time for cricket. Apart from a single match in Canterbury Week, he missed the whole of Kent's 1922 season but managed seven games in 1923, captaining the team to victory against Somerset at Mote Park.

In 1924 he married Virginia Monica Corbet Singleton (1896-1955) at St Paul's, Knightsbridge. There was one son. This was his last season of serious cricket (although he continued to make occasional appearances up to 1936). He played 16 first-class matches, including his three Test matches, and nine for Kent although he kept wicket in only six of them. Against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, with Hubble behind the stumps, he scored 49 in a 123 run third-wicket partnership with Frank Woolley (87). He kept wicket and captained in Canterbury Week when Nottinghamshire won by ten wickets.

One match in 1927, against MCC in the Folkestone Festival, ended Wood's cricket with the County. Kent fielded three wicketkeepers, Wood, Les Ames and Hubble behind the stumps. He played a great deal of what is now called, not always entirely accurately, recreational cricket for clubs including Band of Brothers, Free Foresters, Old Cheltonians, Pelsham (near Peasmarsh), St Lawrence and The Googlies, a club of which he was founder and President. In 1929 he toured Egypt with HM Martineau's Eleven.

A Stock Exchange friend of Jim Swanton's father, Wood helped to launch the great man's journalistic career by arranging for him to interview Frank Woolley.

Albert Charles Wright (No.534).

Born: 4. 4. 1895, Borstal, Rochester. *Died:* 26. 5.1959, Westminster, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast-medium bowler.

Kent: 1921-1931.

Kent cap: 1923.

Parents: John Henry Wright & Emily Frances Wright (*nêe* Skillen.).

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	225	298	49	3260	81	13.09	0	9	127

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	14463	596	24.26	7-31	24	1

Among Kent' pace bowlers, Charlie Wright has become rather a forgotten man. Big, strong and seemingly tireless, he bowled a lively fast medium off a short run, putting all his weight in his delivery stride on to an already bowed left leg. Throughout Wright's career Kent was, more perhaps than any other county, spin orientated, but he nevertheless had an important role to play in the attack. Relying mainly on inswing and movement into the right-hander off the seam, he could be dangerous on a green pitch but more often he was called on to bowl long spells 'back of a length', as the moderns say, to keep the runs down and to give the spinners a rest.

Too inconsistent to lay claim to genuine allrounder status, and without quite the crowd-pleasing, big-hitting, talents of his successor Alan Watt, Wright was nevertheless a more than useful lower-order batsman, capable of getting his runs quickly, with nine half-centuries, plus six scores between 40 and 49, to his credit. He shared in five century partnerships as well as three last-wicket stands ranging from 63 to 85. In his early days on the Kent staff, while on loan to Tonbridge, he scored 139 against West Malling. On the other hand, during his career with Kent he was dismissed without scoring 58 times in first-class cricket, including three pairs, and there were 66 other single-figures scores.

Although not of a particularly athletic appearance, Wright was a reliable fielder in front of the wicket, especially at mid off – in 1925 he held 22 catches – although he once missed three catches off successive balls. According to Bob Arrowsmith, Wright was apt to 'roar with laughter when catches were missed off his bowling'. Possibly, but Kent had the reputation of missing quite a lot of catches around this time and the joke must have soon worn a bit thin.

The son of an engine fitter, Wright was living with his parents in Snodland and working as an apprentice in a paper mill, when he came to Canterbury for a trial in 1919. He had been playing both cricket and football for his local club Snodland. The Kent Trial Book notes 'good delivery, short run, good physique' and he was signed for the 1920 season.

Commencing against Essex Seconds at Tonbridge, Wright made eight Minor Counties Championship appearances in that first season, ending with 29 wickets at 13.07 each. Against Staffordshire at Blackheath he took 4 for 16 from seven overs, 4 for 53 against Dorset at Gravesend and finished on a high note, 8 for 48 in the second innings against Surrey Second Eleven at Hythe.

Wright was a rather surprise choice against MCC at Lord's in Kent's opening game of the 1921 season. Coming to the wicket on the first day with the score 184 for 8, he struck 53 in 57 minutes, adding 44 for the ninth wicket with his captain Lionel Troughton (66) and 33 for the tenth with 'Tich' Freeman (7*). His first wicket was the MCC top scorer, Miles Howell. Although going on to play five more first team matches that season, he failed to take a wicket in the last three and his season's bag of seven wickets was expensive at 36.85 each. However, with the exception of Howell, the batsmen concerned were all Test cricketers and all but one of them top-order batsmen – Charles 'Jack' Russell, George Brown, Charles Hallows, Ernest Tyldesley and Jack Sharp. His half-century on debut was succeeded by four successive ducks, including a pair, followed by 12*, 2, 5, 0, 3, 0. For the Seconds he claimed 5

for 28 v Bedfordshire at Bedford School, 6 for 73 v Staffordshire at Gore Court and ended the season with 46 wickets (avge.12.65).

After two games in May which gained him only three expensive wickets, Wright played no more first team cricket in 1922 but for the Second Eleven he did well, heading the bowling averages with 53 wickets at 11.07 apiece. In the three final fixtures he had match figures of 11 for 68 v Wiltshire at Blackheath, 10 for 71 in the return at Swindon and 8 for 100 v Surrey at Hythe. Possibly frustrated by his lack of progress – he was fourth change in his last first team game at Leicester – he signed up for 1923 with the Lancashire League Club, Oswaldtwistle. The Kent Committee's response was simply to point out that he had signed a five-year contract.

His attempted defection seems to have done Charlie Wright's position with Kent no harm. In 1923 he was awarded his County Cap. Nevertheless, it was a season of mixed fortunes. Picked for the first team in the opening county match of the season, against Hampshire at Southampton, he began with three good wickets for 43 – Brown (again), Phil Mead and the amateur Harold Day – but subsequently found it hard going. Over the next five matches he claimed only one wicket and was perhaps fortunate to retain his first team place. In the next match, against Northants at Wantage Road, although denied the new ball, he took 2 for 29 and 5 for 39, his first five –wicket return. There followed 4 for 67 & 4 for 59 (including Morris Leyland, Roy Kilner (twice), Wilfred Rhodes and Emmott Robinson) v Yorkshire at Tonbridge, 3 for 39 & 4 for 74 v Worcestershire at Dudley and 5 for 116 v Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge. By the third week of July he had 50 wickets to his credit. With the amateur influx in August however, he progressed no further; he was back in the Second Eleven for the remainder of the season.

Wright's fortunes fluctuated even more as a batsman. In his second match he hit a rapid 28 at Old Trafford, adding 41 for the last wicket with Howard Taylor (15*), but over the next 13 innings his top score was 9*. There were seven ducks, five in succession, including two pairs. In the next match, at Trent Bridge, came the first of three valuable contributions to last wicket partnerships, 25 in an 86 -run partnership with James Seymour (86*), followed, against Northants at Blackheath, by a 56- run partnership with Sydney Day (Day 27, Wright 30*) and 75 with Freeman against Somerset at Mote Park (Wright 47*, Freeman 21).

In 1924, although left out of the side for four matches and seeing less of the new ball with Stanley Cornwallis, a fast bowler, as captain, he finished the season with 68 wickets at economical 17.20 each. More than half of his wickets came in August, when the team was, for the most part, led by Jack Bryan and Wright had first use of the new ball. At Taunton he bowled Kent to victory with 5 for 33 and 7 for 31 from a total of 32 overs, 6 for 38 against Middlesex at Lord's 38 and 5 for 39 against the South African tourists at Canterbury.

Despite seven ducks, for the first time he exceeded 500 runs, 528 at.16.50, including three half-centuries. At Leyton, in the opening game of the season, coming in with Kent 50 for 7, he scored 68 in a 133- run eighth wicket partnership with Barry Cumberlege (76). In the return, a high-scoring draw at Gravesend, Wright hit 81 in another eighth wicket partnership, 157 with Alan Hilder (103*), at the time a county record, the first 100 coming in 40 minutes. Against Leicestershire at the Nevill, Kent were 60 for 7 when Wright joined George Collins. Together they added 105 (Collins 54, Wright 55).

Wright bowled over 800 overs in each of the next five seasons and became the backbone of Kent's new ball attack. In 1925 he opened the bowling in every one of his 28 matches and finished with 75 wickets, more than any other Kent bowler except (of course) Freeman. Against Warwickshire, he took 6 for 62 at Edgbaston and 4 for 11 at Tunbridge Wells, including a hat-trick (Bob Wyatt, Harry Howell and Bob Cooke). In Kent's first innings, Cooke, who had only 16 wickets to his credit in his entire career, had already taken a hat-trick, actually four in five balls. *Wisden*, while recording Cooke's performance, ignored Wright's moment of glory. At Mote Park, he again did well against Yorkshire, with 6 for 52 & 3 for 104, including the wickets of Percy Holmes (twice), Leyland and Edgar Oldroyd (twice).

In 1926 Wright became the first Kent pace bowler to claim 100 wickets in a season since Arthur Fielder in 1913. His 102 wickets came at an inexpensive 18.82 apiece, which placed him ninth in the national averages. *Wisden* considered 'he bowled much better than in any previous season, keeping a steadier length and being very effective with the new ball'. Opening the bowling in every match in which he bowled save one, only once did he concede more than 100 runs in an innings. He took 6 for 29 against Middlesex on a Blackheath pitch that was actually aiding the spinners, as well as 6 for 31 v Sussex at Tonbridge and 5 for 36 against Derbyshire at Chatham. The latter were numbers two to six in the batting order. Nine times he took four in an innings, five times at a cost of under ten each.

Wright achieved the hundred wicket landmark again in 1927 – 107 at 20.38 - seven times five in an innings. At Taunton, when Somerset were dismissed for 55 in an hour and 20 minutes, his 6 for 29, equalled his statistical best of the previous season but, given the much more batsman-friendly wicket and the strength of the opposition, even better was his 5 for 52 & 4 for 61 at Trent Bridge, when his haul included George Gunn (twice), 'Dodge' Whysall, Willis Walker, Wilf Payton (twice) and Ben Lilley. In a rain-ruined game at Tonbridge, his 5 for 45 when Yorkshire were bowled out for 131 was rather wasted.

Wisden judged Wright 'particularly dangerous with the new ball', and he had first use of it in all but two of his 29 matches. Ashdown was usually his partner, but he shared the new ball with seven others - Beslee, Capes (once), Chapman (once), Collins, A.J.Evans, Freeman (five times) and T.C.Longfield (once). He also scored over 400 runs. When Kent totalled 504 against Worcestershire at Folkestone in the first game of the season, he struck a rapid 60 and shared a 53- run ninth wicket partnership with Freeman (20).

In 1928 Freeman was at his peak and dominated the Kent attack but, although bothered by injury, Wright still bowled over 800 overs and had his days, 6 for 22 when Middlesex were beaten by an innings in a late August match at Canterbury, but his 69 wickets were expensive at 32.33. *Wisden* was critical of Kent's handling of his injury problems, suggesting that he would have benefitted from 'a considerable rest'.

1929 was better, 72 wickets at 27.72 each and, for the first time since 1924, he exceeded 500 runs. Much of his best was now against the lesser counties, 5 for 34 & 4 for 56 when Northants were beaten by ten wickets at Gravesend, 5 for 42 when Leicestershire were bowled out for 114 on a good wicket at Tunbridge Wells. As a batsman, he was seen at his most aggressive against Hampshire at Folkestone – 71 out of 86 in 36 minutes. In a high scoring game at Hastings, he hit 69 in a 160 run seventh wicket partnership with 'John' Knott (140*).

Wright continued to open the bowling in 1930 but Kent had now become more dependent than ever on spin. In a damp summer, Wright claimed only half a dozen wickets in May and, still troubled by strains, just four in June, despite playing in all seven of Kent's matches. There was some improvement as summer went on, but only once did he take more than three wickets in an innings, 4 for 32 v Middlesex at Lord's, and never more than four in a match. He still bowled more overs, 453.3, than any other Kent seamer, but 35 wickets (avge.29.74) was a modest return.

The 1931 season started as usual but, apart from a last hurrah at Trent Bridge with the wickets of Walter Keeton, George Gunn and Walker, he struggled and, with Alan Watt, an almost like-for-like replacement, waiting in the wings, he lost his place and retired. His last match was against Essex at Colchester, his last wicket Morris Nichols.

In November 1931 Kent made him a grant of £500 in lieu of benefit plus another £91 from collections which he used to become landlord of *The Fruiterers Arms*, Rodmersham.

Although seldom as destructive as some of his illustrious predecessors – his 12 for 64 v Somerset at Taunton in 1924 was the only time he took ten or more in a match –, leaving aside Kent's array of spinners, at the time of his retirement, only Fielder, Ned Willsher, Jack Mason and Walter Wright

among the quicker bowlers had claimed more wickets. Douglas Jardine reputedly maintained that a reliable yardstick, when attempting to evaluate a cricketer, was to examine his record against Yorkshire. With 44 wickets at 20.97, a cost per wicket over three runs per wicket lower than his career 24.26, Wright could be said to pass the test. He had most success against Northants, 56 wickets (avge.18.58), Essex 50 (avge.21.94), Somerset 43 (avge.14.90) and Middlesex 40 (avge.18.50). His most fruitful grounds were Canterbury, 60 wickets (avge.19.83), Dover 48 (avge.23.79), Maidstone 43 (avge.27.11) and Tonbridge 42 (avge.19.76). On away grounds, Wright achieved most success at Trent Bridge, 32 wickets (avge.25.62).

The batsmen he dismissed most frequently were his first-ever, George Brown, whose wicket he went on to claim 15 times in all, followed by C.N. Woolley (10), A.C. Russell (8), J.A. Cutmore, A.S. Kennedy, G.M. Lee, H.W. Lee, W.W. Whysall (7), J. Bowden, A.E. Dipper, E. Oldroyd, W.E.G. Payton, (6).

Among other prized scalps were C. Hallows, M. Leyland, J. O'Connor, W. Walker (5), G. Gunn, J.W. Hearne, E.H. Hendren, R. Kilner, F.T. Mann, C.P. Mead, W. Rhodes (4), J.B. Hobbs, P. Holmes, J.H. Parks, H. Sutcliffe, G.E. Tyldesley (3), H. Makepeace (2), A.W. Carr, A. Ducat, K.S. Duleepsinhji, D.R. Jardine, W.W. Keeton, B. Mitchell, P.A. Perrin, A. Sandham, H.W. Taylor, R.E.S. Wyatt (1).

Of his 596 wickets, 47.8% were bowled, 27.18% caught by a fielder other than the nominated wicketkeeper, 17.7% caught by the nominated wicketkeeper, 5.3% lbw, a lower percentage than might be expected from one whose stock ball swung in to the right hander, and 1.3 caught and bowled. None of his victims were stumped or hit wicket.

Douglas Vivian Parson Wright (No.586).

Born: 21. 8. 1914, Sidcup. *Died:* 13. 11. 1998, Canterbury.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg spin bowler.

Kent 1932-1957. Kent Cap: 1936, Second Eleven Cap 1932.

County captain 1954-1956.

Tests: 34 for England.

Wisden Cricketer of the Year 1940.

Educated: St Nicholas Parish School, Chislehurst.

Parents: Frank Wright & Melissa May Wright (née Parson)

First Class Career Record

Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	397	595	188	5074	84*	12.46	0	15	152
England	34	39	13	289	45	11.11	0	0	10
Overall	497	703	225	5903	84*	12.34	0	16	182

Bowling

	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	38773	1709	22.68	9-47	132	38
England	4224	108	39.11	7-105	6	1
Overall	49306	2056	23.98	9-47	150	42

When Douglas Wright made his debut in first-class cricket almost every county fielded at least one leg break and googly bowler; Kent regularly played two. Between the wars and for the first decade or so afterwards, England seldom played a Test series without one. Although since the introduction of the googly, some two dozen assorted leg spinners have played for England, Wright is alone in having over one hundred Test wickets to his credit. 'Tich' Freeman (66) and Walter Robins (64) came nearest but

neither made much impression against England's premier opponent, Australia, and no Englishman can match Wright's 48 wickets in Anglo/Australian Test cricket. In first-class cricket, his haul of is exceeded among English leg spinners only by Eric Hollies and, of course, Freeman

Blessed with long fingers and spinning the ball harder than most, for much of his career Wright took a run of between 15 and 17 yards (13.7 and 15.5 metres), consisting of a series of steps and bounds, an action difficult to imitate, virtually impossible to describe with any accuracy and one that, on witnessing it for the first time, sometimes drew laughter from spectators. The Australian writer Ray Robinson termed it 'a cross between the barn dance and a swallow dive'. Throughout his career he tinkered with his run-up and in later years tried a shorter, more orthodox, approach but most critics, and Wright himself, felt he was not quite the same bowler.

Significantly quicker than his contemporaries, his normal pace was, if anything, a little above medium, with a well-concealed fast ball which could be a nightmare for wicketkeepers who did not keep to him regularly. Although his unique action carried a penalty in problems with long hops, half volleys and, especially, no-balls, it contributed to the pace and lift which set him apart from others of his type. Even when he pitched short, batsmen could be undone by speed and bounce; to cut could be hazardous – Keith Miller called it suicidal - and attempts to hook sometimes ended in disaster. As early as 1940, *Wisden* thought that on occasions 'he has looked the most unplayable bowler in the world'.

Sir Donald Bradman, like many Australian cricketers a great Wright admirer, wrote 'I scored a lot of runs against him, yet I could never settle down comfortably. However well set I was, I knew he was capable of producing the unplayable ball - no other bowler had the same power'. He considered Wright's deadliest weapon 'the leg break dipping towards leg stump, lifting and hitting the top of off'. Not unnaturally, most pundits agreed, but Wright's armoury also included two different googlies. Les Ames thought Wright concealed his googly better than anyone and, while the leg break remained his stock ball, numerous batsmen succumbed to his wrong 'uns and top spinners –356 (17.31%) of his victims were lbw, a percentage only fractionally lower than his great off spinner contemporary, Tom Goddard (17.32%).

Wright had his detractors, particularly when he first came into the England team. To some, especially in sections of the Northern press, he was an expensive luxury. His Test wickets were indeed expensive but 14 of his Tests were against the strong Australian batting sides of the Bradman era and ten against South Africa. 59 of his Test wickets were on tour, where he rarely had the benefit of a responsive wicket.

Writing in *The Barclays World of Cricket*, the highly respected cricket historian of Kent cricket Bob Arrowsmith writes 'his final figures suggest simply a good county bowler. Nowhere in cricket history is there so great a disparity between reputation and results'. In terms of technique, Arrowsmith was perhaps a little too closely wedded to the orthodoxies of an earlier generation and it is a curious judgement from one who had ample opportunity to know better. He was a house-master at Charterhouse when Wright was coach. Wright took his 2,056 wickets at 23.98 each. For comparison purposes, career figures for four great Australian leg spinners make interesting reading – Richie Benaud 945 wickets at 24.73, Clarrie Grimmett 1,424 at 22.38, Arthur Mailey 779 at 24.10, Shane Warne 1,319 at 26.11.

Wright's lapses in length could indeed be costly and were apt to occur more frequently following a spate of no-balls which would plague him throughout his career. On the other hand, even when he was not at his best, a long hop or half volley would often be followed with a wicket-taking ball. Most who played with and against him seem agreed that he was by far the unluckiest bowler of his generation in terms of missed catches, doubtful umpiring and, probably most of all, batsmen failing to get a touch. If he pitched his leg break on middle and leg rather than leg stump, he frequently missed wicket, bat and wicketkeeper. According to Derek Ufton, in the later stages of his career, he became so exasperated with missed slip catches that he bowled more googlies than leg breaks.

He had a gift for disposing of the best. Almost 60% of his wickets were batsmen in the top six. His most frequent victim was Jack Robertson (dismissed 18 times) but Lindsay Hassett, often cited as Australia's

finest player of leg spin, fell to him on 16 occasions. - Bill Edrich 11, Miller ten, Denis Compton and Joe Hardstaff nine each. He accounted for Freeman's *bête noir* Jack O'Connor five times and, another scourge of spin bowlers, Walter Hammond four. For a leg spinner, his bag included an impressive array of left-handers, Jack Crapp (nine), James Langridge (nine), Laurie Fishlock (six), Morris Leyland and Eddie Paynter (four each), as well as Arthur Morris and Neil Harvey (three). He accounted once for a left-hander of an earlier generation, Phil Mead.

Douglas Wright's father worked in a highly specialised niche of the printing industry, applying the traditional gold finish to account books, public records etc. In 1922 the family moved to Chislehurst, where the young Douglas captained the St. Nicholas School team at both cricket and football. He was still a schoolboy when he began playing regularly for Chislehurst Second Eleven.

In 1929 he left school and began work in a solicitor's office in the Temple but he had been there for little more than three months when Kent Second Eleven captain Gerard Simpson intervened. He had been impressed by Wright's bowling for Chislehurst and thought the boy might have a future in cricket. Not without difficulty, he persuaded Mr and Mrs Wright to allow their son to forsake the law and join the Central London Indoor Cricket School at Walham Green, then under the management of the great South African exponent of the googly, Aubrey Faulkner. In October 1929 Wright began work at the School, in the office in the morning, learning his craft in the nets in the afternoon.

At school and in club cricket, he had been primarily a seam bowler with the occasional leg break for variety but under Faulkner's innovative coaching, he concentrated on spin. Results were not long in coming. For Chislehurst in 1930 his 30 wickets cost a modest 7.4 each and, by 1931, he was deemed ready to apply for a trial with Kent. At Canterbury on May 13, one of 35 hopefuls, facing a panel of judges including Lord Harris, Club captain Lionel Troughton, coach 'Punter' Humphreys, groundsman Joe Murrin and Simpson, he was taken on the staff, the first of only two chosen.

A week later he made his debut for the Club & Ground against Gravesend and on June 3, still not 17, he was in the Second Eleven v Devonshire at Blackheath. He did not get a chance to bowl but took wickets in Club & Ground matches and, in the following year, 69 wickets at 15.47 placed him at the head of the Second Eleven bowling averages. Awarded his Second Eleven cap, in July he and another youthful debutant, Arthur Fagg, were called into the first team at Birmingham. Kent were second in the Championship table at the time but, in a Quixotic gesture, they deprived themselves of Percy Chapman, Frank Woolley, Freeman and 'Hopper' Levett for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's. It was an unmemorable debut. The match, on the Mitchell & Butler's ground rather than at Edgbaston, was ruined by rain and Wright bowled eleven overs without taking a wicket.

With Freeman still collecting his 200 wickets a season, it was difficult for a young leg spinner to become established but Wright was in the first team for the opening game of the 1933 season, v Gloucestershire at Bristol, where an lbw decision against Billy Neale gave him his first wicket in first-class cricket. In all he played in 13 games, dropping out in July when 'Father' Marriott became available. Used sparingly, his season's record was 31 wickets (avge.31.29). At Taunton he took 4 for 26 and v MCC at Lord's 4 for 96 & 4 for 65. Already he had some distinguished scalps to his credit – Len Bates, 'Doc' Gibbons, 'Patsy' Hendren, Norman Kilner and Walter Robins.

The pattern was similar in the following two seasons with Wright standing down when Marriott joined the side. *Autre temps, autre mœurs* however, twice, once in 1933 and once in 1934, Kent fielded all three leg spinners.

With more opportunities (21 matches), 1936 brought a considerable advance with 59 wickets at an economical 23.49 including 4 for 88 & 6 for 72 v Notts at Trent Bridge and 4 for 55 and 3 for 53 v Hampshire on his first appearance in Canterbury Week, which was enough to earn him his County cap but not enough to keep him in the side when Freeman returned for the second match of the Week. The great little man's retirement the following year opened the way for a full season. In 947.5 overs he took 111 wickets (avge. 27.19) and claimed his first two hat tricks - at Worcester (H.I.H.Gibbons, J.Horton,

B.W.Quaife), where his first innings figures were 7 for 27, and at Trent Bridge (J.Knowles, J.Hardstaff and G.V. Gunn) , where he took 6 for 47.

1938 began with 24 wickets in the first three matches including his third hat trick (R.A.Sinfield, R.W.Haynes, L.M.Cranfield), against Gloucestershire at Gillingham, where he claimed the last four wickets without conceding a run in the first innings and picked up the wicket of Walter Hammond in the second. This probably clinched his selection for the Test Trial at Lord's where, according to *Wisden*, Wright 'severely tested' the top-class batsmen, including Hammond. His three wickets cost 135 but there were five missed catches and Lancashire's Bill Farrimond, keeping to Wright for the first time, missed a relatively simple stumping chance. To quote *Wisden* again, 'His analysis conveyed no true idea of how well he performed'.

As a sidelight on this match, in his *Background to Cricket* Sir Home Gordon asserts that Bradman stood down from the tourists' match against Essex in order to watch Wright at Lord's. Entertaining as they often are, many of Home Gordon's revelations are best taken with a pinch of salt –or perhaps something stronger – and, although Bradman did indeed miss the Essex game, it was on doctor's advice to rest his back. He was almost certainly in London, but if he was at Lord's, nobody seems to have noticed him.

Chosen for the first Test at Trent Bridge, Wright bowled Jack Fingleton with his fourth ball, had Hassett caught at slip for one, bowled Jack Badcock with a googly for nine and three times came close to disposing of Bradman before he had settled. Later he, in common with all the English bowlers, suffered a battering from Stan McCabe (232) which left his final figures 4 for 153. Although expensive, he retained his place and at Headingley came close to giving England an unlikely victory. In the fourth innings Australia needed only 105. Coming on at 48 for 2, in five overs Wright accounted for Bradman (caught at slip), McCabe and Hassett – and had two catches missed – at a personal cost of 26. Almost, but not quite, enough to stop Australia going one up in the series. Injury kept him out of The Oval Test and his twelve wickets in what was for him a three match series cost 426.

Wright's selection for the winter tour of South Africa was marred by tragedy. Shortly before departure, he learned that his mother was likely to have only weeks to live. Anxious to stand down, according to the substantial coverage given to the story in the now defunct *Sunday Dispatch*, he was advised by the 'cricket authorities' that to decline to tour would jeopardise his career. Mrs Wright died shortly before the team sailed for home. Although he emerged as leading wicket-taker with 51 wickets at 28.49, including a fourth hat-trick, against Border (S.L.White, H.L.Whitfield, D.F.Dowling), the Test series, played on lifeless wickets, did nothing to enhance any bowler's reputation. In Test matches Wright took only nine wickets (avge.58.44) but Hedley Verity was the only bowler on either side to take wickets at under 30 runs apiece.

Back in England, Wright headed the Kent bowling averages and, in all matches, claimed 141 wickets at 16.81. Over a four week period commencing June 3rd, he took 61 wickets including 8 for 84 v Sussex at Tonbridge, 8 for 35 & 8 for 45 v Somerset at Bath and 9 for 47 v Gloucestershire at Bristol, the latter including hat trick number five (R.W.Haynes, G.E.Lambert, T.W.Goddard).. He played in all three Test matches against West Indies as well as for Players v Gentlemen and began to show all-rounder credentials. He had often made runs in minor cricket – he averaged 85 for Chislehurst in 1934. Now, for Kent, he scored 483 (avge.20.12) including three half-centuries. *Wisden*, who chose him as one of their Five Cricketers of the Year, judged that he challenged Leslie Todd 'for the honour of being the best all-rounder in the side'.

On the outbreak of war, Wright joined the Honourable Artillery Company and was subsequently commissioned in the Royal Artillery, reaching the rank of Lieutenant. Service throughout the War with Anti-Aircraft Command in the UK enabled him to appear in numerous representative and inter-service charity matches. He was also sometimes seen on remote gun sites, still endeavouring to perfect his run up. In 1945 he was selected for all five 'Victory' Test matches against the Australian Services as well as for the famous England v Dominions match at Lord's in which, one of eight spinners (including six wrist spinners) participating, he was leading wicket-taker with a match return of 10 for 195.

After the Officers' Mess, returning to the archaic amateur/ professional milieu of county cricket cannot have been easy but Wright's attitude seems to have been one of amused tolerance and he resumed very much where he left off, confounding the 'too expensive' school of critics with 125 wickets (avge.18.08). He played in two of the three Test matches and incurred some press hostility by declaring himself unfit for the third. Following a strain and possibly with the impending tour in mind, he preferred to give himself a gentle work out against Glamorgan at Dover. He also gave the selectors a chance to have a look at Peter Smith (Essex), who was picked for the tour as second leg spinner.

In the winter tour of Australia and New Zealand all the more knowledgeable critics seem agreed that he bowled superbly. Even that most acerbic of cricket writers, LynnWellings, wrote that 'he was magnificent. He had little support and was shock and stock bowler in one. He is often blamed for being erratic, but he was accuracy itself'. He took more wickets in the series (23) than anyone on either side and if, at 43.04 each, they were expensive, Australia had a powerful batting line up, the series was played on batsmen-friendly wickets and for England only Norman Yardley (10 wickets at 37.20) was more economical. His workload in Test matches of 240.2 (eight-ball) overs was exceeded only by Alec Bedser's 246.3.

In the fifth Test at Melbourne he produced what, given the quality of the opposition, must surely rank as the finest-ever performance by an English leg spinner in Test cricket - 29-4-105-7. Bowling unchanged at one stage for an hour and 45 minutes with the temperature around 38C, his victims included Bradman (bowled), Hassett, Miller and Colin McCool. In the second innings he dismissed Hassett (again) and Ron Hamence and had Bradman dropped at slip on two. Australia won by five wickets, Bradman (63) top scorer.

In 1947, as batsmen gorged themselves in a golden summer, Wright bowled over 1,100 overs and had his most productive season ever, 177 wickets (avge.21.12), 18 times five in an innings, eight times ten in a match. Of the latter, two were at Lord's, 7 for 92 & 4 for 102 v Middlesex and 5 for 95 & 5 for 80 in the second Test when South Africa were beaten by ten wickets. Again no bowler on either side took more than his 19 Test wickets (avge.25.47). At Hastings against Sussex, where his match figures were 15 for 173, he achieved his sixth hat trick (G.Cox, J.K.Nye, J.H.Cornford).

Although it would have seemed unlikely at the time, Doug Wright had now passed the peak of his Test career. An attack of fibrositis and a chipped finger bone restricted him to one Test appearance against Bradman's Invincibles in 1948. A second tour of South Africa in 1948-1949 was generally disappointing. There were increasing problems with no-balls and a more orthodox leg-spinner, Roly Jenkins, troubled the home batsmen more. Nevertheless, among his modest nine Test wickets were the prized scalps of Bruce Mitchell twice and Dudley Nourse twice. His best performance was 4 for 92 & 7 for 54 against Natal in which he inflicted a pair on Nourse.

Beset by fitness problems, he played only one Test match in each of the next two seasons but against the West Indies at The Oval he bowled 'superbly' according to *Wisden* 'with scarcely a loose ball'. The West Indian batsmen dominated the match but in 53 overs he took 5 for 141 and achieved the rare feat of dismissing Frank Worrell, Everton Weeks and Clyde Walcott, all in the same innings.

The MCC 1950-1951 tour of Australia & New Zealand concluded Wright's Test career. Regular bouts of fibrositis handicapped him throughout and a pulled muscle while batting prevented him from bowling at all in the third Test. Beginning well with 7 for 60 v Western Australia, his 4 for 99 in the fourth Test at Adelaide included the wickets of Hassett and Miller and he dismissed the same pair in the second innings. He also batted usefully, scoring 14 in a last wicket partnership of 53 with Len Hutton (156*).

When England gained their first post-war victory over Australia in the fifth Test at Melbourne, it was Wright who made the decisive breakthrough on the final day. He dismissed Hassett, bowled by a classic leg-break, Neil Harvey and Ian Johnson for 56. On his final Test appearance, in the second Test against New Zealand at Wellington, his 5 for 48 in the first innings included, as so often, the cream of the

batting, Bert Sutcliffe, Merv Wallace and Walter Hadlee. On the tour as a whole, fibrositis and pulled muscles notwithstanding, Wright finished with 52 wickets (avge.27.76). Only Alec Bedser (53) claimed more.

For almost the whole of his post-war career, Wright remained the cutting edge of the Kent attack. Five times between 1949, and 1955 he exceeded 100 wickets and twice narrowly missed with 99 in 1951 and 98 in 1953. In the 1949 Canterbury Week, in the process of returning match figures of 11 for 170 v Hampshire, he achieved his world record seventh hat-trick (E.D.R.Eagar, C.Walker, D.Shackleton) in the first innings. In 1950 he was fourth highest wicket-taker in England with 151 (avge.20.79). His benefit that year raised £5,254.

In 1952 Wright bowled 985 overs, the most he had been called upon to deliver since 1947, and, possibly due in part to his workload, he adopted a shorter run. According to some authorities he also bowled a little slower, although opinions seem to differ on this point. In August 1953, there came a new challenge. Following the abrupt departure of Bill Murray-Wood, he was asked to take over the captaincy. In his first game in charge, v Somerset at Dover, his match figures of 12 for 102 secured Kent's eight wicket victory, followed by 10 for 157 when Kent won at Northampton,

Although some in Kent and beyond thought him too laid back for a county captain, in 1954 he was confirmed as Kent's first professional captain. At the end of the season he had soothed at least some of the doubts about his leadership qualities by guiding one of the weakest sides in the country from 16th to joint 11th in the table. Leading by example, he had one of his best seasons - 109 wickets (avge.20.33). At Southampton, Hampshire were 71 for 2 in pursuit of a mere 113 but lost their last eight wickets for 23, Wright 8 for 31. In 1955, his second full season in charge, he had, in economy terms, his best return since 1939, 127 wickets at 17.20 – almost one third of the wickets taken for the County. Especially satisfying was a 13 run victory over the Champions at The Oval in which his match figures were 9 for 90.

Again troubled by injury, at the end of 1956 Wright asked to be relieved of the captaincy, although, when fit, he could still run through a side, as Middlesex discovered at Mote Park when they were routed for 64 (Wright 8 for 30). 1957 started well, but he again suffered a series of minor injuries, culminating in back problems which kept him out of his second benefit match and ended his career. In twelve matches he took 38 wickets (avge.22.92) including 4 for 12 v Somerset at Gillingham and, on his last appearance, 4 for 39 v Gloucestershire at Mote Park. His second benefit brought him £3,716.

With his brothers William and Richard, Doug Wright owned a sports goods business in Ashford to which he devoted himself until 1958. In 1959 he succeeded George Geary as coach at Charterhouse, where he remained for twelve years. A gifted coach, particularly good with the young and the moderately talented, he subsequently coached at King's School, Canterbury, St Edmund's, Canterbury and the University of Kent, while still finding time to help with coaching the up and coming at St Lawrence.

Further reading:

Phipps, Ian. *D.V.P.Wright. (No.38 in Famous Cricketers Series)*. ACS Publications 1998.

Wright, Doug. *Cricket Skills and Technique. A Comprehensive Guide to Coaching and Playing*. Arthur Barker, 1984.