

MISCELLANEOUS FEATS - AND SOME NON-FEATS

This file brings together details of certain other feats in minor cricket that do not show up from individual match scorecards. It falls into three sections:

Pages 2 to 3 give details of performances – some verified, some just ‘claimed’ but with no evidence of their authenticity yet traced – in which individual batters

- (i) scored an unusually high number of runs over a short sequence of successive innings, or
- (ii) made a very large number of runs in sequence between successive dismissals.

Pages 4 to 6 look at record performances of run-scoring, century-scoring, wicket-taking, and all-round performance across an entire season, and across an entire career.

Rather different from the two previous sections, pages 7 to 10 look at a number of matches in which the records of Ernest Gross or others indicate that a particular meritorious feat took place (or may have taken place), but which further investigation has shown to have been so recorded in error. At one stage I referred to these instances to myself as ‘Gross Errors’, but as the notes in this section show, such a title is fundamentally misleading because not all the ‘errors’ involved were those of Ernest Gross, and few if any can be classed as ‘gross’ in the normal adjectival sense of the word. Moreover, the use of such a title would do a grave disservice to an outstanding cricket researcher. In any case, some of the instances quoted are not so much ‘errors’ as areas where later research has helped to clarify the meaning of some the items recorded by Gross – for example, in the cases of the matches at Cambridge in 1885 (page 8) and at Malvern in 1943 (page 10). The matches in this section were all alluded to in earlier editions of the ‘Major Feats’ project; their inclusion here is intended to explain why they have now disappeared from the scorecards in this third edition.

MOST RUNS IN CONSECUTIVE INNINGS, AND MOST RUNS BETWEEN DISMISSALS

Ernest Gross's records include notes of several instances of players scoring many runs in a small number of consecutive innings in minor cricket, and of sequences of runs scored between dismissals, but he does not consolidate these into single lists. The following notes draw attention to some of the most extreme cases picked up by Gross; they are listed here in alphabetical order of the players' names.

- Chaman Lal (see page 361 in the main 'Major Feats' files) is reputed to have followed his alleged innings of 502 not-out in 1956/57 with a score of 360 in his next innings, giving a total of 862 runs between successive dismissals. An item on page 156 of *Cricket Quarterly* vol 8 no. 4 says that he made 1006 runs in three consecutive innings, meaning that the third of those innings must have been a score of 144. However, reliable evidence for these performances is disappointingly lacking. (In first-class cricket the record for the most runs scored in three consecutive innings is 839 by WG Grace in August 1876; the record for the most runs between dismissals is 709 by KC Ibrahim in matches in Bombay in November and December 1947.)
- The same *Cricket Quarterly* item records that HM Butterworth scored 911 in four consecutive innings in 1914/15, but gives no further details. The player in question was Essex-born Hugh Butterworth, who had played three first-class matches for Oxford University in 1906 (no Blue), but had moved to teach at Wanganui [now Whanganui] Collegiate School in New Zealand. Between mid-October and early December 1914 he played successive innings for the 'College B' side of 194 (out of 257 all out), 296 (out of 356 all out), 311 and 110. Less than a year later he was killed in action in Flanders.
- D Chapman of Ringwood District in Victoria (Australia) is reported by Gross to have made the following scores in successive innings in 1960/61: 107*, 128*, 70*, 108*, 115*, 113* and 307*, giving a total of 938 runs without dismissal – and with power to add in his (unknown) next innings. It has not yet been possible to verify this feat. It is not mentioned in *The Cricketer* magazine, while the newspaper collection in Trove does not cover years as 'recent' as the early 1960s.
- TG 'Tray' Grinter, who played eight first-class matches for Essex between 1909 and 1921, and who played his club cricket for South Woodford, is said by Gross to have played successive innings in 1913 of 156*, 188*, 107*, 184, 168* and 130, which if correct would give him a total of 933 runs in six innings for only twice out, with a sequence of 635 undefeated runs before his dismissal in the fourth of those innings. But the magazine *Cricket* tells a slightly different story. Its reports confirm the sequence of 635 before dismissal, and the subsequent innings of 168* and 130, but they also show that he made scores of 26 and 58 in matches for Essex Club & Ground immediately following the innings of 184. All the other scores were made in matches for his club, so it appears that the sequence of 933 runs in six innings relates only to matches for South Woodford. (Gross, incidentally, credits him with 749 between dismissals, which implies that he ignored the dismissed innings of 184 altogether.)
- Apart from Chaman Lal as above, the only instance noted by Gross in which a player made triple-centuries in successive innings was a performance by AV (Ashok) Mankad, who is reported to have made successive scores of 325* and 348 in matches for Fellowship High School in Bombay in the inter-schools Harris Shield competition in 1962/63. He followed these innings with a score of 238 (or 258 according to Wikipedia) and 112 in his two next innings, giving him a total of 911 (or 931) over the course of three successive innings, and 1023 (or 1043) over four innings. Whether these were truly consecutive innings, or whether he may have played other innings between the Harris Shield matches, is not known.

One other performance deserving a mention was that reported in some parts of the Australian press in March and April 1924 by 16-year-old Charlie Sherriff, who allegedly scored 1,004 runs over seven consecutive innings without being dismissed. Playing in the South Suburban Churches of Christ competition in Melbourne for a side named Goodfellowship, he is reported to have made the following sequence of scores: 56* (out of a team score of 96 all out; he also took 4-10), 84 retired, 91* (out of 156 all out; he also took 6-36), 116* (out of 199 all out, playing for a representative SSCC side), 156* (out of 176 all out), 205* (out of 254-9 declared; he was injured and could not bowl, so kept wicket instead, making three catches and four stumpings in his opponents' innings,

‘standing up to Fraser’s fast ones’), and finally 296* to reach his thousand runs for the season, still without having been dismissed by an opposition bowler.

His sequence did not go unnoticed. Beyond the local *Record* newspaper in Emerald Hill (South Melbourne) – which gave the fullest coverage to his performances – it also found its way to other local newspapers across the country, as well as to the *Sporting Globe* in Melbourne. It was reported too in *The Cricketer* in the UK, which however seems to have looked rather more askance at the whole thing, commenting (21 June 1924 page 232) that ‘all this seems to be almost too good to be true, and it will be noticed how his scores increased as the season progressed’. Nevertheless, his claimed 1,004 runs in seven innings, and 773 in four, was also referred to in the abovementioned item in *Cricket Quarterly* in 1970, and Ernest Gross saw fit to include the last four scores of Sherriff’s alleged sequence in his list of instances of players scoring four centuries in successive innings.

Any reservations about the authenticity of these performances were surely removed by what reportedly happened next. Sherriff’s name next appears in the report of a match a few months later on tour in Tasmania, where his contribution to a team total of 855 was said to have been the little matter of 729 (not out, of course), including 15 sixes and 130 fours, and including a spell in which he scored 85 runs off two overs (*Record*, 25 October 1924).

But perhaps it was now realised that things had gone too far, because his name is not mentioned again in any of the newspapers in Trove for the rest of the 1924/25 season, by which time (the *Record* says) he had moved with his family to live in Tasmania. In 1925/26 a player named C Sherriff, who may or may not have been the same man, is seen playing unremarkably for Eastern Suburbs Third XI in Grade C cricket in Hobart; and thereafter all is silence.

Believe his performances in 1924 if you like, but I’m afraid I don’t.

FEATS IN A SEASON AND IN A CAREER

Reliable records of performances in minor cricket across a whole season, let alone across a complete career, are almost impossible to assemble, because of the absence of details of all of a player's runscore or wicket-taking. Even if records exist of their runs or wickets tally for their principal club or clubs, over a long career – or just over a successful season - they are likely to have played in matches for other sides as well, the details of which are less well recorded. Joe Webber's masterwork on WG Grace, published by the ACS as *The Chronicle of WG*, managed to track down the Great Man's performances in pretty much every game in which he played; but for lower-profile cricketers it is necessary to rely on estimates, approximations and individual claims, the accuracy of which remain largely untested. Not for a moment do I doubt that these players scored an awful lot of runs or took an awful lot of wickets; but the exact figures may or may not be as given here.

The following details of seasonal performances come largely from Ernest Gross's listings. Gross does not however give any figures for career records, and so those figures as given here are taken from a variety of sources. I would be very pleased to hear of any comparable instances that should also be included in this section, or of any better information regarding the performances that are recorded here.

Most runs and centuries in a season

The first-class record is 3,816 by Denis Compton in 1947. Gross lists five performances that surpass this figure:

	Season	Runs	Average	100s
A Marshal (London County etc)	1906	4350	77.68	14
JPF Misso (in Ceylon)	1938	4236	nk	18
LW Newman (Alexandra Park)	1935	4138	72.59	14
CH Titchmarsh (Herts, etc)	1913	4016	62.75	21
EHD Sewell (in India)	1898	3895	72.13	13

To this list we can add at least two further performances: 3899 runs in all matches by WG Grace in 1876, at an average of 58.19 (he also came very close with 3812 at 64.61 in 1871); and a figure of 'over 4000' by a 15-year-old Marcus Trescothick in 1991, in a mixture of school and club matches, and any other matches he could find.

Charles Titchmarsh played 42 first-class matches for MCC and other scratch sides between 1920 and 1928, but his career with Hertfordshire began as early as 1900. His figure of 21 centuries in 1913 was the highest in a single season known to Gross; next on his list were the 18 centuries scored by Don Bradman on tour in the USA and Canada in 1932 (when he totalled a mere 3779 runs in all innings at 99.45), and the 18 scored by Joe Misso in Ceylon (as it then was) in 1938. These were later matched by Compton's first-class record of 18 in 1947.

Most runs and centuries in a career

The first-class record for runs is 61,760 by Jack Hobbs, but information about other players' career records – and indeed about Hobbs' overall performance, including in non-first-class matches - is sparse. Webber's detailed research into the playing career of WG Grace provides as reliable a figure as we are likely to get for any truly high-scoring batter: he calculates that in his career in all matches WG scored just one side or the other of 100,000 runs (the actual range Webber gives is from 98,767 to 101,048). I have come across two other batters who can lay a reasonable claim to reaching six figures, namely the (principally) interwar cricketer Stanley Colman of the Wanderers club in London, who was reported in *The Cricketer Spring Annual* of 1926 to have over 100,000 runs to his credit; and much more recently John Stuck of Clacton-on-Sea CC and Suffolk, who in a piece on the *Cricketer* website in March 2021 claimed a figure of over 110,000. Otherwise, the closest approach that I have found is the figure of 80,000 credited to LW (Len) Newman for his club side Alexandra Park in a career from 1921 to 1953; it is unclear from the reports seen whether that was just the figure of runs for his club, or whether it also included runs scored when playing in other matches. Though qualified for Essex, he never played first-class cricket.

Jack Hobbs made 199 centuries in first-class cricket, and two for Cambridgeshire in the Minor Counties competition, as well as an unknown number in other non-first-class cricket. It may well be a close call between him and Len Newman for the record number of centuries scored in a complete career. While Hobbs' total figure is unknown, Newman has a known figure of 250, reaching his 200th in 1940 and his 250th in his final season of 1953. Others known, or believed, to have made 200 or more centuries in their careers are WG Grace with 222; Tray Grinter of South Woodford and, on a few occasions, Essex, who was reported in *The Cricketer Winter Annual* in 1952 to have made 202 centuries over a career stretching across the entire first half of the 20th century; and the aforementioned John Stuck who laid claim to scoring 209 centuries in a career between about 1960 and 2019, the majority of them in over-age or veterans' cricket and including a score of 106 ('retired not out') for England Over-70s against Australia Over-70s at Sydney in October 2015. Stuck himself is reported to have said that he was aware of five other cricketers with over 200 centuries. Newman and Grinter were certainly known to him, but who the other three might have been is, to this writer at least, unknown. WG's brother EM, perhaps?

Most wickets in a season

It will probably be little surprise to learn that the records for this feat were set many, many years ago. Back then some bowlers would be put on to bowl at the beginning of May and not taken off until the end of September, meanwhile playing in just as many games as they could. The first-class record of 304 wickets in a season (by AP Freeman in 1928) was surpassed on around two dozen occasions according to a list maintained by Ernest Gross, the most recent of those instances being in 1878; and I suspect that several other comparable instances back in the Victorian era may have passed Gross by.

The clear record-holder in Gross's list was the lob bowler Charlie Absolom (not to be confused with Test cricketer Charles Absolom), who played cricket for many years for the Wood Green club in London, among other sides. According to Gross he took 519 wickets in the 1872 season, and precisely 500 two seasons later. In all, Gross records ten performances of 400 wickets in a season, six of them by Absolom between 1868 and 1874. Of the others, two were by William Clarke (476 in matches in both 1853 and 1855, these being the closest approaches to Absolom's two best seasonal totals), and one each by John Wisden (455 in 1851) and JC Shaw of Nottinghamshire (450 in all matches in 1867). Joe Webber added another to this list when his researches showed that WG took 408 wickets in 1875.

Most wickets in a career

Absolom definitely has the best claim to this record. Gross gives his season-by-season figures for each year between 1868 and 1874 apart from 1869, and an item in the magazine *Cricketer* in 1889 gives the equivalent figures for the seasons up to 1888. In the 20 seasons between 1868 and 1888 for which figures are known, it turns out that Absolom took a total of 6,328 wickets, reaching 300 in a season ten times, 400 six times, and 500 twice. An average of over 316 wickets per season throughout a 20-year period puts Tich Freeman to shame! Perhaps these figures should be amplified and qualified a little by some quotes from *The Cricketer* in 1925 and 1926: '[he] played his first match in 1831 and his last in 1897. Between the ages of 50 and 80 alone he obtained 8,500 [wickets], besides scoring 26,000 runs, and during 1897, when he was 80 and probably past his prime, he took 100 [wickets] ... It is known that between 1871 and 1893 he did the hat-trick 59 times ... These figures should not be taken very seriously, especially as at times he would take part in three, or even more, games in the course of a day ... While in no way wishing to detract from [his] wonderful record, it must be admitted that Absolom participated in a lot of very minor matches, and as a lob bowler could not be classed, for instance, with such a player as [Surrey's] DLA Jephson.' (*The Cricketer* 1925 no. 1 page 10 and no.18 page 552; 1926 Spring Annual page 48.)

Absolom's figures between the ages of 50 and 80 alone are more than double the first-class career record of 4,204 held by Wilfred Rhodes. Very probably the career tally of William Clarke exceeded Rhodes' figure, though it should be remembered that a high proportion of his wickets were taken in matches against sides of 15, 18 or 22, which made it that much easier to pick up large numbers of wickets in each match. The tally of WG Grace certainly exceeded Rhodes' figure, by a distance: Joe Webber found that he took around 7,500 wickets in

all matches during his long career. Another to leave Rhodes' first-class figure far behind was SF Barnes, whose biographers credit him with a total of 6,229 wickets in first-class, Minor Counties and league/club cricket combined.

All-round cricket

In first-class cricket, two performances of the 1000-run and 100-wicket 'double' in a season stand out above all others: George Hirst's double-double of 1906 (2385 runs, 208 wickets), and the feat of Jim Parks (senior) in scoring 3003 runs and taking 101 wickets in 1937. Remarkable though these feats were, they faded into insignificance when set against some of the seasonal performances recorded by Ernest Gross. Some of the most extreme are listed here.

		Season	Runs	Wickets
4000 runs, 200 wickets	A Marshal (London County etc)	1906	4350	210
3500 runs, 200 wickets	EHD Sewell (in Madras, India)	1898	3895	224
3000 runs, 300 wickets	EM Grace (Thornbury etc)	1863	3074	359
3000 runs, 200 wickets	CS Davies (Alexandra Park)	1943	3026	214
2500 runs, 250 wickets	EM Grace (Thornbury etc)	1883	3166	250
2000 runs, 300 wickets	EM Grace (Thornbury etc)	1862	2190	312
2000 runs, 200 wickets	RH Lambert (Leinster etc)	1895	2040	209
	RH Lambert (Leinster etc)	1896	2015	204
	EM Grace (Thornbury etc)	1907	2382	212
	GA Faulkner (Notts Commercial etc)	1914	2868	218
	S Nazir Ali (Indian Gymkhana)	1930	2900	210

Thus in all, Gross lists 11 instances that match or surpass Hirst's double-double, and five that surpass – by a distance in each case - Parks' 3000 runs and 100 wickets. How much reliability we can place on these exact figures is perhaps open to question. But at least they give some indication of just how prolific some cricketers could be when playing in the lower levels of the game.

Gross also includes a list of 'match doubles' – players scoring a century [sic – not just 100 runs in total across two innings] and taking ten or more wickets in the same two-innings match. For a list that extends from 1872 to 1979 it is surprisingly short, with only 76 entries; but it must be remembered that in minor cricket two-innings matches were and remain much more the exception than the rule.

Just two names appear three times in Gross's list. One is perhaps not all that surprising: JN Crawford (of England and Surrey, among other first-class teams worldwide), who performed the feat twice when at Repton School in 1905, and then repeated the dose when returning to play for the Old Reptonians against his alma mater three years later. The other is perhaps more of a surprise. SF Barnes is not really thought of as much of a batter, but in his long career in Minor Counties cricket with Staffordshire he scored three centuries – and in each game he celebrated by taking a hatful of wickets. First came a score of exactly 100 and match figures of 15-93 (7-50, 8-43) against Cambridgeshire in 1906 (an outstanding season for all-round feats!), then in 1911 he did it twice more: first a score of 136 and match figures of 17-83 (9-37, 8-46) against Durham and, a couple of months later, 101 and 13-97 (5-38, 8-59) against Lincolnshire.

PERFORMANCES NOTED BY GROSS OR OTHERS THAT APPEAR TO QUALIFY FOR THE MAIN PROJECT, BUT WHICH ON FURTHER INVESTIGATION HAVE BEEN FOUND NOT TO DO SO

The symbol † indicates that a full, or virtually full, scorecard for the match has been traced.

Croydon v Cambridge Juniors XVIII at Moore Park, Sydney, 16 October 1880

Gross says that A Denius [sic] took all 17 wickets in the Cambridge Juniors innings, with an analysis of 18-6-32-17. If correct, this would equal the greatest number of wickets taken by a bowler who dismissed all of his opponents in a single innings.

However, this appears to be an error. A drawn match between the two sides is reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 19 October, with a full scorecard [summarised: Cambridge 55 all out (Dennis [sic] six wickets), Croydon 33-4 (W Dennis 16)]. Some reports in other newspapers include the words ‘Dennis obtained 16’, but that appears to refer to his runs and not his wickets. Moreover, the scorecard in the *SMH* indicates that this was an 11-a-side match, not 11 v 18 (or even 18 v 18).

The return fixture the following April is also referred to in the contemporary press, but the scores of that match contain nothing unusual or memorable. No 17-wicket feat for Croydon, or by Dennis, is reported in Australian papers seen in Trove in any match in any of seasons 1879/80, 1880/81 or 1881/82.

The 1880/81 match is consistently referred to in the NSW press as simply ‘Croydon v Cambridge’, and the above title (as given by Gross) appears to be incorrect. Although Dennis is given the initial ‘W’ in the *SMH* in October, reports of later matches by Croydon confirm the initial ‘A’, as recorded by Gross.

† Eton College v MCC at Eton, 20 June 1882

Gross says that [future Test cricketer] AJ Fothergill took all 11 wickets in Eton College (1), but this is not correct, although he had a hand in all 11 dismissals. Contemporary newspaper reports state that “Fothergill dismissed ten of the batsmen ... and threw out the other one”, and that is confirmed in the full scorecards printed in the contemporary *Windsor & Eton Express* and the *Eton College Chronicle*.

† Newcastle v IFW Bligh’s XI at Newcastle (NSW), 8-9 December 1882

In this non-first-class match on the tour that gave rise to the Ashes legend, Gross says that EFS Tylecote made three stumpings off successive deliveries from AG Steel. But there is no reference to such a feat – or even to Steel performing the hat-trick – in the detailed match reports in contemporary Australian newspapers (the *Sydney Mail* and the *Sydney Evening News*). The hat-trick is however confirmed in RG Barlow’s book *Forty seasons of first-class cricket*, where it is stated that Tylecote had a hand in all three victims – catching one and stumping the other two. It is not clear from the scorecard which batters might have been involved – Tylecote made four catches and eight stumpings across the two innings of the Newcastle XVIII, but the evidence strongly indicates that. Gross was incorrect in crediting him with an all-stumped hat-trick.

Surrey v Rutland at The Oval, 1883

See the section on ‘Fakes, Fictions and Fiddles’.

† South of Hampshire v North of Hampshire at Banister’s Park, Southampton, 8-9 May 1885

Gross says that FE Lacey (181*) and E Hall (98) added 228 for the eighth wicket in the South innings, but from the fall of wickets details in the match report in the *Hampshire Advertiser* of 6 and 13 May the partnership was only worth 172, and this appears much more likely from the scorecard.

This was a match arranged to celebrate the opening of what became the county ground at Northlands Road; at the time, the ground was referred to as Banister’s Park.

King's College & Clare College Long Vacation Club v Unknown sides at Cambridge, 1885

Gross records that in separate matches for the King's & Clare Long Vacation Club in this summer, LGB Ford scored 92* out of 103, and 81 out of 86. It is not clear from Gross whether 103 and 86 were his side's all-out score, or just the number of runs added while Ford was at the wicket.

The contemporary *Sporting Life* and *Bell's Life* each report some matches by the Kings & Clare LVC. Both report that Ford made 92* out of his side's 189 all out v Jesus LVC on 20 July – so the figure of 92* out of 103 would appear to be only the number of runs added while he was at the crease. None of the other match-scores reported show Ford as scoring 81, or his side as being all out for 86. On balance, it is concluded that Gross's 81 out of 86, if it happened at all (which is entirely possible) was also an 'at the crease' proportion rather than a 'whole innings' proportion, and therefore does not qualify for inclusion in the main part of this project.

† Penge v Croydon Revellers at Penge (Surrey), 21 June 1887

Gross says that F Oldham (Penge) took five hat-tricks in this match, and ESPNcricinfo repeats this, saying he took three in one innings and two in the other. Although a full scorecard of the match has been found in the Supplement to the edition of *Cricket* dated 30 June 1887, no contemporary reference to such a feat has been seen, either in *Cricket* or in any other source.

The full scorecard shows that Oldham took nine wickets in the Revellers' first innings and eight in their second, but only three of their 12 batters recorded ducks in their first innings, and only four did so in the second. For the two innings to have included the stated number of hat-tricks would seem impossible – unless perhaps he recorded a 4 in 4 in one innings and a 5 in 5 in the other, with the former regarded at the time as constituting two hat-tricks and the latter as constituting three.

† Plymouth Garrison v MCC at Mount Wise, Plymouth on 18-19 August 1899

Gross says that GG Hearne (125) and HF Brunskill (57*) added exactly 200 for the tenth wicket in the MCC innings.

However, the scorecard in the *MCC Scores* book for 1899 shows this to have been impossible. The two batters plus the seven extras in the innings only aggregated 189 runs between them.

St Mary's Kensal v Willesden Green at Chiswick (Middlesex), 1899

Gross records that both sides were dismissed for 0 in this match. Such a feat has proved impossible to track down. The contemporary *Willesden Chronicle* says that Willesden Green were due to play 'Kensal' away on 12 August 1899, but there is no mention of such a match in any subsequent editions of that paper. Other local newspapers seen that might have reported any such instance, but don't, are the *Kilburn Times*, the *Paddington Times*, and the *Paddington Gazette*. One would have thought that such an unusual cricket match would have found its way into the local newspapers, and maybe the national sports papers – but it doesn't.

Harry Watton suggests, persuasively, that Gross may have mistakenly interpreted a football score in a match between these teams (a 0-0 draw in April 1899) as a cricket score.

† Leigh v Newton at Church Leigh (Cheshire), 30 June 1900

Gross records that Newton were dismissed for 0 in this match.

The match, reportedly in the North Staffordshire League (though that is uncertain), is referred to in *Cricket* 1900 page 243 which also states that Newton were dismissed for 0, citing an article in *The Sportsman* of 2 July 1900. That article gives the scores as 'Leigh 167-7d; Newton 0', and it is assumed that this is the source of Gross's noting of the match. However, the *Leigh Chronicle* of 6 July 1900 confirms that rain prevented any further play after the fall of Leigh's seventh wicket. Thus Newton did not bat at all, and Gross was in error in recording this as an instance of a side 'all out 0'.

† Porthill v Crewe Alexandra at Porthill, Stoke-on-Trent on 2 May 1908

Gross says that SF Barnes took six wickets in six balls for Porthill. But this is a misreading of the actual event. *Cricket* 1908 page 121 records that in this match 'SF Barnes, fresh from his Australian trip, took six wickets for six runs in a total of 41.' A report in *Athletic News* also says that Barnes took six wickets for six runs. Neither makes any reference to these wickets coming from consecutive deliveries, and there is no mention of such a feat in the *Staffordshire Sentinel's* match report on 2 May, or associated with its scorecard on 4 May. Indeed, the full scorecard in the *Sentinel* confirms that a 'six in six' was not possible.

So it appears that Gross very probably mistook '6 for 6' for '6 in 6'. Even that was not his complete analysis for the innings, which was 6-17. It may be inferred that he conceded only six runs between taking his first and his sixth wicket of the innings; but he certainly did not take six wickets with consecutive deliveries.

† **Port Adelaide v Colts, Adelaide, 1920/21**

Gross says that Port Adelaide's wicketkeeper GB Inkster made six stumpings in the Colts innings in this match. However, this is definitely not correct. Port Adelaide did not play Colts during the 1920/21 season – not in a Premier Grade match in any case, as there was no Colts side in that competition. Moreover, Gordon Inkster was no longer playing in Adelaide in 1920/21, as he had moved to New South Wales during the preceding off-season.

Geoff Sando has confirmed that from his records of cricket in the city, Inkster never made more than five stumpings in an innings in any match.

Further information has come to light from Harry Watton's investigations of the *News* (Adelaide) for 8 October 1927 and the *Register* (Adelaide) for 10 October 1927, which suggest that Gross may have intended to refer to a match in the 1927/28 season. These sources provide reports of the match between Colts and Port Adelaide on 1 and 8 October 1927 in which Inkster, now returned to Adelaide, made several stumpings in the Colts' innings; but they vary as to whether Inkster made five or six stumpings in the innings. Some of the papers' scorecards show six, but the card in the *Register* only shows five, and its text corroborates that one of the batters shown as 'stumped' in the *News* was actually dismissed 'bowled'.

Taken together with the information provided by Geoff Sando, the balance of argument is considered to favour the view that Inkster only made five stumpings in the innings concerned, and never made six in any innings.

† **Ceylon v New Zealanders at Colombo, 8 October 1927**

Cricket Archive says that WE Merritt took a hat-trick in the Ceylon innings, the batters concerned being EGS Kelaart, T Cuming and S Saravanamuttu. If their scorecard is correct, the victims were successively caught, stumped and stumped, though another batter (CH Gunasekera) had been dismissed stumped off Merritt shortly before Kelaart's dismissal.

Gross records Merritt's HT as being all-stumped, and the NZ history *Men in White* also says that all three victims of the hat-trick were stumped.

There is little mention of the match in newspapers in Papers Past, but the all-stumped hat-trick is specifically noted in the *NZ Herald* of 16 November [sic] 1927. Its report reads as follows: 'The fifth wicket fell at 191. The next man in was stumped first ball off Merritt. The next two batsmen were also stumped by James off the first ball they received from Merritt, who thus obtained the 'hat trick'.' From Cricket Archive, the fifth, sixth and seventh wickets of the innings all fell at 191, and the eighth at 194.

The descriptions of play in the *Times of Ceylon* for 8 October make it clear that the hat-trick victims were as stated in Cricket Archive, and thus no 'all-stumped' hat-trick was involved. James may well have stumped two of the batters off the first ball that Merritt bowled to each of them, as the newspaper report says, but these were not necessarily three successive balls that Merritt delivered. It seems likely that the fact that James dismissed three successive batters by stumpings (Cuming, Saravanamuttu, and then Gunasekera in Merritt's next over) appears to have given rise to him being credited with a sort of hat-trick; but it was not off three successive deliveries.

† **Totteridge v Fortress CC at Totteridge (Middlesex), 1 September 1929**

Gross records the match between Totteridge and Fortress Club [sic] as having been a four-way tie, with both teams scoring 94 in each of their innings.

But the detailed scorecard of the match in the *Barnet Press* for 7 September 1929 shows that although this match was indeed a tie, and although both teams tied on their first and their second innings, the scores in those two innings were not the same. Both did indeed make 94 in their first innings, but they both scored only 73 second time around. The match does not therefore meet the strict definition of a four-way tie as listed by Gross.

The side batting second is correctly named as Fortress rather than Fortess. Its name reflects that of Fortess Road in Kentish Town, an area of London a few miles south of Totteridge. Annoyingly, Fortess's first innings score as given in the *Barnet Press* totals to 93 ...

† **Lancing College v Westminster School at Lancing College (Sussex), 14-15 June 1940**

Gross says that AA McIntyre (141) and number 10 RH Burton – who he credits with 93, although all other sources including the two schools' magazines give him 83 – added 204 for the ninth wicket in Lancing College's first innings. This is not impossible, but the match report and the fall of wickets in the Lancing College magazine are consistent in saying that they added 125, and that Burton and RF Young (7*) then added a further 59 for the last wicket. This version is entirely consistent with the innings scorecard and in view of its source it is therefore favoured. It thus appears that Gross was in error in listing this performance.

Malvern College v Merchant Taylor's School at Malvern College, 19 June 1943

Gross records that KA Lee scored 99 out of 110 for Malvern College in this match; if 110 were his side's all-out total he would have scored exactly 90% of his side's runs in the innings.

However, *Wisden* for 1944 refers to Lee scoring "99 of the first 110" runs in this match, which indicates that his side's total was actually greater than 110, and that therefore this is not a performance that meets the criteria for inclusion in the main part of this project. These details are confirmed in *The Malvernian* magazine, which reports that the College's final total was 195-9 declared.

† **Ceylon Cricket Association v Holkar at Colombo Oval, 16-18 April 1948**

In an item on page 118 of Jonathan Rice's *Curiosities of cricket* it is claimed that KV Bhandarkar recorded a hat-trick of stumpings for Holkar in a match against Ceylon CA in 1947/48. No other details are given, but to judge from scorecards and reports in the *Ceylon Daily News (CDN)* the match on 16-18 April would seem to be the most likely of the five matches played by Holkar during their tour. The *CDN* shows Bhandarkar making four stumpings in the Ceylon CA's only innings of this match, three off one bowler and the fourth off another.

However, the contemporary report in the *CDN* makes no explicit reference to a hat-trick in the Ceylon CA innings, while the Cricket Archive scorecard credits Bhandarkar with only a single stumping in the innings. The fall of wickets as shown in Cricket Archive also makes a hat-trick in this innings very unlikely. If Bhandarkar did indeed make four stumpings in the innings – about which there is clearly some doubt – this may be a case where the reference to a 'hat-trick' implies nothing about the wickets falling to consecutive balls, but simply means that the keeper recorded three (or in this case, more than three) stumpings during the course of the innings.

Woolwich Garrison v Nore Command at Woolwich (Kent), 1949

Gross says that MLY Ainsworth (270*) and PBH May (157*) added 427* for the third wicket in the Woolwich Garrison innings. However, Robert Rodrigo's biography of Peter May (on pages 26-28) strongly suggests that this is an error. Rodrigo says that May joined Ainsworth at 96-2 (after Nore had been bowled out for under 100), and that they took the score to 466-2 by the end of the day, with Ainsworth 270* and May 157*. Those individual scores match those given by Gross at the end of the partnership. There is no mention of an overnight declaration by the Woolwich team, but Rodrigo does say that Nore were bowled out for a second time before lunch on the second day of the match, so such a declaration seems very likely. If so, the Ainsworth/May partnership was worth a total of 370.

The two batters' individual scores add to 427, which may be the source of Gross's figure; but from this evidence it seems much more likely that the stand was indeed worth 'only' 370, taking the score from 96 to 466.

Clifton v Frenchay at Bristol, 1975

Gross records that HWH Alpass scored 101 out of 107 for Clifton in this match. It is not clear from his listings whether 107 was his Clifton's all-out total (in which case Alpass scored 94.39% of his team's runs in the innings, or a higher proportion if extras are excluded), or just the number of runs added while he was at the wicket.

The Cricketer for August 1975 (on page 41) confirms that the latter was the true position. It notes that Alpass "scored 101 in 43 minutes in a [recent] Bristol District match for Clifton against Frenchay. Alpass was first out with the score still only 107". Although a memorable performance, it does not therefore reach any of the thresholds for inclusion in the present project.