

OXFORD UNIVERSITY AUTHENTICS IN INDIA 1902-03

Oxford University Authentics was founded in 1883 by Everard Britten Holmes (1851-1915) who was the club secretary until his death.

Most of their matches are played in the summer (Trinity) term, but they also tour. They have played only three first-class matches, all in India 1902-03 on a tour which also included a further 16 non-first-class games.

An account of the origins of the Authentics appears in *Cricket* (edited by Horace Gordon Hutchinson, 1903) in a chapter entitled *Country-House Cricket* written by HDG Leveson Gower.

“The Authentics Cricket Club was founded by Everard Britten-Holmes (*sic*), in November 1883, who, from its birth in Brazenose College, Oxford (*sic; also known as BNC*), has acted as its Hon. Secretary to the present day (1903), G.R. Askwith of B.N.C. being its first Hon. Treasurer, then followed by H. Acland-Hood of Balliol (1884-89).

“During the summer of 1884, arrangements were made to tour during the summer vacation, and what was at first but a week's cricket, has become one of several months, and a membership then of 19 has become one of nearly 800.

“During the winter of 1885, it was decided to place the club upon a more solid and active basis, and a large gathering of prominent 'Varsity players and others was held at Oxford, a question at that time coming up, as a suggestion, to include Cambridge 'Varsity players and others, when it was unanimously resolved and carried, that the club be called "The Oxford University Authentics", and confined to members of Oxford University only. Special rules were drawn up for membership, etc, and many matters of detail arranged.

“More important matches were played during the summer vacation, with a view of unearthing latent cricket talent, and giving members an opportunity of being brought more prominently before the cricket authorities at Oxford, and their respective counties - an opportunity they could not otherwise then have had. Above all, it had in view the keeping of old 'Varsity cricketers of the past in touch with the present, and the present in touch with the future. Professor Case of Corpus Christi College - the well-known old Oxford cricket blue of 1864, 1865 and 1867 - readily consented to become the President, and took much interest in the club, and to him we owe its motto: "By Jove's authentic fire". It may be mentioned that the name "Authentics" was given to the club by the founder, who, being a musical enthusiast, coined the word "Authentics", as from an authentic cadence in music, and as derived from the Greek [Greek: authenteo], "to rule"; and from Professor Case's happy thought the colours of the club were suggested - "Blue" for the sky. "Blood Red" for Jove's arm, and "Old Gold" for the lightning.”

This splendidly colourful account is at least in part contradicted by Cecil Headlam, writing at almost the same time. Headlam was a member of the Authentics tour to India, and in his account of the trip, *Ten thousand miles through India and Burma* (1903), he too writes of the origin of the club. Referring to the 1880s at Oxford University, he states -

“... it was not enough to be a good cricketer to be given a trial for your Blue. It was necessary to belong to a certain set or to have been to a certain public school. The result was an inferior eleven and repeated disasters at Lord's. Now in those days ... one Everard Britten Holmes ... being much struck by the number of good cricketers who were never tried in the Parks jestingly undertook to get together an 'Authentic' Oxford team, which should beat the side chosen to give battle to Cambridge.

“From that jest sprang the club of Oxford University Authentics.”

It must be pointed out that neither Headlam (born 1872), nor Leveson Gower (born 1873) can have had first-hand knowledge of the foundation of the Authentics. Leveson Gower's account reads like the establishment version of events, though Headlam's might be nearer the mark. Geoffrey Bolton, in his *History of the O.U.C.C.* (1962) states that “it is certainly true that players from the better-known colleges stood more chance” [of

selection], and although he was referring chiefly to the 1840s, he notes that in the late 1860s "Oxford cricket was nearly all BNC". However, in the period from 1875 to 1883 inclusive there is no evidence of a Brasenose or any other college domination in the Oxford XIs chosen for Lord's, with seventeen different colleges represented, headed by Oriel and New College, and followed by Trinity and St. John's. Brasenose is in equal fifth place with Balliol and Exeter. On the other hand, Headlam's "repeated disasters" comment has more than a ring of truth, with Oxford losing five of the six Varsity matches between 1878 and 1883.

Two scrap-books of the Authentics compiled by Britten Holmes himself exist in the Lord's Library.

The 1902/03 tour to India

The three first-class games played on the tour of India in 1902-03 were -

v Bombay

Gymkhana Ground, Bombay

17, 18, 19 November 1902

Bombay won by 46 runs

Bombay 204 (Clayton 7 for 70) and 412 (JG Greig 201; Williams 5 for 61)

Authentics 313 (Williams 105; JSW Milne 5 for 61) and 257 (HCR John 5 for 53)

v Parsees

Gymkhana Ground, Bombay

24, 25, 26 November 1902

Parsees won by 8 wkts

Authentics 311 (Raphael 111; AH Mehta 6 for 97) and 124

Parsees 406 (HD Kanga 116) and 30 for 2

v Gentlemen of India

5, 6, 7 January 1903

Polo Ground, Delhi

Authentics won by 6 wkts

Gentlemen of India 118 (Williams 5 for 38) and 143 (Powys-Keck 5 for 27)

Authentics 135 (HJ Hoare 5 for 51) and 128 for 4

The Authentics were unbeaten in their remaining sixteen games, all non-first-class

v Hindus	21-22 Nov 1902	Bombay	drawn
v Secunderabad	28-29 Nov	Secunderabad	drawn
v Mysore	4-6 Dec	Bangalore	won
v Madras Presidency	8-10 Dec	Madras	won
v Southern India	12-13 Dec	Trichinopoly	won
v Bengal Presidency	22-24 Dec	Calcutta	drawn
v Calcutta CC	25-27 Dec	Calcutta	won
v Peshawar	12-14 Jan 1903	Peshawar	won
v Northern Punjab	15-16 Jan	Rawalpindi	won
v Punjab	19-20 Jan	Lahore	won
v Aligarh Muslim University	23-24 Jan	Aligarh	drawn
v Bundelkhand	29-30 Jan	Jhansi	won
v United Provinces	31 Jan - 2 Feb	Allahabad	won
v Behar Wanderers	5-7 Feb	Mozufferpore	won
v Oudh	12-13 Feb	Lucknow	won
v Northern India	16-17 Feb	Cawnpore	drawn

The fourteen men, not all members of the university, who played in the first-class games are listed below. The

only other appearance was by **Lionel [Andrews] Mouat Biggs**, who played in the Secunderabad game on 28-29 November in place of Clayton who was suffering from blood poisoning in one of his thumbs. Little else is known about Biggs, a Lieutenant in the 1st Middlesex Regiment, who was not an original member of the touring party. Hornby, Powys-Keck, Ridley and Simpson-Hayward were members of Cambridge University invited to join the touring party to make the total numbers viable. "Chinnery was at neither University, but I have seen him so often at Oxford that I am always racking my brains to remember what college he was at." (Headlam, op.cit)

Of the 14 men in the tour party, only five – FGH Clayton, C Headlam, FH Hollins, KJ Key and RA Williams – played first-class cricket for the University side in England. Four others – JB Aspinall, F Kershaw, JN Ridley and JE Tomkinson - played no first-class cricket outside the Authentics tour, and one (RH Raphael) played only one other match. As noted five - HB Chinnery, AH Hornby, HJ Powys-Keck, JN Ridley and GHT Simpson-Hayward - had no connection with Oxford University.

The playing members of the tour party were as follows.

ASPINALL, John Bridge **12639**

born 13 August 1877 Inchicore, Dublin, Ireland

died 21 June 1932 Holborn, London

Ed: Stonyhurst C; Christ Church

Oxford University Authentics 1902/03

2 matches 42 runs @ 14.00, HS 20 1 catch Bowling 0/1

No other first-class cricket.

Barrister and Remembrancer for the City of London 1927-32

CHINNERY, Harry Brodrick **28531**

born 6 February 1876 Teddington, Middlesex

died 28 May 1916 Monchy-le-Preux, Pas-de-Calais, France. He was killed in action whilst serving with the King's Royal Rifles

Ed: Eton College

RHB, SLA

Oxford University Authentics 1902/03

2 matches 50 runs @ 16.66, HS 36 No catches Bowling 0/65

Played first-class cricket for Surrey 1897-1904 (30 matches, cap 1904), and Middlesex 1899-1902 (9 matches).

Toured North America with PF Warner's XI 1897

First-class career record 1897-1910

66 matches 2536 runs @ 24.86, HS 165 25 catches 12 wkts @ 46.16, BB 4/51

Admitted to the Stock Exchange 1898

CLAYTON, Frederick George Hugh **28572**

born 5 January 1873 Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Northumberland

died 20 March 1946 Warkworth, Northumberland

Ed: Harrow S; University College, Oxford

RHB, RM

Oxford University 1893-96

6 matches 151 runs @ 13.72, HS 66 2 catches 7 wkts @ 43.57, BB 3/144

He scored 230 and 70* in the Oxford Freshmen's match in 1893, but failed to win a Blue.

Oxford University Authentics 1902/03 (captain in both matches)

2 matches 148 runs @ 49.33, HS 68 2 catches 10 wkts @ 18.20, BB 7/70

First-class career record 1893-1902/03

9 matches 332 runs @ 20.75, HS 68 5 catches 18 wkts @ 29.16, BB 7/70

He played 75 Minor Counties matches for Northumberland 1896-1906, and was Secretary 1897-1923, Treasurer 1903-1945 and President 1935-45.

HEADLAM, Cecil**30104**

born 19 September 1872 Paddington, London

died 12 August 1934 Charing, Kent

Ed: Rugby S; Magdalen College, Oxford

RHB, WK

Oxford University 1895

1 match v MCC, Lord's in which he batted once (0*), took two catches and one stumping, and did not bowl.

Oxford University Authentics 1902/03

3 matches 39 runs @ 7.80, HS 28 3 catches, 2 stumpings Did not bowl

Played eight first-class matches for Middlesex 1902-06

First-class career record 1895-1908

23 matches 287 runs @ 10.25, HS 44 37 catches, 11 stumpings Did not bowl

Minor Counties cricket for Oxfordshire 1895-1901 (16 matches).

Historian, scholar, traveller (*Times* obituary 13 August 1934). Among his many publications is *Ten thousand miles through India and Burma: an account of Oxford University Authentics' cricket tour with Mr. KJ Key in the year of the Coronation Durbar*.**HOLLINS, Frank Hubert****30333**

born 31 October 1877 Bowness-on-Windermere, Westmorland

died 31 January 1963 Paddington, London

Ed: Eton C; Magdalen College, Oxford

RHB

Oxford University 1900-01 Blue 1901

6 matches 310 runs @ 31.00, HS 88 4 catches Did not bowl

Oxford University Authentics 1902/03

3 matches 124 runs @ 20.66, HS 40 3 catches 2 wkts @ 33.50, BB 2/39

He toured with R. A. Bennett's XI in West Indies 1901-02 (12 matches), and played 12 first-class matches for Lancashire 1902-04. Lancashire CCC President 1919-20

First-class career record 1898-1927

35 matches 1114 runs @ 21.01, HS 114 33 catches 3 wkts @ 29.00, BB 2/39

With BA Collins, he shared in Oxford University's record tenth-wicket partnership of 149 v MCC (Oxford) in 1901.

Inside-left for Oxford University Football tour of Austria and Vienna 1899

Served in the Rifle Brigade in the First World War

Brother of AM Hollins (qv) and of JCHL Hollins (Lancashire 1914-19).

HORNBY, Albert Henry**30371**

born 29 July 1877 Church Minshull, Cheshire

died 6 September 1952 North Kilworth, Leicestershire

Ed: Harrow S; Trinity College, Cambridge

RHB, occasional WK

Oxford University Authentics 1902/03

2 matches 157 runs @ 52.33, HS 73* 2 catches 2 wkts @ 50.50, BB 1/13

Also played for Cambridge University 1898 and Lancashire 1899-1914 (283 matches, captain 1908-14)

First-class career record 1898-1914

292 matches 9784 runs @ 24.58, HS 129 220 catches, 1 stumping 3 wkts @ 89.66, BB 1/13

Son of Test player Albert Neilson Hornby (Lancashire & England etc 1867-1906)

KERSHAW, Frank**13835**

born 11 December 1879 Horsforth, Yorkshire

died 5 May 1959 Frinton-on-Sea, Essex

Ed: Cheltenham C; Trinity College, Oxford

Oxford University Authentics 1902/03

2 matches 43 runs @ 14.33, HS 36 1 catch Bowling 0/35

No other first-class cricket.

KEY, Kingsmill James**30753**

born 11 October 1864 Streatham Common, Surrey

died 9 August 1932 Wittersham, Kent

Ed: Clifton C; Oriel College, Oxford

RHB, OB

Oxford University 1884-87 Blue all four years

31 matches 1516 runs @ 29.72, HS 281 20 catches 4 wkts @ 24.00, BB 2/32

In 1886 he scored 143 in the University match. His 281 v Middlesex, Chiswick 1887, was the highest score for the University until beaten by S Agarwal in 2013. During this innings he shared in the Oxford University record stand for the seventh wicket – 340 with H Philipson. At the time this was the highest seventh wicket stand in all first-class cricket.

Oxford University Authentics 1902/03

He played and captained in one first-class match v Gentlemen of India, in which he scored 17 and 1*, and did not bowl or take a catch.

Played 288 first-class matches for Surrey 1882-1904, capped 1884, captain 1894-99. Surrey won three County Championships under his leadership (1894, 1895 and 1899). He toured North America in 1886 with EJ Sanders' XI (2 matches), and in 1891 with Lord Hawke's XI (2 matches).

First-class career record 1882-1909

368 matches 13,008 runs @ 26.22, HS 281 113 catches 12 wkts @ 28.08, BB 2/32

Rugby Blue 1885 and 1886

POWYS-KECK, Horatio James**32149**

born 7 March 1873 Hyeres, Var, France

died 30 January 1952 Notting Hill, London

Ed: Monkton Combe S; Malvern C; Cambridge University

Oxford University Authentics 1902/03

1 match, scoring 0* in his only innings. No catches 7 wkts @ 8.14, BB 5/27

In all matches on the Authentics tour of India he took 69 wickets @ 11.03

Played 3 matches for Worcestershire 1903-07. He also toured West Indies with Lord Brackley's XI in 1904-05

First-class career record 1902/03-1907

9 matches 69 runs @ 7.66, HS 25* No catches 23 wkts @ 19.08, BB 5/27

ADC to the Governor of Newfoundland 1900-01, King's Royal Rifles 1896-1903

He changed his name to Horatio James Powys in 1930

RAPHAEL, Richard Henry**32245**

born 29 August 1872 Steyning, Sussex

died 23 January 1910 Westminster, London

Ed: Wellington C; Magdalen College, Oxford

RHB

Oxford University Authentics 1902/03

3 matches 202 runs @ 33.66, HS 111 No catches Bowling 0/18

Played one further first-class match for GJV Weigall's XI v Cambridge University, Cambridge 1904

First-class career record 1902/03-1904

4 matches 246 runs @ 35.15, HS 111 No catches Bowling 0/18

Elected as a Manager at the London Stock Exchange in January 1910, but died suddenly a week later.

Left £406,000 (around £40 million at 2020 values), with various bequests to Jewish charities

RIDLEY, John Nicholas**14437**

born 7 June 1879 Simonburn, Northumberland

died 28 March 1903 Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Ed: Eton C; Trinity College, Cambridge

Oxford University Authentics 1902/03

3 matches 59 runs @ 19.66, HS 30* 1 catch Bowling 0/94

No other first-class cricket.

He left his colleagues at Lucknow at the end of the tour, intending to travel home via Ceylon, Australia, China, Japan and the USA, but died of typhoid fever in Australia

SIMPSON-HAYWARD, George Hayward Thomas 322

born 7 June 1875 Kenilworth, Warwickshire

died 2 October 1936 Icomb Place, Gloucestershire

Ed: Malvern C; Clare College, Cambridge

RHB, RS (under arm)

Oxford University Authentics 1902/03

3 matches 93 runs @ 15.50, HS 45 5 catches 10 wickets @ 29.00, BB 3/91

He played five Test matches for England v South Africa 1909-10

Test Match career record

5 matches 105 runs @ 15.00, HS 29* 1 catch 23 wkts @ 18.26, BB 6/43

Played for Cambridge University 1895-97 and Worcestershire 1899-1914 (156 matches, captain 1911-12).

First-class career record 1895-1914

200 matches 5556 runs @ 18.58, HS 130 134 catches 503 wkts @ 21.39, BB 7/54

He was the last successful exponent of under arm or lob bowling in first-class cricket

Football Blue at Cambridge 1896-98

He changed his name from George Hayward Thomas Simpson in 1898

TOMKINSON, James Edward 14726

born 2 December 1879 Tarporley, Cheshire

died 14 November 1961 Inkpen, Berkshire

Ed: Eton C; Balliol College, Oxford

Oxford University Authentics 1902/03

3 matches 99 runs @ 19.80, HS 41 1 catch Did not bowl

No other first-class cricket.

He changed his name to James Edward Palmer-Tomkinson in July 1933.

He is the great-grandfather of the late socialite and TV personality Tara Palmer-Tomkinson

WILLIAMS, Ralph Augustin 33909

born 2 February 1879 Caversham, Oxfordshire

died 1 December 1958 Earley, Reading, Berkshire

Ed: Winchester C; University College

RHB, RM

Oxford University 1899-1902 Blue 1901, 1902

12 matches 443 runs @ 23.31, HS 65 11 catches 22 wkts @ 34.90, BB 5/30

Oxford University Authentics 1902/03

3 matches 141 runs @ 18.20, HS 105 3 catches 18 wkts @ 18.38, BB 5/38

First-class career record 1899-1902/03

15 matches 584 runs @ 24.33, HS 105 14 catches 40 wkts @ 27.47, BB 5/30

Played Minor Counties cricket for Buckinghamshire 1895 (1 match), Oxfordshire 1896 (3 matches), and Berkshire 1897-1904 (21 matches)

Rackets Blue

Barrister