

**The Reading Cricket Club's One
Hundred & Ninety One Years
Anniversary**

By

Allan Albert Gooch

2014

**Everything that is known about the Reading
Cricket Club's One Hundred & Ninety One Years.**

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Preamble

The Reading Cricket Club's Website.

As an ancient Reading Cricket Club man, who for countless years has had an affinity with the club that started in 1823, it is only natural that the Author would wish to praise the Cricket Club's 191 years' achievements.

It was the Club's President Mr. Archie Sims who will always be remembered as the savour of the Reading Cricket Club. After the Great War he vigorously pursued a "back to normality" campaign and also had the courage to unite the Reading and Caversham cricket clubs. Both Club's were very short of players following the aftermath of the awful carnage of that War and Mr. Archie Sims brought about what was to become the continuation of the long established Reading Cricket Club.

The years 1929 - 1950 are affectionally accepted as the Club's 21 Golden Year's. These years were dominated by both Victorian and Edwardian members and only the very best class of people were admitted into an elite Club after being closely vetted for suitability.

In 1959 the Reading Cricket Club converged with the Reading Hockey Club. After the convergence and from about 1961 through to about 1986 the Reading Cricket Club was one of the most powerful top ten Amateur Cricket Clubs in the United Kingdom. It culminated with two visits to Lords. First the 1979 Scarborough Cricket Club Haig Cup Final and second the 1985 Old Hill Cricket Club William Younger Cup final.

It was in 1986 that the Reading Cricket Club unwisely sold its Church Road freehold Asset and purchased the nine hundred & ninty nine year Lease hold Sonning Lane acquisition.

Going back to the 1920s Mr. A. P. F. (Percy) Chapman (Kent) was associated with the Reading Cricket Club and he often graced Mr. Stanhope Henry Joel's star studded sides of the 1920s and 1930s hosted at Church Road, Earley. Below is a photograph of Mr. Joel's 1937 side showing, amongst many others, Mr. Percy Chapman.

Mr. Stanhope Joel's 1937 XI



**Standing EAG Pinfield. George Sayles. CT Bennett. P Mosdell.
AN Other. KL Simpson. J Harrison. BH Smithson. J Barclay.
BH Lyon. C Grieshaber. BO Allen. TA Bourn. AG Baring. KC
Benett. R King J Timewell. A Wise (Umpire)**

**Sitting J. de Vine. DW Stokes. AN Other. HAD Bartlett.
Stanhope Joel. Woolf Barnato. APF Chapman. JV Herman.**

Presented by HAD Bartlett Esq. 27 September 1958

It has been argued over the years that Mr. Percy Chapman took the strongest ever MCC side to Australia. His overall 1925/26 tour success tend to support the argument and for this reason the Reading Cricket Club is proud to have had Mr. Percy Chapman's connection and also his unstinting support.

Whilst acknowledging Mr. Percy Chapman deeds of long ago they ought not to be allowed to overshadow other splendid Colts and Reading players who made the "big time" namely; Tom Dollery, the famous twins Alec and Eric Bedser, Peter May, Ken Barrington, Aftab Habib (all test Match Players). Peter May was also an equally capable England Captain.

Neither must we forget Tom Jewell and our classy Wicket keeper Geoff Kirby both of Surrey. And, of course, the little known Tim Hancock of Gloucestershire and Alf Croom of Warwickshire. Lastly but not least Michael Mence who played first for Warwickshire and then Gloucestershire.

In addition to these splendid players already mentioned there have also been countless other Reading Colts and other young players who have been accepted by the MCC and the Middlesex CC developing academies to improve their various talents. Keven Shine not only played for Middlesex but is to this day (2014) a highly respected fast bowling Coach.

Currently (2014) the Reading Cricket Club manage a first class Colt's Section operated by a dedicated team of qualified and enthusiastic Coaches who have every expectation that some of their young and talented colt's will follow in the footsteps of their illustrious Ancestors and extant Forerunners. Moreover, Reading is an ECB Clubmark accredited club and all at the Reading Cricket Club are very proud of its Colts Section.

On two occasions The Reading Cricket Club went through all the various qualifying rounds to reach the Lords final. Once in 1979 and again in 1981. Both times Reading were unsuccessful but it has to be said that neither Scarborough or Old Hill could be said to be bona fide Amateur cricket clubs.

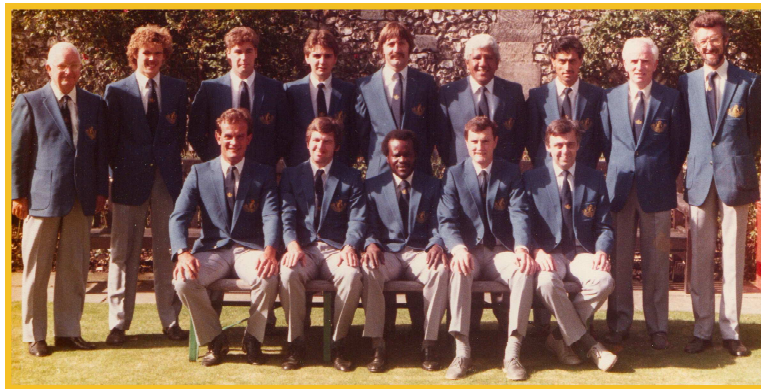
Yet the higher echelon decided that these semi professional Midlands and Northern League Clubs were eligible to take part in a competition that they structured solely for the traditional Amateur Club's who's players Paid to Play.



Group Picture of 1979 Haig Cup.

Both these semi professional clubs unashamedly played former Test Match Players (one was still a current Pakistani International and was officially designated by his Club as the Assistant Groundsman) and many others were former County Players who still occasionally played for their counties.

The 1981 “Old Hill” William Younger Cup Finalists played at Lords. Len Cross, Barry Jackson Stephen Keen, Chris West, Paul New, Andy Dindar, M.Amjad, Gordon Child, Derek Patience, Mark Simmons, Alan Walder, Jeff Jones, David Gorman, Malcolm Head.



The 1985 William Younger Lords Cup Finalists

**The Reading Cricket Club's One
Hundred & Ninety One Year
Anniversary**

By

Allan Albert Gooch



I know it is difficult to believe but I was not always the Club's Olc
Codger.

**Everything that is known about the Reading
Cricket Club's One Hundred & Ninety One Years.**

The Reading Cricket Club's First One Hundred and Six Years

As an ancient Reading Cricket Club man, who for countless years has had an affinity with the club, it is natural that I would wish to extol the Cricket Club's one hundred and ninety one years achievements; give a posthumous but grateful thanks to our "Forefather's Legacy" and wish its cricketers' well for not just another one hundred and ninety one cricketing years but for the remaining part of its Sonning Lane nine hundred and ninety nine years leasehold.

A grateful thanks go to Mr. H.A.D. Bartlett (hundred a day Bartlett) and Mr. W. R. Fletcher for their enlightening reminiscences. Their careful researching of various archives are of incalculable value for future Club Historians.

These invaluable narrations together with later discoveries; especially the discovery about the Manor House known as Erleigh Court Estate and it's then owner, Solomon, "Solly" Barnato Joel (from whom the club purchased its Church Road ground in 1928) presents a more modern and chronological approach than the current unsystematic format of the Reading Cricket Club's long and established history.

In 1959 the Cricket Club's most gifted members were wholly obsessed with publishing a "Centenary Book" for that year. Because of that obsession they inexcusably overlooked that the Club was factually celebrating its one hundred and thirty sixth year Anniversary rather than a convenient and an arbitrary Centenary.

The earliest reference to the Reading Cricket Club appeared in the Reading Mercury Weekly Newspaper in 1828. The following is an example of its style and shallow reporting: 'A cricket match will be played at Whitley Wood, on Wednesday next, between the eleven of Shinfield and Whitley and the eleven of Reading. The respectability of the players and their equality as to science in the game excited much interest.

The following week's edition simply announced that the Reading Cricket Club won. From the Reading Mercury report it is clear that the Reading Cricket Club was both operational and playing the noble game of cricket about five years earlier (in 1823). That year (1823)

would have coincided with the Reign (1820 - 1830) of King George IV. They continued playing on through the Reign (1830 - 1837) of William IV, the Reign (1837 - 1901) of Queen Victoria, the Reign (1901 - 1910) of Edward VII and ended its one hundred and sixth year anniversary in the nineteenth year (1929) of the reign (1910 - 1936) of George V.

Turing back the pages of the Cricket Club to February 1833 when the Reading Mercury again published an interesting article which is also chronicled here: "The members of the Reading Cricket Club have taken the meadow on the North side of Bedford Street, for their ground, where a great deal of excellent play is expected to be witnessed in the ensuing Summer. It is said the Reading Cricket Club will commence practising early in the Spring, and that they are determined to eclipse all their rural Neighbours in this athletic exercise".

Before the Reading Cricket Club purchased its Church Road ground in 1928 it played (so the local newspapers record) on grounds in Bedford Street, the top of Southampton Street and then Kensington Road where, if Mr. H.A.D. Bartlett is to be believed, they continued to play until the outbreak of the 1914-1918 Great War.

One other newspaper extract of times long ago is also worth a mention: August 18th 1838. Reading v Binfield. This game was referred to as the 'Conquerors' game. The report does not explain why it was described as the Conquerors Game but goes on to say. "The game was played on Monday last, and after some sharp fighting, the Reading XI was declared the "The Conquerors" with a reserve of 61 runs". The report also stated that no fewer than 2000 people collected on the ground.

Local newspapers for a number of years after 1838 tended to report games that took place but; as they never mention a players' name or indeed the result of the games they have little worthwhile historical value.

Mr. W.R. Fletcher in his reminiscences wrote; "that an 1866 score book belonging to the Reading Cricket Club was found with other ledgers in a local business house". Unfortunately he never

elaborated upon which local business house they were found but, expressed a vague opinion that they were from a bound volume containing other score sheets". Fortunately, two score sheets were saved from those long ago lost books and are reproduced here. The originals were framed and are available for all to read in the Pavilion's Willow Suite.

It is apparent that Mr. Harry Bartlett mounted and framed the 19 July 1866 Score sheet. He also presented it to the cricket club on 15 March 1956. The Score Sheet records that the Reading Cricket Club played the Slough Cricket Club at Reading and won the game by one wicket. The score sheets record only Reading's first and second innings.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|--------|----------------------|-------|-------------------------|------------|------------|---|---|----|----------|--|-----------|--|
| Reading | | C.C. V/S | Slough | C.C. VENUE | DATE | 19th July 1866 | WEATHER | | | | | | | | |
| INNINGS OF Reading | | TOSS WON BY | | TYPE OF MATCH | START | FINISH | | OF INNINGS | | | | | | | |
| BATSMAN | | TIME | TO | OUT | IN | OUT | BOWLER | TOTAL | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Hunter | | | | | B | Flanagan | 10 | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Hawkins | | | | | C | Stubbins | 12 | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Hayward | | | | | B | Mayse | 5 | | | | | | | |
| 4 | A Cocks | | | | | B | Flanagan | 7 | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Ormsby | | | | | B | Green | 0 | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Rev. W. Powys | | | | | C & B | Green | 0 | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Alcock | | | | | B | Green | 2 | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Eduscy | | | | | C Stubbins | B Flanagan | 0 | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Cobham | | | | | B | Green | 0 | | | | | | | |
| 10 | Beale | | | | | Not | OUT | 0 | | | | | | | |
| 11 | Lowley | | | | | B | Flanagan | 6 | | | | | | | |
| CAPTAIN | | WICKET KEEPER | | TOTAL BALLS RECEIVED | | TOTAL BOUNDARIES SCORED | | 42 | | | | | | | |
| FALL OF WICKET | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | BYES | | SUR TOTAL | |
| SCORE | | | | | | | | | | | | LEG BYES | | | |
| OUTGOING BAT & SCORE | | | | | | | | | | | | WIDES | | EXTRAS | |
| N.O. BAT & SCORE | | | | | | | | | | | | NO BALLS | | | |
| PARTNERSHIP | | | | | | | | | | | | PENALTY | | PREV INN | |
| TIME/OVER NO. | | | | | | | | | | | | PENALTY | | THIS INN | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | TOTAL | |

1st Page of the old 1866 Score Sheet Reading CC v Slough CC

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|----------------------|--|-------------------------|--|---------------|--|-------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| C.C. V/S | | | | F.C. VENUE | | DATE 19th July 1866 | | WEATHER | | | | | |
| INNINGS OF <u>Reading</u> | | TOSS WON BY <u>Slough</u> | | TYPE OF MATCH | | START | | FINISH | | OF INNINGS | | | |
| BATSMAN | | BOWLER | | IN | | OUT | | HOW OUT | | BOWLER | | TOTAL | |
| 1 <u>Hawkins</u> | | | | | | | | | | <u>C Stubbins</u> | | <u>B Flanagan</u> 10 | |
| 2 <u>Alcock</u> | | | | | | | | | | <u>C Stubbins</u> | | <u>B Green</u> 2 | |
| 3 <u>Howard</u> | | | | | | | | | | <u>B Flanagan</u> | | 7 | |
| 4 <u>Hunter</u> | | | | | | | | | | <u>C Green</u> | | <u>B Flanagan</u> 3 | |
| 5 <u>Ormsby</u> | | | | | | | | | | <u>B Green</u> | | 1 | |
| 6 <u>Cobham</u> | | | | | | | | | | <u>B Flanagan</u> | | 3 | |
| 7 <u>Eduscy</u> | | | | | | | | | | <u>B Flanagan</u> | | 0 | |
| 8 <u>Rev W Powys</u> | | | | | | | | | | <u>B Flanagan</u> | | 7 | |
| 9 <u>Beale</u> | | | | | | | | | | Not | | Out 7 | |
| 10 <u>Cobham</u> | | | | | | | | | | <u>B Green</u> | | 2 | |
| 11 <u>Lowley</u> | | | | | | | | | | Not | | Out 2 | |
| CAPTAIN | | WICKET KEEPER | | TOTAL BALLS RECEIVED | | TOTAL BOUNDARIES SCORED | | | | | | | |
| FALL OF WICKET | | 1 | | 2 | | 3 | | 4 | | 5 | | 6 | |
| SCORE | | OUTGOING BAT & SCORE | | N.O. BAT & SCORE | | PARTNERSHIP | | TIME/OVER NO. | | BYES | | LEG BYES | |
| | | | | | | | | | | WIDES | | EXTRAS 6 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | NO BALLS | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | PENALTY | | PREV INN | |
| | | | | | | | | | | PENALTY | | THIS INN | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | TOTAL 56 | |

2nd Page of the old 1866 Score Sheet for Reaing CC v Slough CC

Mr. Harry Bartlett also had the 22 July 1869 Score sheet mounted and framed and presented it to the Reading Cricket Club on 15 March 1959. The Score Sheet display both Reading's first and second innings against the Incognito Cricket Club. A Gentleman by the name of Jardine took nine wickets in the second innings. It is not known who won the game.

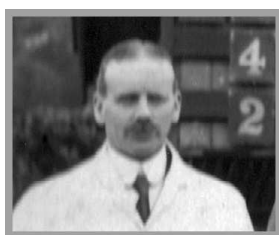
| CRICKET MATCH PLAYED AT <i>Reading</i> BETWEEN <i>Reading C.C.</i> | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------|--|
| <i>Reading First Innings</i> | | | | | |
| <i>The batsmen's names</i> | <i>Figures as Scored</i> | <i>How Out</i> | <i>Name of Bowler</i> | <i>Runs</i> | |
| 1 <i>J. H. Russell</i> | <i>110 22 1</i> | <i>Run out</i> | | <i>12</i> | |
| 2 <i>H. L. Hunter</i> | | <i>Batted</i> | <i>Lake</i> | <i>0</i> | |
| 3 <i>W. Byss</i> | | <i>Batted</i> | <i>Lake</i> | <i>0</i> | |
| 4 <i>J. Crowder</i> | <i>122 21 3 13 12 3 12</i> | <i>C. Edwards</i> | <i>Lake</i> | <i>28</i> | |
| 5 <i>G. Hayward</i> | <i>112 3 11</i> | <i>C. Edwards</i> | <i>Moffatt</i> | <i>12</i> | |
| 6 <i>W. H. Bullock</i> | <i>32</i> | <i>Batted</i> | <i>Lake</i> | <i>5</i> | |
| 7 <i>J. Simmons</i> | <i>12 14 2 12 2 12 12 3 1</i> | <i>Not out</i> | | <i>25</i> | |
| 8 <i>J. Hargreaves</i> | <i>2 13 22 13</i> | <i>Run out</i> | | <i>13</i> | |
| 9 <i>C. Collins</i> | <i>5 11</i> | <i>Batted</i> | <i>Lake</i> | <i>6</i> | |
| 10 <i>Capt. Verelstam</i> | | <i>Batted</i> | <i>Moffatt</i> | <i>0</i> | |
| 11 <i>H. Handkin</i> | <i>4 3 2 12 12 2</i> | <i>Not out</i> | <i>Moffatt</i> | <i>12</i> | |
| | <i>3 12 11 11 12</i> | | | <i>3</i> | |
| | <i>11</i> | | | <i>3</i> | |
| | <i>11</i> | | | <i>3</i> | |
| | <i>1</i> | | | <i>158</i> | |
| <i>Read of first innings</i> | | | | | |
| <i>1 17 30 62 65 106 109 109 138</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Reading Second Innings</i> | | | | | |
| 1 <i>J. H. Russell</i> | <i>15 11 12 3 22</i> | <i>C. Lake</i> | <i>Jardine</i> | <i>22</i> | |
| 2 <i>W. H. Bullock</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>Batted</i> | <i>Jardine</i> | <i>1</i> | |
| 3 <i>W. Byss</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>Batted</i> | <i>Jardine</i> | <i>2</i> | |
| 4 <i>J. Simmons</i> | | <i>C. Lake</i> | <i>Jardine</i> | <i>0</i> | |
| 5 <i>G. Hayward</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>Batted</i> | <i>Jardine</i> | <i>2</i> | |
| 6 <i>C. Collins</i> | <i>4 1</i> | <i>Batted</i> | <i>Jardine</i> | <i>5</i> | |
| 7 <i>H. Handkin</i> | <i>23 52</i> | <i>Batted</i> | <i>Jardine</i> | <i>11</i> | |
| 8 <i>J. Hargreaves</i> | <i>13</i> | <i>Run out</i> | | <i>4</i> | |
| 9 <i>J. Crowder</i> | <i>1 11 22 22 12 12 15</i> | <i>Not out</i> | | <i>33</i> | |
| 10 <i>H. L. Hunter</i> | <i>11 12</i> | <i>C. Moffatt</i> | <i>Jardine</i> | <i>6</i> | |
| 11 <i>Capt. Verelstam</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>C. Hobb</i> | <i>Jardine</i> | <i>1</i> | |
| | <i>11 3 2 1</i> | | | <i>13</i> | |
| | <i>1</i> | | | <i>1</i> | |
| | <i>1</i> | | | <i>1</i> | |
| | | | | <i>102</i> | |
| <i>Read of second innings</i> | | | | | |
| <i>2 14 14 19 29 46 53 66 80 102</i> | | | | | |

An old page of the 1869 Score sheet of Reading CC v Incogniti CC

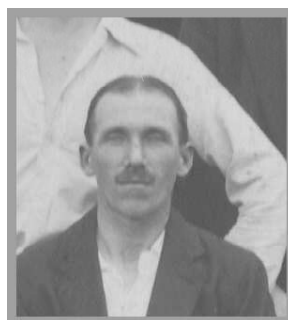
It can be argued that Mr. H. A. D. Bartlett was the most distinguished and influential member the Reading Cricket Club has ever produced. He alongside Mr. A. G. Sims (President 1922 - 1946) were stalwarts in all matters of internal club policy from about 1910 through to the middle 1950s.

There were, of course, other hard working stalwarts and colleagues of that time who ought to be mentioned as they in their own differing styles also helped to fashion both the pre and post Great War Cricket Club.

A photographic Gallery of these diligent late Victorian gentlemen are displayed below so that their identities and loyalty to the Club are not forgotten over its remaining nine hundred and ninety nine year Sonning Lane leasehold.



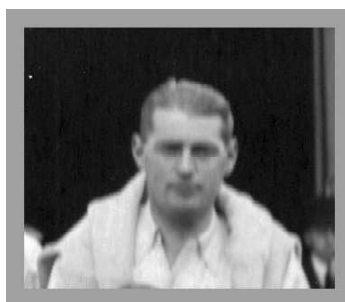
Mr.C. McCormack
(Treasurer) pre 1914
Player.



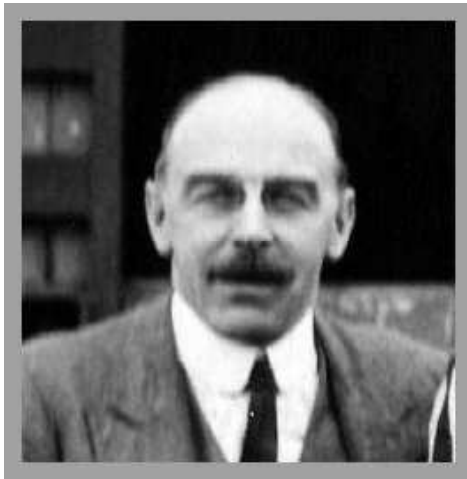
Mr. H. A. D. Bartlett pre
1914 Reading Player. A
Victorian Gentleman and
thrice Club Captain.



A Victorian Gentleman.
Mr. J. Royal. A pre 1914
Member and a meticulous
Administrator.



Mr. E A G Pinfield pre 1914
Reading Player



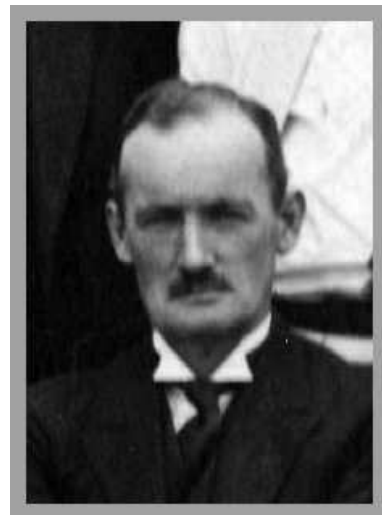
Mr. H. R. Willison Pre 1914 Player, Captain
& Secretary.



A Victorian Gentleman. Mr. A. Bennett. A
pre 1914 Member and a meticulous
Administrater.



A Victorian Gentelman. Mr. A. C.
Bennett. A pre 1914 Reading Player
and Captain.



Mr. A. W. Carter Pre 1914 Player,
Captain & President.



Mr. E. Love Pre 1914
(Scorer)

The First World War came in 1914 and cricket was suspended until sanity returned in 1918. The Reading Cricket Club began to function again in 1919 but many of its fine players were sadly left behind on the awful killing fields of Flanders.

Nothing is known about the Caversham Cricket Club other than it was a wandering club and because it too lost many of its players in the Great War there developed a natural affinity between the two clubs.

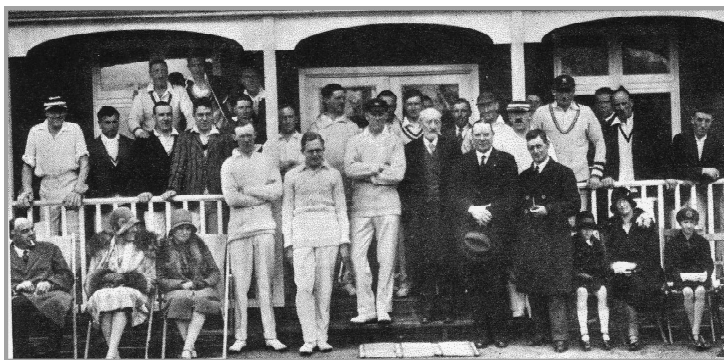
As the Reading Cricket Club had no ground to which it could return after the Great War and because both the Reading and Caversham Cricket Club's playing memberships were sadly almost destroyed on Flanders Fields the Reading Cricket Club's President, Mr. A.G. (Archie) Sims persuaded the two clubs to amalgamate and quickly obtain and develop a new Ground for its long term future.

For many years Mr. A. (Archie) G. Sims and his enthusiastic cohorts put into motion countless fundraising schemes for the purpose of purchasing a suitable home for the Reading Cricket Club. After endless negotiations with Solomon Barnato Joel's Solicitor and Estate Agent they accomplished their aim in 1928 when the club acquired its new and permanent Cricket Home at Church Road, Earley.

The then Treasurer of the club, Mr. H.C. McCormack, announced at the official opening on 4 May 1929 that the new ground and pavilion had cost £1,300. Even in those days finances were stretched for there was a shortfall of £500 but it was anticipated this shortfall would be quickly cleared. The Club was also indebted to a Mr Sharp (Doctor Sharp) who donated a strip of adjoining land which enabled the club to both enlarge and develop its newly acquired ground.

The Mayor (Alderman J. Rabson) opened the ground and pavilion on 4 May 1929. In his opening speech, amongst many other things, he mentioned that thieves had ransacked the pavilion just two days prior to the official opening. He also went on to say that when the ground was purchased it resembled nothing like a cricket field and that steam rollers were employed for many days levelling an uneven surface.

A damaged and poor print obtained from the long ago and now defunct weekly Reading Standard is displayed below. The print is indistinct and impossible to identify any of the Cricket Club's ancient Victorian and Edwardian forerunners.



1929 Opening of new pavillion

The 1922 photograph displayed below has huge sentimental value because sadly it cannot tell its true story. These happy members posing in it are the lucky ones who returned from the nightmare of the 1914 - 1918 Great War. They were collectively all that was left of the Reading and Caversham Cricket Clubs.



1922 Reading Cricket Club

Back Row (left to right)—H. C. MCCORMACK (Treasurer), H. R. WILLISON (Secretary), H. S. HOPCROFT, R. DAND, J. ROYLE, F. W. GEE, E. A. G. PINFIELD (Vice-Captain), C. L. MAGGS, A. BENNETT, E. LOVE (Scorer).
Front Row—H. G. DADLEY, A. C. BENNETT, H. A. D. BARTLETT (Captain), A. W. CARTER, ESQ. (President), A. F. PLANNER, C. A. NEWMAN, G. HALL MANCY.



1929 Reading Cricket Club

READING CRICKET CLUB 1929

*Back Row (left to right)—H. C. MCCORMACK, CAPT. C. D. BALDING, A. T. YENDELL, J. J. BROWN, S. T. PRICE, S. S. JARY, E. LOVE.
Middle Row—W. V. STOKES, W. MACLEAN, A. C. BENNETT, D. W. STOKES, II. G. DADLEY.
Front Row—F. W. GEE, C. A. BUTLER.*

The 1929 photograph displayed above reflects the beginning of the Reading Cricket Club's 'back to normality' and to thirty golden years. It had finally and successfully returned to its prewar status and together with its splendid new ground (comparable to any in the Country) it could once again play and entertain all of its worthy prewar opponents.

The Club's pre war Chairman was Mr. A. W. Carter went on to be the Club's President just prior to the Great War. After the War Mr. A. W. Carter, returned as President and served the Club with great distinction until he was succeeded by the legendary Mr. A. G. Sims.

On the following page is an artists impression of the 1929 Reading Cricket Club's new pavilion based on the then available data. It is followed by a photograph of the Pavilion as it appeared in the 1980s.



How the 1929 First Pavilion Looked



How the Old Pavilion Looked about 1980

The Reading Cricket Club's Twenty

One Golden Years 1929 - 1950



Mr. A. (Archie) G. Sims. Club President for 24
Golden Years 1922 - 1946 the year he Died.

**Everything that is known about the Reading
Cricket Club's Twenty One Golden Years 1929 -
1950.**

The Beginning of the Club's 21 Golden Year's 1929 - 1950.

Mr. A. W. Carter Pre & Post First World War President to 1922.

Immediately after the Great War the members of the Reading Cricket Club welcomed their prewar President, Mr. A. W. Carter's, return. He immediately put into operation the promised "back to normality" campaign and for two years he worked tirelessly for the club until he was relieved from his arduous duties by his successor, Mr. A. G. Sims.

Mr. Carter was indeed a fortunate man in having his two prewar Victorian Gentleman friends namely Mr. J. Royal and Mr. A. Bennett who were both Cricket enthusiasts and for whatever their reasons they never played our noble game of cricket. They were social members who devoted their entire cricketing life in assisting their revered Chairman, Mr. A. W. Carter, with his many administrative duties. Their portraits are displayed on the next page.



A Victorian Gentleman, A. W. Carter Esq, and
Club President until 1922

As documented elsewhere the Reading Cricket Club from about the late 1880s were playing all their home games at Mr. Howard Palmer's

Kensington Road Cricket ground until the outbreak of the 1914-1918 Great War. After the War our then President, Mr. A. W. Carter, negotiated a transaction with Mr. Reginald Palmer for the use of his small sports ground at the rear of Kings meadow's playing fields. This private sports ground has long gone and the site is now covered by the Tesco Supermarket. The Reading Cricket Club used this facility as their Home base until its new Ground became operational. (see **Messrs Huntly & Palmers paragraph 6 to 11.**

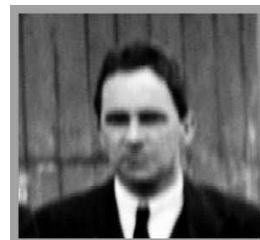
This might help to explain Mr. A. (Archie) G. Sims , “back to normality” campaign and also his foresight and courage to unite the Reading and *Caversham* cricket clubs after the Great War. He called it his unification programme. (see **Mr. Archie Sims paragraph one).**

A pre First World War Club Member, David Maddox, and an old family friend said that many of the ancient Hockey players told him that they also played some of their first ever games at this little known ground. This might explain why so many of those long lost and gone Hockey members always believed that their proper roots were always with the Village of Caversham rather than the Town of Reading.

Mr. J. Royal and Mr. A. Bennett were both Cricket enthusiasts and for whatever their private reasons they never played our noble game of cricket. They were lifelong social members who devoted their entire cricketing life to assisting their Chairmen, Mr. A. W. Carter, and his successor Mr. A. (Archie) G. Sims with there many and difficult administrative duties. Their portraits are displayed below.



A Victorian Gentleman. Mr. J. Royal. A pre 1914 Member and a meticulous Administrator.

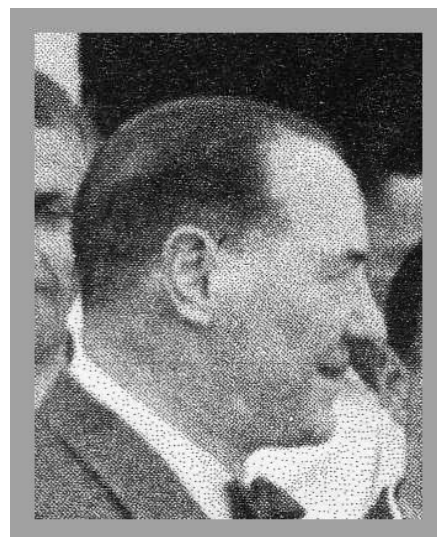


A Victorian Gentleman. Mr. A. Bennett. A pre 1914 Member and a meticulous Administrator.

The indomitable Mr. A. (Archie) G. Sims.

It was in 1922 that the indomitable Mr. A. G. Sims became the Club's President. This man will always be regarded as the saviour of the Reading Cricket Club. He vigorously pursued his predecessor's, Mr. A. W. Carter's, "back to normality" campaign and also had the courage to unite the Reading and Caversham cricket clubs when both were desperately short of playing members and on the verge of disbanding. It was his unification programme that caused these two clubs to survive the aftermath of the awful War and brought about what was to become the continuation of the long established Reading Cricket Club.

For eight years this remarkable man put into motion countless fundraising plans and schemes for the sole purpose of finding a suitable home for his beloved Reading Cricket Club. His dream reached fulfillment in 1929 when after his endless endeavours his new and permanent Cricket Home at Church Road, Earley, reached fruition.



A Victorian Gentleman. Mr. A. (Archie)
G Sims. Club President 1922 - 1946 (24
Years)

When other normal human beings might have said "Job well done" and gracefully retired from the limelight our indefatigable Archie Sims continued until his Death in 1946. It was a Presidency that was to last for 24 years. There is a plaque at the top of the Pavilion's Main Stairwell that modestly reads "In Memory of A. G. (Archie) Sims President of this Club 1922 to 1946 to whose unfailing efforts and Generosity so much is owed". His Portrait is displayed adjacent to his plaque and a copy of that portrait is displayed on the following page.

He left a legacy of £1,000 which was to be used for the purpose of improving the amenities of the Reading Cricket Club. In those days £1,000 was a very large sum of money.

A reproduction of Mr. A. (Archie) G. Sims Portrait is shown opposite. The original is displayed at the top of the Pavilion's Main Stairwell.



Mr. A. (Archie) G. Sims Club President 1922 to 1946 (24) Years.

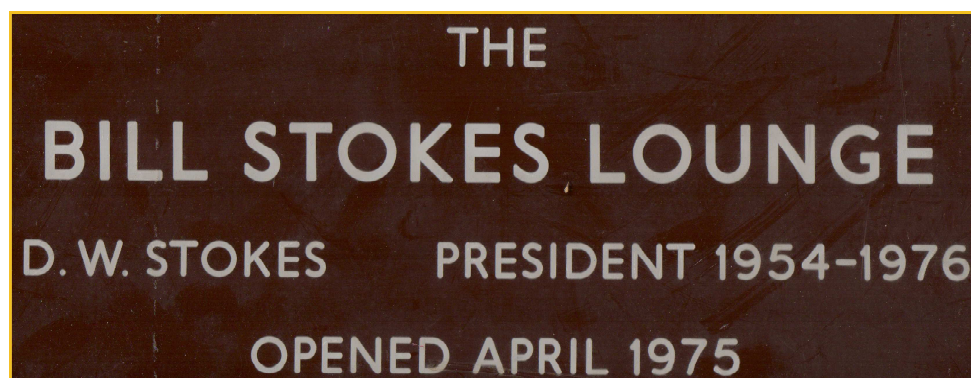
Mr. W. D. (Bill) Stokes (1900 - 1986): Twice Captain: Player for over 40 years and Club President (1955 - 1976) (21 years).

A special mention ought to be made about Mr. W. (Bill) D. (junior) Stokes because (after Mr. B. A. D. Bartlett and Mr. A. W. Sims) he was another loyal and hard working member of the Club. Furthermore since before 1919 Bill Stokes was a splendid cricketer and remained so throughout the 1920s, 30s, 40s, and to a lesser degree in the early 1950s.

He kept wicket for Berkshire from 1935 to 1953 and batted in the first three or four batting positions throughout all those years and was often in the first three of the Counties batting averages. In 1947 when he was approaching 50 years of age he had an average of 44.14 and a highest score of 153. Astonishingly in 1951 he had a batting average of 48.10.

Bill Stokes also achieved similarly commendable statistics for his beloved Reading Cricket Club and in addition to his praiseworthy statistics mentioned above he had two lengthy spells as club captain and he also presided over the Club for 21 years (1955 to 1976) as an outstanding club President.

With the help of the ever willing Jack Beaven the Author has recovered some of the Reading Cricket Club's lost Memorabilia. Amongst the findings was Bill Stokes 1976 commemorative Plaque. This historic Plaque was in 1976 mounted in a prominent position to mark the opening of the 1975 Bill Stokes Lounge. It was sited at the extreme end of the long ago New Pavilion at Church Road, Earley.



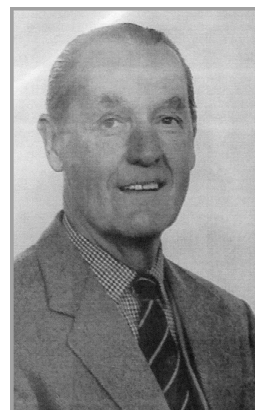
The Author found this defaced Photograph of Bill Stokes keeping Wicket in 1966 when he would have been nearing seventy years of age. Fortunately it was possible to save the salient part of this picture for posterity and display it for all to see with the aid of The Reading Cricket Club's splendid web site.



Bill Stokes 1966



A Victorian Gentleman.
Mr. D W,
(Bill) Stokes.
A Reading
Player, Twice
Captain and
Presiden 1955
- 1976 (21
years).



Mr. W.(Bill) Stokes. A
Victorian Gentlman
Player Twice Capting
ane President for 21
years (1955 - 1976)



Mr. W. D. (Bill) Stokes. A Victorian
Gentelman. Player, twice Captain and
Club Presiden 1955 - 1976 (21years).

Henry Campbell Fueggle: A pre 1900 Captain and Player.

From time to time the Reading Cricket Club receive enquiries about cricketers of long ago and when these enquiries are received the Club make every effort to provide whatever information there is available to those making the request. The most recent enquiry (2012) was for a Henry Campbell Fueggle and his Father Henry Cressex Fueggle.

A Mr. Rodger Baker an Australian, wrote to say that his Great Grandfather, Henry Campbell Fueggle, had both played and captained the Reading Cricket Club before the 1900s. Mr. Baker also mentioned in his enquiry that whilst his Great Great Grandfather, Henry Creswick Fueggle, did not Captain a Reading side he nevertheless did play for the Club as long ago as the 1870s through to the late 1880s and possibly into the early 1890s.

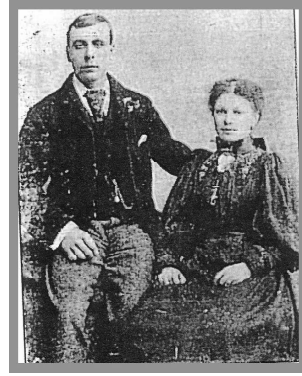
Interestingly he then went on to say that his Grandmother played the piano and sang songs of the period in the Cricket Clubhouse for the members after club games and at all other club social events. The indications are that that these entertaining pianoforte delights took place sometime between the years 1880 and 1914 at the Kensington Road Cricket Ground where the Reading Cricket Club was at that time based.

Henry Campbell Fueggle has an impressive printed pedigree and this pedigree accompanied Mr. Rodger Baker's enquiry. For the purpose of the Reading Cricket Club's History suffice it to say that Henry Campbell Fueggle lived, at the time of his playing days with Reading Cricket Club at 39 Baker Street, Reading. He was a self employed Plumber and Gas Fitter with a workshop at 20 Battle Street, Reading. He moved on to Redhill, Surrey.

Unfortunately there is no photograph of Henry Campbell Fueggle but there is a damaged and poor quality print of his Father Henry Creswick Fueggle and one of his Father and Mother Hannah together. Maybe there is a resemblance between Father and Son. These inferior prints are reproduced and displayed on the next page.



Henry Creswick Fuggle the Father of
Henry Campbell Fuggle.



Henry Creswick Fuggle &
his Wife Hannah.

As has already been mentioned Henry Creswick Fuggle never Captained the Reading Cricket Club but he did nonetheless play for it for many years. His playing days were in the 1870s through to the late 1880s and possibly into the early 1890s. He clearly would have been acquainted with most of those named players (see pages 9 and 10 of this history) of the 1860s and therefore could have been on speaking terms with a few of our 1823 Original Founding Fathers.

With the onset of the Great War and the loss of the use of its splendid Kensington Road Cricket ground together with all its memorabilia, coupled with the awful loss of so many of its members in the War's aftermath; and lastly but not least the loss of our illustrious Victorian and Edwardian born members, it has become a very difficult and most awkward period for a Club historian to review.

For this reason the Author has deemed it proper to place on record a belated and posthumous tribute to the many meritorious deeds performed by our past Victorian and Edwardian members. As their identities have long since been lost in the passage of time it seems appropriate that the club should award a posthumous tribute to Henry Campbell Fuggle and his Father and that this tribute should also be shared with all of thier long ago and forgotten cricket colleagues.

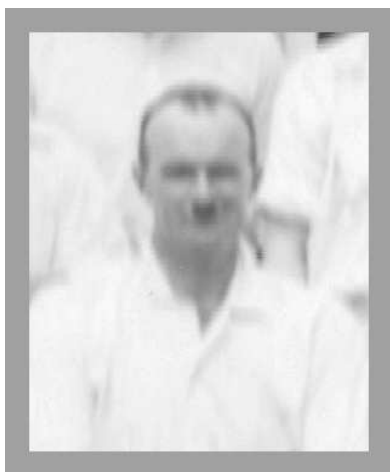
Lieutenant Colonel De Vine.

The family of the late Lt. Col. de Vine kindly presented to the Reading Cricket Club his Berkshire Gentlemen and Reading Cricket Club Blazers and Caps in memory of his many happy days playing cricket at Church Road, Earley.

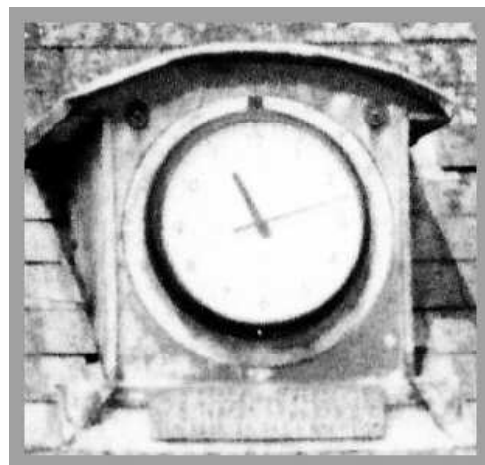
These beautifully coloured articles of clothing are displayed in a handsome cabinet which was presented to his family in 1946 by the quality Gentlemen's Tailors "Silvers" of Reading. This lovely cabinet containing these historical garments is now installed in the Club's main hall of the present day (2014) Pavilion.

In his early military career Lt. Col. De Vine was deployed with the Indian Police where he was required to perform many arduous tasks and unpleasant duties. He was both an Aristocrat and a valued member of the late Solomon Barnato Joel's Sect. A Synopsis about Solomon Joel can be found in this History's pages 40 and 43 headed: **Mr. Solomom (Solly) Barnato Joel.**

Later in life he presented to the Reading Cricket Club the Clock that graced the club's original pavilion at Church Road, Earley. After the move to Sonning Lane in 1986 it was installed at the western end of its new pavilion looking westward toward the club's long sought after Second Cricket square and in full sight of the late Alf Smith's Pavilion.



Lieutenant Colonel De Vine as he was
about 1930



The Church Road Old Pavilion Clock as it was
about 1970

Social Members: Spectators and other Helpers.

With its 1928 new Church Road premises and ground the club was fortunate in the manner it quickly attracted a very large number of none playing members (social members). These social members not only supported the club but they were people who it could be said were most generous with their donations.

It should be mentioned that these social members also shouldered much of the arduous day-to-day club-chores and meticulously undertook most of the tedious and tiresome administrative duties. This helped the club's officials to carry out their other exacting responsibilities with great professionalism.

Between the wars and especially on warm sunny days the Sunday Church Road cricket games attracted huge numbers of Spectators. Together with the Club's Social Members and other cricket fans from far and wide they would sit two and three deep all around the Boundary edge.



Spectators at a game in 1937

There was a prominent “Sentry Box” which on Match days would be proudly positioned at the Main Entrance. A courteous club steward in Club Regalia would sit and dutifully solicit Sixpence for Adults and half price for children’s admittance. (For those unfamiliar with pre decimalization days: Mother, Father, three children and a Dog would be admitted for today’s lavish 15 pence).

Whilst acknowledging the huge numbers of Spectators in attendance during those Sunday games it should also be dutifully recorded that the workload the Reading Cricket Club Ladies shouldered on those busy weekends were incalculable. Their organisation skills, selling abilities, provision of endless teas, other beverages together with countless packed sandwiches, hot pies, ice creams, etc, etc. not only went far beyond their remit but also went far beyond their responsibilities in the matter of keeping the club solvent.

Messrs Sutton Seeds.

Messrs Sutton Seeds was arguably the largest British seed Merchant which for more than two century's supplied their high quality produces both nationally and worldwide. Their Managing Director, Mr. Owen Sutton, together with his brothers continued managing and trading successfully through to about the 1980s when the company was dissolved.



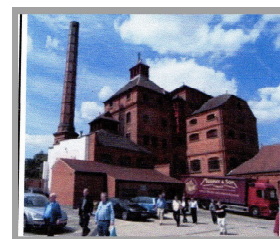
Sutton Seeds of Reading about 1858

Unlike other members of his family Mr. Owen Sutton was an avid cricket enthusiast who played his entire cricketing career at the Reading Church Road, cricket ground. It would be remiss not to also mention that he also played and worked tirelessly for the Berkshire County Cricket Club.

Messrs H. & G. Simmonds.

The Reading local Brewer's, Messrs H & G Simmonds, was helpful with the interior decor, fixtures and furnishings for the Cricket Club's new 1959 clubhouse. As to be expected the local Brewers also paid particular attention to the new clubhouse' bar area and serving facilities.

Major Maurice and his brother John Simmonds were two other local businessmen who were cricket fanatics and whose cricketing careers were enthusiastically devoted entirely to the Reading Cricket Club.



Simmons Brewery about 1950

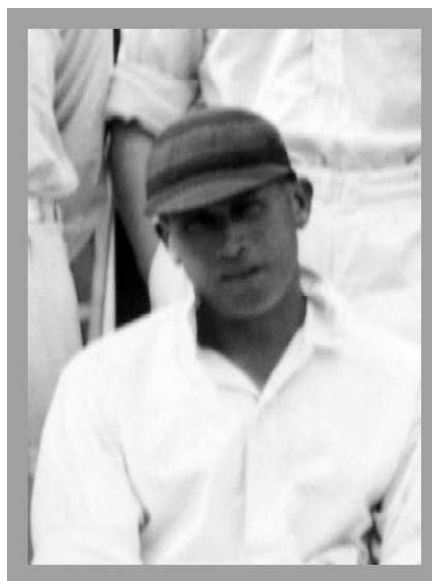
Reading Cricket Club Captain's between 1919 - 1939.

From the Late 1880s until the Great War the Reading Cricket Club was captained by Mr. H. R. Willisom, Mr. H. C. McCormack, Mr. A. W. Carter (twice), Mr. W. V. (Senior) Stokes (twice), and Mr. Henry Campbell Fueggle. Immediately after it was captained by Mr. W. V. (Senior) Stokes followed by Mr. H. A. D. Bartlett. Much has already been written about Mr. Bartlett and rightly so. He left Reading at the end of the 1922 Season to pursue and enhance his teaching profession at the London School of Economics. Mr. Bartlett was a splendid Tutor throughout his working life and resided in his latter years at The Crescent, Maiden Erleigh, Reading.

The line of succession after Mr. Bartlett's Captaincy was Mr. A. Planner, Mr. A. C. Bennett, Mr. A. Maclean, Mr. W. Yendall and Mr. D. W. (Bill) Stokes. The redoubtable Mr. Bartlett returned in 1935 to Reading from London and once again captained the Reading Cricket club for the last few years leading up to the Second World War when Mr. H. T. Palmer both Captained and kept wicket for the Reading Cricket Club throughout the second World War years.



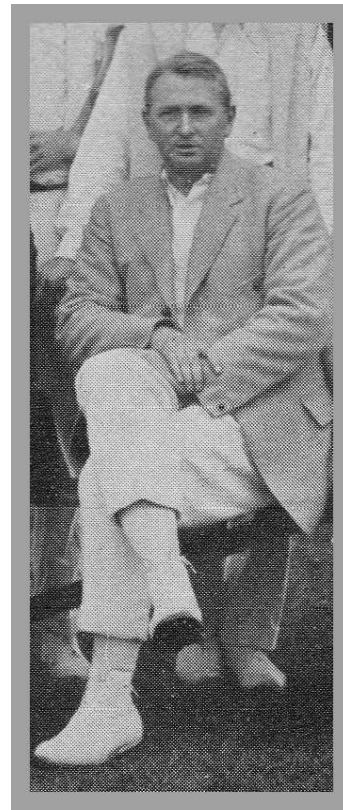
Mr. H. A. D. Bartlett.
A Victorian Gentleman
A Reading Player and
Captain.



A Victorian Gentleman. Mr. M. Maclean.
A pre 1914 Reading Player and Captain.



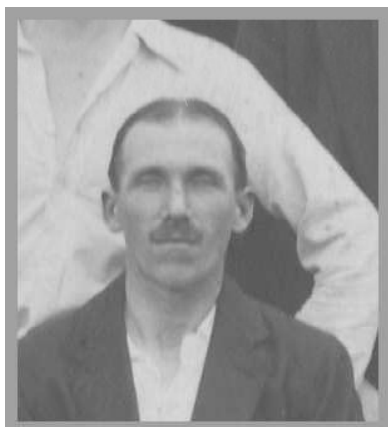
A Victorian Gentleman. Mr. A. C. Bennett.
A pre 1914 Reading Player and Captain.



A Victorian Gentleman. Mr. A.
F. Planner. A pre 1914 Reading
Player and Captain.



Mr. W. Yendell. A Victorian
Gentleman. A Pre 1914 Reading
Player and Captain.



Mr. H. A. D. Bartlett pre 1914
Reading Player. A Victorian
Gentleman and thrice Club Captain.



Mr. W.V. (Senior) Stokes. A pre 1914
Player, Twice Captain & Father of
Mr. D. W. (Bill) Stokes.

Messrs Huntley & Palmers

Club members today (2014) might be surprised to learn that with its new (1928) Church Road, Earley, Facility, the Reading Cricket Club attracted and aroused much interest and enthusiasm within the Town's Business Centre and local Community.

First and foremost were the established Messrs Huntley & Palmers Biscuitmakers which were founded in 1822 by Joseph Huntley. He later invited a distant cousin, George Palmer, to be his business partner and these two businessmen created a huge company which became the first worldwide biscuit distributor.

Thomas Huntley died in 1857 and George Palmer together with his brothers and sons continued to direct and manage the firm. They also soon became notable figureheads in a town that became known colloquially as the "biscuit town".

After the Great War the family of Palmers freely gave their practical help and support to the Reading Cricket Club. Mr. Reginald Palmer, in 1929, offered his business acumen to the Club and also let it be known that he would be honoured to accept the position of becoming its first Trustee in the Reading Cricket Club's long history. His Father, Mr Howard Palmer, also gave many hours of his busy life overseeing and providing invaluable guidance throughout the Club's 1928 and 1929 business transactions.

Mr. R. H. R. Palmer with his easy going manner satisfied his own eccentricities by hitting, with great gusto, mighty sixes for both his team mates and the appreciative spectators. His endless sixes went some way in attracting a large number of social members to the Reading Cricket club.

As documented elsewhere in this History the Reading Cricket Club played on a number grounds until about the late 1880s when, if Mr. H.A.D. Bartlett is to be believed, they played all their home games at Mr. Howard Palmer's Kensington Road Ground until the outbreak of the 1914-1918 Great War.

After the the war Mr. Howard Palmer advised the Reading Cricket Club that *his* Kensington Road Ground would no longer be available to them as it was his intention to establish a Huntly & Palmers Cricket Club and that it would from 1919 utilise *his* Ground. Moreover all the players in his newly formed Club would have to be employed by Huntly & Palmers.

For this reason immediately after the Great War our then President, Mr. A. W. Carter, negotiated a transaction with Mr. Reginald Palmer for the use of *his* small sports ground at the rear of the Kings meadow's playing fields. This private sports ground has long since gone and its site covered by the Tesco Supermarket. The Reading Cricket Club used this private facility as their Home base until such times as its new Ground became operational in the year 1929.

David Maddox a pre First World War Club Member and also an close family friend said that many of the ancient Hockey players told him that they also played their first ever games at this little known ground. This might explain why so many of those long gone and forgotten Hockey members always believed that their proper roots were with the Village of Caversham rather than the Town of Reading.

The memories of the eminent Mr. David Maddox - a *Proper* Barclays Bank Manager of the 1930s 40s, & 50s - together with his Victorian companions Mr. Alf Smith and Mr. Andrew Slade are, in the Author's opinion, much more reliable and believable machines than some unsubstantiated hearsay suggesting that the Reading Hockey Club's beginnings were with either the Berkshire or Reading Gentlemens' sides of the early 1900s.

The late John Way did produce an unsubstantiated report for the hockey Club in which he expressed an opinion that the Hockey Club's 50th Anniversary was thought to be around the year 1956 but he had the good sense to avoid any mention of either the Berkshire or Reading Gentlemen.

Reading Cricket Club Players 1919 -1939

To reproduce countless scorecards of days long ago would be somewhat tedious and uninteresting for readers. It would also be a huge waste of space in a compact History of this nature. For these reasons alone it is, in the Authors view, sensible only to list the more worthy players of a particular and long ago historical period.

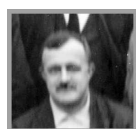
They alone ought to be singled out for posterity and receive a big thank you for their many meritorious deeds during their time as players. It would also keep them on the same footing as those other illustrious gentlemen who also played at that time but also served with great distinction in high office for so many years.

H. A. D. Bartlett, A. C. Bennett, K. G Bennett, H. Birch, J. J. Brown, A. W. Carter, H. G. Dadley, R. Dand, W. R Fletcher, F. W. Gee, Hall-Mancy, J. Harrison, L. P. Mosdell, C. Griesharber, H. S. Hopcroft, Joe Mence, C. L. Maggs, H. C. McCormack, C. A. Newman, E. A. G. Pinfield, A. F. Planner, L. H Saunders, K. L. Simpson, B. H. Smithson, P. H. Stevens, W. V. Stokes, L. G. Stone, Professor J. Timewell, Capt. G. Villiets, H. R. Williamson Mr. Tedd Hall (Umpire) and Mr. E Love (Scorer).

Many of the people mentioned above also played before 1919. Where a picture is available of these individuals and are able to be reproduced a reproduction is displayed below.



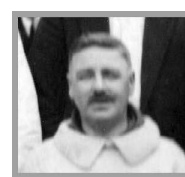
A Victorian Gentleman. Mr. F. W. Gee..



A Victorian Gentleman. Mr. G. Hall-Mancy.



Teddy Hall Umpire



A Victorian Gentleman. Mr. C. A. Newman.



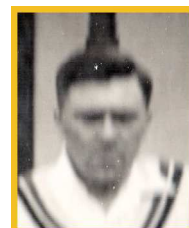
Mr. E. Love Pre 1914 (Scorer)



A Victorian Gentleman. Mr. C. I. Maggs.



Mr. H. Birch.



Mr. J. J. Brown.



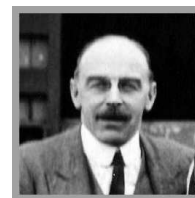
Mr. P.
Mosdell
about 1933



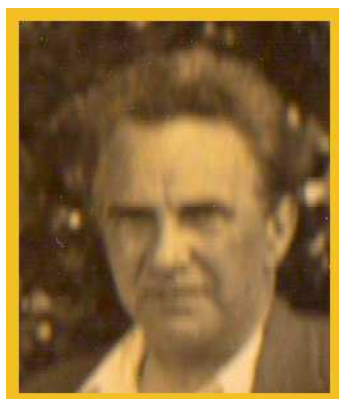
A. E. Wise (Umpire)



Mr. P. H.
Stevenson
about
1934



A Victorian
Gentleman. Mr.
H. R. Willson.
Club Secretary
1922.



A. Bennett



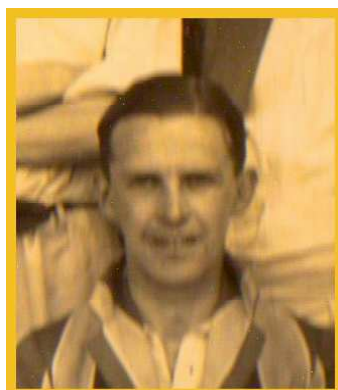
A. Butler



Cecil Grieshaber
He proudly
announced to
everyone that he
Joined the Club
in 1922.



Mr. P. Mosdell
about 1933



B.S. Hill



Mr. W. R.
Fletcher



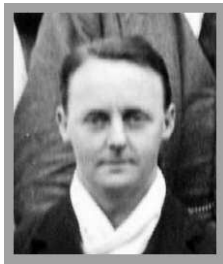
Mr. K. L.
Simpson.



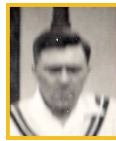
Mr. L. H.
Saunders.



Arthur Winch (A Church
Warden & Businessman)



A Victorian Gentleman. Mr. H. G. Dadley.



Mr. J. Harrison about 1935



A.C. Bennett



A. Peach



J. Rashleigh



Mr. J. Timewell.



F. Cox



J. J. Brown



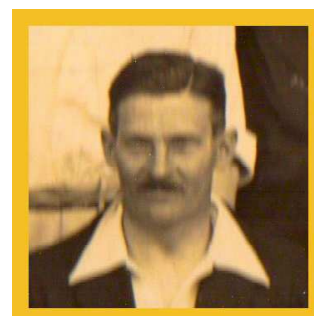
E.A.G. Pinfield



A Victorian Gentleman. Mr. H. S. Hopcroft.



A Victorian Gentleman. Mr, R Dand..



S. T. Price



W. (Billy) McConnell. (Reading
F.C. Footballer)



R. V. Davies



S. A. Lewis

The Reading Cricket Club 1933



Reading Cricket Club 1933

A.G. Winch. A. Peach. E.A.G. Pinfield. W. McConnell. J. Rashleigh. A. Butler. A. Bennett. A.E. Wise.

A. C. Bennett. S.T. Price. J.J. Brown. S.A. Lewis. B.S. Hill

F. Cox.

R.V. Davis

The 1933 photograph shown on page 38 was presented to the Reading Cricket Club by the daily newspaper The Observer. The photograph is newsworthy because it depicts Arthur Winch who was a lifetime supporter of the Reading Cricket Club and who was also a most generous Club benefactor. To the Authors knowledge this Victorian Gentleman never played the noble game of cricket but was a staunch Church Warden and a respected local Clock, Watch & Jewellery Businessman. The Photograph also shows W. (Billy) McConnell who was for almost three decades one of Reading Football Club's Legendary players.

A Poor Quality 1936 Reading Cricket Club Photograph.



*E.A.G. Pinfield (Hon Sec) W.R. Fletcher, L.G. Stone, L.P. Mosdell, K.L. Simpson, Cap^t. G. Villiers, J. Harrison, A. Wise (Umpire)
B.H. Smithson, H. Fox, H.A.D. Bartlett, J. Timewell, K.G. Bennett,*

The above is a reproduction of a poor quality and damaged photograph that was taken in the year of 1936. It represents many Reading Cricket Club sides of the 1930s. Most of the older players shown in the photograph played for the Club before the first World War. Others played on into the 1950s, notably Mr. H. A. D. Bartlett, Mr. K. L. Simpson, Mr. N. R. Fletcher and Professor Josh Timewell.

A Poor Quality 1937 Reading Cricket Club Photograph.

Below is another reproduction of a poor quality and damaged photograph. It was taken in the year of 1937 and it represents most of the Reading Cricket Club sides of the 1930s. Many of the older players shown in the photograph played for the Club before the first World War. Others played on into the 1950s, notably Mr. H. A. D. Bartlett, Mr. W. R. Fletcher, Mr. P Mosdell, Mr. K. L. Simpson, Mr. Bill Stokes and Professor Josh Timewell.

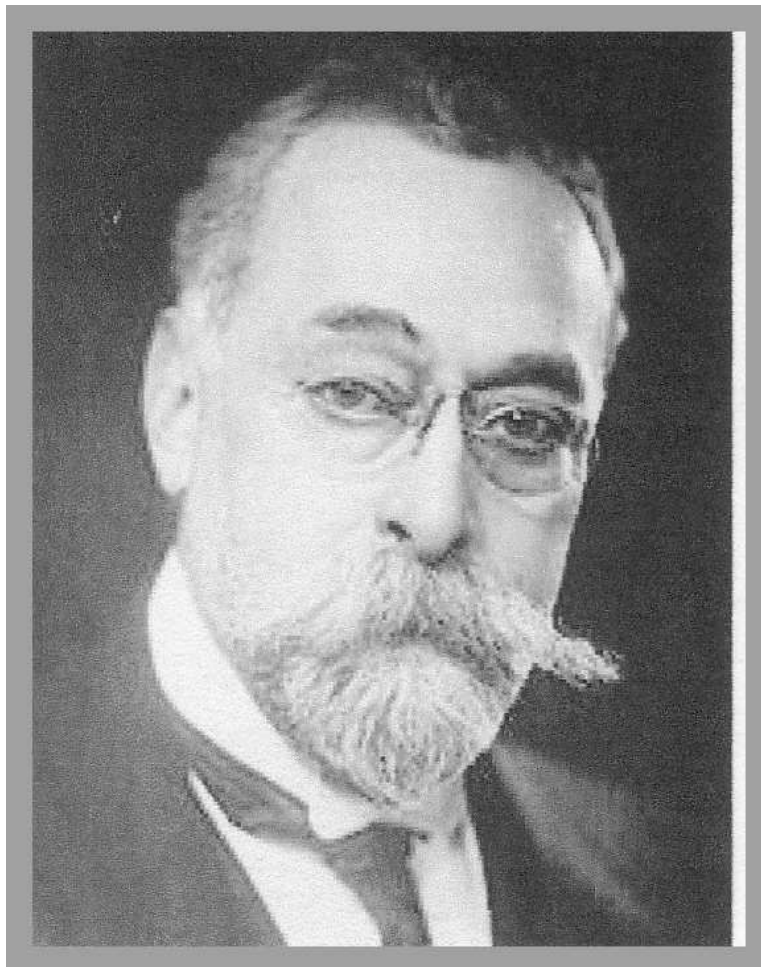


*J. Harrison. J.J. Brown. K.L. Simpson. L.H. Saunders. J. Timewell. W.R. Fletcher.
P.H. Stevens. H.A.D. Bartlett. D.W. Stokes (Capt) H. Birch. P. Mosdell.*

Mr. Solomon (Solly) Barnato Joel.

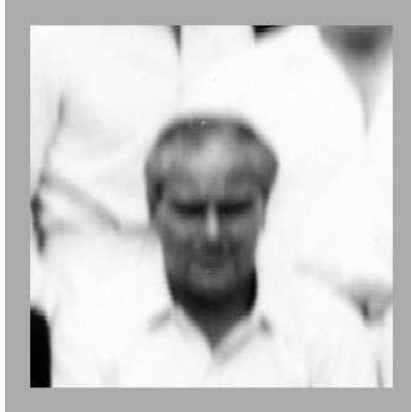
In the late 1890s and the early part of the 1900s Solomon Barnato Joel was one of the richest men in the world. It is written that he was the largest shareholder in De Beers Consolidated Mines who were at that time the main diamond producers in the South African Diamond fields.

Those of you who wish to study and expand their knowledge about Solomon Barnato Joel's business and lifestyle will have to read his son's, Stanhope's, book entitled "Ace of Diamonds". It is the Story about Solomon Barnato Joel and his Mother who's maiden name was Kate Isaacs. Amongst many of his other life activities Solomon Barnato remained involved in the rather grubby affairs of the diamond gold mines until the time of his death in 1931.



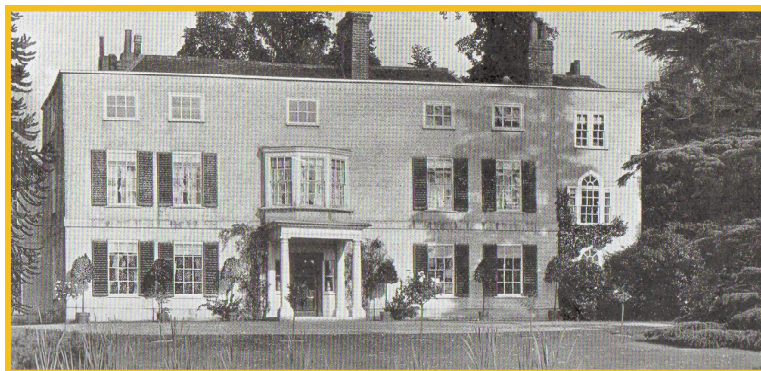
Solomon Joel

The Joel family were intimately related with Mr. Barnett (Woolf) Isaacs better known as “Barney Barnato”. He also had great success in the South African Diamond Fields and his family also became very wealthy in its process.



Mr. Barnett (Woolf) Isaacs.

The common “Ground” between the Reading Cricket Club and Solomon (Solly) Barnato Joel is because he acquired, after the death of a Mr John Hargreaves in 1895, the old Manor House known as Erleigh Court Estate. For tidiness Mr John Hargreaves died at the age of 56 on October third 1895 and lies buried in his family vault in the St. Peters churchyard, Church Road, Earley.

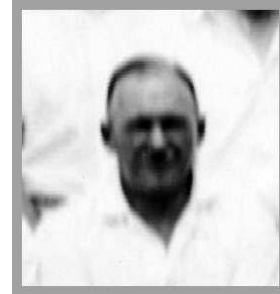


The Manor House known as Erleigh Court about 1850

It is no coincidence that “Solly’s” son, Stanhope Henry, was both an enthusiastic cricketer and also a lifelong friend of the Reading Cricket Club. The Club must forever be grateful to him for his behind the scenes activities in paving the way for it to acquire that part of the

the old Manor House known as Erleigh Court Estate which was to famously become known as “Church Road Earley, the Home of The Reading Cricket Club.

A poor quality photograph of Stanhope Henry Joel is reproduced opposite. He would have been in 1937 about 50 years of age.



Stanhope Henry Joel Abt
1937

Below is a Photograph of Mr. Stanhope Henry Joel’s 1937 star studded side. He brought a number of these sides to the famous Church Road ground in the 1920s and 1930s.



**Standing EAG Pinfield. George Sayles. CT Bennett. P Mosdell.
AN Other. KL Simpson. J Harrison. BH Smithson. J Barclay.
BH Lyon. C Grieshaber. BO Allen. TA Bourn. AG Baring. KC
Benett. R King J Timewell. A Wise (Umpire)**

**Sitting J. de Vine. DW Stokes. AN Other. HAD Bartlett.
Stanhope Joel. Woolf Barnato. APF Chapman. JV Herman.**

Presented by HAD Bartlett Esq. 27 September 1958

More recent research has shown that some sixty years ago the ancient Maiden Erleigh Court Estate was sold to a developer and in the name of progress the existing Maiden Erleigh School was built on the site.



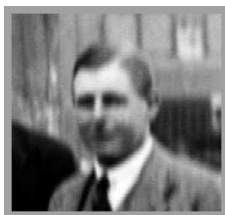
A photograph showing a portion of the spectators attending Stanhope Henrey Joel's 1937 X1 is displayed above. Many of the Authors Ancestors and family friends were in attendance on this noteworthy day in the Club's Calendar.

Reading Cricket Club Players 1939 -1945

A number of the cricketer's mentioned below also played before 1939 and a good many others played on into the 1950s.

C. D. Balding. J. J. Brown. C. A. Butler. W. R. Fletcher. H Fox. C. Griesharber. S. S. Jary. Joe Mence and his Son Micheal Mence. W. McClean. H. C. McCormack. C. M. Northover. S. T. Price. G. Sayles. A. Sears. K. L. Simpson. D. W. Stokes. J. Timewell. J. Tovey. A. T. Yendell. C. D. Williams. (Also a Welsh Rugby International). A few of the players mentioned above also played after 1950. Joe Mence was the Estate Manager for The Lord & Lady Iliffe's Yattendon and Basilden Park Estate.

Mr. A. Wise (Umpire). Mr. E. Love & Miss Wickens (Scorers). It is said that Mr. A. Wise and Mr. E. Love umpired and scored before the 1914 -1918 Great War. Miss Wickens did not score after about 1960. This eccentric Lady would bicycle from her home in Church Road, Earley, to the Newbury Rugby Club each Saturday afternoon regardless of the weather to watch the Rugby. She worked all her working life in the Reading Corporation's Transport Account's Department. This nice lady had a lonely life and a sad end.



Mr. E. Love Pre
1914 (Scorer)

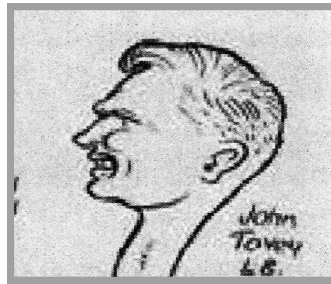


Mr A. Wise
(pre 1914
Umpire)

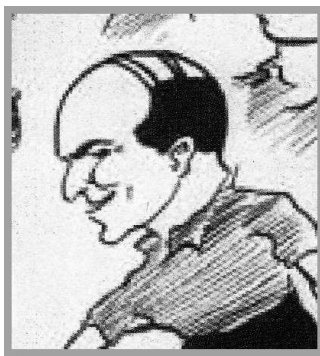
A number of the cricketer's mentioned above also played after 1945. Where there is a picture available of these players and are able to be reproduced a reproduction is displayed below unless one has already been displayed earlier.



John Tovey



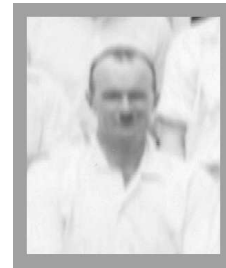
Caricature of John Tovey



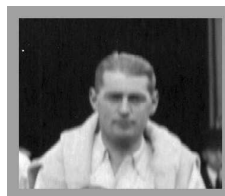
Caricature of Joe Mence



George Sales.



Lt. Col. De Vine.



Mr. E. A. G. Pinfield

Players during the War Years 1939 - 1946.

Because most of the Reading players during the War years (1939 to 1946) were fighting for King and Country the Club had little choice but utilise servicemen that just happened to be in the area at the time and was looking for a game of cricket. It was for this reason and in keeping with other club's who were fortunate enough to operate during the war years that there were few records kept of these games or the servicemen who participated in them for future historians to ponder over.

The Lord Remenham.

The late Lord Remenham of Remenham Hill, Remenham, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, played his entire club cricket at Church Road, Earley. It will come as no surprise to club members that he was also a staunch member of the Berkshire County Cricket Club and had many business associates and social friends at both clubs.

The Lord was a frequent and most welcome member of Mr. Stanhope Henry Joel's Fathers' Sect and he also played an active part with Mr. Stanhope Henry Joel's numerous star studded sides of the 1920s and 1930s. A Synopsis about Solomon Joel's life can be found in this history's pages 40 to 43 headed: **Mr. Solomom (Solly) Barnato Joel.**

Professor Cyril (Josh) Tyler's Scoreboard.

Mr. Cyril (Josh) Tyler, a Professor at the Reading University, came to the Reading Cricket Club in the 1930s. In addition to being a very fine cricketer he is chiefly remembered for building a rather large scoreboard, of his own design, on the Eastern side of the ground. The scoreboard could be more accurately described as a very large structural box. It was about ten feet by six feet square and some twelve feet in height. As one would expect it had all the appropriate port-holes for the various and required numbers and each of the numbers were individually driven by chains on pulleys.

How many scorers and chain pullers were required to operate this sophisticated piece of mechanism remain a mystery. All that can be said for certain is that it gave excellent service for a good many years.

It also was a very happy and popular play area for the younger children of that period. Being one of those younger children of that period the Author can vouchsafe for the veracity of those happy and carefree days.

Football Connoisseurs. Mr. Billy McConnell.

Mr. Billy McConnell was the Reading Football Club's first international player. He was a Reading hero and performed his superb football talents at the fondly remembered but now demolished Reading Elm Park football ground.

Few of the loyal Reading Football fans will be aware that Billy McConnell was also a very fine all-round cricketer and that he for many years performed his exceptional cricketing abilities at Reading's Church Road, Cricket Ground after the First World War.



W. (Billy) McConnell. (Reading F.C. Footballer)

There are those football enthusiasts who to this day (2014) insist and are prepared to argue that he also played for the Reading Cricket Club before the First World War.

The Author has no wish to enter into any discussion about this assertion but he is quite happy to acquiesce and include their worthy claim in this the Cricket Club's (2014) definitive history.

What is important and unarguable is that Billy McConnell played regularly for the Reading Cricket Club's Wednesday XI throughout the whole of the 1920s, 1930s 1940s and possibly before the First World War.

Wednesday Afternoon Cricket

Midweek cricket became established between the two Wars. That is not to say that midweek cricket had never been played in earlier times but only to emphasize that no cricket club of earlier times had a duty to fulfill a regular Wednesday afternoon's cricket fixture schedule.

As already mentioned Midweek Cricket played in the 1920s was not a new innovation. Indeed it has been found that by applying the Perpetual Calendar (A calendar for ascertaining the day of the week at any given date) that the scorecard displayed on page 5 was played on "Wednesday" 22 July 1869.

Soon after the Great War the Government of the day introduced Legislation which allowed banks, shops etc, if it was in their best interest, to early close on Wednesday afternoons. This in turn freed many splendid cricketers' of that period to be available on a regular basis to play Wednesday afternoon cricket.

In common with most other established cricket Clubs of the 1920s the Reading Cricket Club's Fixture Secretary (Mr. Peter Gleeson Reading Cricket Club's Match Secretary for almost 50 years) soon provided the club with a full Wednesday afternoon fixture programme. Thereafter midweek cricket not only became a normal sporting midweek activity for the local community but it also played a role in the Reading Cricket Club's finances and membership over the next fifty or more years.

Some of the early pre 1939 and wartime Wednesday enthusiasts that come to mind are Billy Butler, Arthur Winch, Reginald Davies, Billy McConnell, Bernard Cotterall, Joe Mence, Gerry Gamlin, Dr. O'Gorman, Sydney Taylor, Dr. Wray, Ron Morbey, Cecil Grieshaber and Les Hunt. A little later on came Derek Williams, Teddy Mundy, Keith Taylor, Harry Norris, Bob Williams, Denis Oxlade and Tony Fairweather. The Umpire of that period was Alex McClennon-Jones.

There are two group Wednesday afternoon photographs (1954) and (1955) but neither has any identifying names below the pictures. Why anyone would carefully Mount and Frame a team of players

without placing their identifying names beneath the picture defies all reasoning. The Author is able to put a name to a few of the players faces but will leave it to the more discerning reader to discover how many faces he can make a perfect match with from other faces shown in other photographs already displayed elsewhere in The Reading Cricket Club's 191 years History.



1954 Wednesday Eleven



1955 Wednesday Eleven.

Pre-League Cricket (1929 to about 1970)

After the First World War and through to about the 1950s private car ownership in comparison with today's (2014) transportation madness was at best limited. For this reason fixtures from 1929 to 1950s were generally within relatively easy reach of its Church Road home. Distances seldom exceeded the Basingstoke, Guildford and High Wycombe clubs. It was just coincidence that these three clubs happened to be the three strongest outside of the Greater London area.

That is not to say that the games were any the less competitive. Indeed our predecessors would argue that they never played friendly games in their day. The all-day Sunday games were often considered brutish affairs. Arguably the most hostile bowler ever seen in club cricket was Alan Castell. No batsman relished facing Alan "*helmetless in those days*" at eleven o'clocks on a lively Sunday morning wicket.

From 1929 to about 1970 Sunday cricket was the principal cricket day of the week. After 1970 many and varied structured leagues were introduced and Sunday cricket games were gradually relegated to secondary events. From about 1990 to 2014 Sunday games are regarded as worthless affairs.

From about 1960 through to about 1990 National cup games produced some of the finest 45 and 50 over cricket of all time. As did the Evening Post 20 over games but they also gradually lost their popularity and largely went out of fashion. Saturday League cricket today (2014) dominates Club cricket at the expense of all other forms of cricket and other competitions.

It is likely that Twenty/Twenty cricket might play an important part of club cricket in the not too distant future. Sadly the Author has been given to understand that Sunday cricket is now (2014) a game of the past. From an Old Codger's standpoint it is to be hoped that its unseemly unpopularity will at some stage in the foreseeable future be reversed and become fashionable again.

The late 1940s & early 1950s Chairman Mr. Roy Turner.

Mr. Roy Turner (deceased) will always be fondly remembered as the Club Chairman who almost changed the Reading Cricket Club's History. Had his late 1940s and early 1950s "additional land project" succeeded the Reading Cricket Club would have remained in situ forever at Church Road, Earley.

Late in the 1940s and on into the 1950s Mr. Roy Turner worked tirelessly negotiating with both the Reading Borough Council and the Allotment Association in an attempt to acquire land at the Southern perimeter of the cricket ground for a second cricket square. Unfortunately for Roy the Local Authority and the Allotment Association frustrated all his sustained efforts.

At the time Roy did not foresee that the loss of his well-intentioned project would in 1959 not only be the end of the Club's Golden Age of cricket but would be followed by a New Age. This New Age would bring about the (1986s) foolhardy sale of the Club's Natural Home together with its Forefather's Bequeathed legacy. Not only did it sell its lovely fashionable Urban cricket ground it also sold its Heart and Soul and with it came the inevitable gradual decline of a once famous and great Cricket Club.

The Reading Cricket Club's Post War

Years between 1950 - 1960



Mr. H. A. D. Bartlett in his latter years.

Everything that is known about the Reading Cricket Club Between the Years 1950 - 1960.

Socializing and Snobbish Behaviour after the Second World War.

It is true to say that for a number of years after the Second World War there remained elements within the club who characterized and practised Victorian and Edwardian out-dated and unwanted behavioural standards. Happily these old-fashioned people gradually faded away and the club's membership largely consisted mainly of agreeable and companionable people from all and many walks of life.

Immediately after the Second World War it could be said that the club was not a comfortable place to be for the new and emerging younger generation to socialize. At that time there were those who still judged members by their social standing and financial generosity rather than their enthusiasm for cricket and more importantly their cricketing abilities.

It would of course be wrong to portray all of the elderly fraternity of that period as old-fashioned and out of date has-beens. Old as some were many were perfect Gentlemen, intelligent and moved confidently forward into the difficult times ahead. Without these ever reliable stalwarts the Club would have found itself in dire straights at the time of the Hockey utilization grant of the late 1950s; in the same way that it sadly did at the time of the selling of the Church Road Cricket Ground in the mid 1980s.

As mentioned on a number of occasions throughout this History the Reading Hockey Club had always hoped and envisaged it would amalgamate with the Reading Cricket Club.

It wisely made no direct overtures in that direction while Mr. A. (Archie) G. Sims, Mr. H. A. D. (Harry) Bartlett, Mr. W. V. (Senior) Stokes, Mr. J. Royal, Mr. A. Bennett were either serving or alive. The reason being they would have received a very disappointing and short shrift response.

The Eminent and Late Mr. Leslie Moore. His Herringbone Drainage System & his 1959 New Pavilion.

In 2011 the Cricket Club lost one of its eminent Statesman: namely, Leslie Moore. Leslie died at the splendid age of 102 years at his comfortable home opposite the remnants of the Church Road, Cricket Ground.

He was an Engineer and it was because of his expertise in this field that he was asked to oversee both the financing and undertaking of the construction of the then proposed 1959 new Church Road Clubhouse.

As the new Pavilion Extension coincided with the then proposed hockey convergence it had to be suitable for both summer and winter accommodation. It also had to be able to provide a modicum of comfort for all members and their wives and have reasonable floor space for annual dinners and dancing. Lastly but not least it had to have an adequate Kitchen facility.

As mentioned elsewhere in this History the financing of the new Clubhouse had the advantage of the late President (Mr. Archie Sims') generous £1,000 Legacy. (See Page 11. He left a legacy of £1,000 which was to be used for the purpose of improving the amenities of the Cricket Club. In those days £1,000 was a very large sum of money). There were also other generous contributions from the then current President Mr. D. (Bill) W. Stokes together with three other unnamed Cricket Life-Members.

In 1957-1958 Leslie Moore's engineering expertise was sought after by the Hockey Life Vice-President namely Mr. N. E. (Paddy) Padwick. He needed Leslie's knowledge and engineering skills in the matter of improving the Club's drainage system in readiness for the proposed Hockey convergence.

Leslie together with the then Cricket Club Chairman, the late Mr. Tony Davies, were instrumental in installing a restricted herringbone drainage system which linked-in with the Club's then adequate and existing field drainage system. The overall cost was reputed to be in the region of £500.

Later some angry and mischievous cricket members hinted that those two gentlemen put the Cricket Club in hock to the tune of £250. It is right to say that those mischievous members were anti anything which was seen as an investment to facilitate a Hockey convergence rather than an overall investment that would also improve the Cricket outfield.

More charitable members had the good grace to suggest that Mr. N. E. (Paddy) Padwick had acquired a £250 grant from the National Playing Fields Association. These more charitable members failed to explain how a Hockey Life Vice-President obtained a grant for a Reading Cricket Club ground improvement?

An old Victorian member and lifelong family friend whispered “loudly” and “sarcastically” that the shortfall was made good through the generosity of three gentlemen’s “back pockets”. This History has the good sense and grace to attribute the cost to the year of 1957.

To appreciate and to get the full significance of this really nasty sarcastic comment made relating to members' "back pockets"; readers should look at paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 under the heading of **An Account of the Reading Cricket Club’s convergence with the Reading Hockey Club 1957 - 1961.**

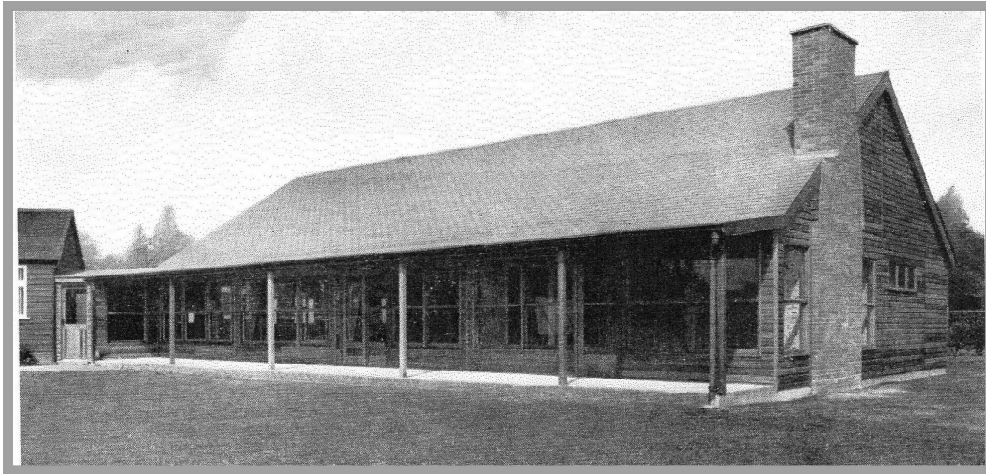
As expressed elsewhere in this Cricket History much of the Reading Hockey Club’s early history has not been properly researched and for that reason it is largely hearsay and guesswork. The Hockey Club Minutes dated 19 January 1957 clearly record that it was the Hockey Club's then President, Mr. H. L. Lewis, who obtained the £250 Grant. Mr. H. L. Lewis was also at that time a respected official of the Reading Cricket Club and that explains how he was able to obtain a grant for a Reading Cricket Club ground improvement?

unanimously The Secretary also reported that H.L. Lewis was in touch with the Secretary of the County Playing Fields Association

regarding the possibility of a grant towards the cost of the pitch. The Secretary reported that he would need some help in completing the form, but that it was hoped to send this off by Christmas.

Reading Hockey Club Minutes 19 Jan 1957

Below is a print of Leslie Moore's new Clubhouse as it was in 1959. The print also shows how it connected to the the old 1928 Pavilion.



A Print of Leslie Moore's 1959 New Pavillion

Reading Cricket Club Players between the years 1950 - 1960

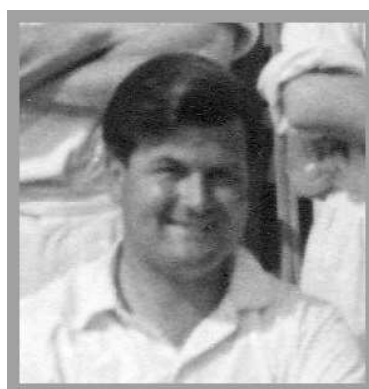
A number of the cricketer's mentioned below also played before 1950 and a good many of them also played on into 1960s and beyond.

Geoff Ames, A. (Tony) Bampton & twin Terry Bampton, R. Barnwell, Jim Coop, Eric Carrington, Alan Castell, Bernard Cotterall, Colin Crombie, Arthur Cuthbertson, Mr. A Davies, Harold Fairweather, W. R. Fletcher, John R. Ford, Harry Fox, Cecil Griesharber, G. Higgs, T. Ingram W/K, B. Jones, David Johnston, Harry Khote, Alan Massey, Joe Mence, Micheal Mence, Dr. R. Morbey, L. P. Mosdell, Eddie Pickford, John Phillips, E. A. G. Pinfield, S. T. Price, Mick Salmon, George Sayles, Mr. K. L. Simpson, Harold Neilan, C. M. Northover, H. Saunders, Alan Sears, K. L. Simpson, D. W. (Bill) Stokes, Wilbur Stout, Stan Stafford, Dr. J. Timewell, Trevor Tollerfield, John Tovey, Professor Cyril (Josh) Tyler, Peter Watts, C. D. Williams, (Also a Welsh Rugby International) C. Woolhead.

Ted Hall (Umpire) & Miss Wickens (Scorer). This eccentric but lovely Lady would cycle from Church Road, Earley, to the Newbury Rugby Club each Saturday afternoon regardless of the weather to watch the Rugby. She was a splendid scorer and for all of her working life she was employed in the Account's Department of the Reading Borough's Corporation Transport Services. She had a lonely life and a sad end.



Teddy Hall Umpire



Mr. Harry Coatee.



John Tovey



Mr. E. A. G.
Pinfield.



George Sales.



1954 Wednesday Eleven

Why anyone would carefully Mount and Frame teams of players without placing their identifying names beneath the pictures defies all imagination. The Author is able to put a name to a few of the players faces (Tollerfield, Griesharber, and Northover) but will leave it to the more discerning reader to discover how many faces he can make a perfect match with from other faces shown in other photographs already displayed elsewhere in this Reading Cricket Club's 191 years History.



1955 Wednesday Eleven.



Reading Cricket Club 1955



M. Habbitts (Umpire)



K. Tipples



F. C. Picket



A. W. Cuthbertson



C. M. Northover



C. L. Grieshaber (Umpire)



H. W. Neilan



J. Ford



J. R. Tovey



L. Hunt



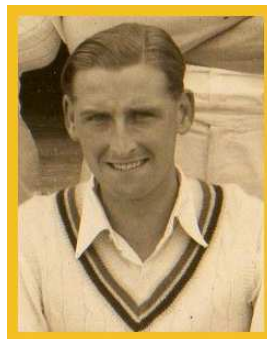
M. A. Salmon



T. Tollerfield



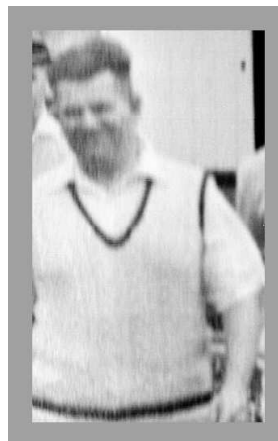
Arthur Cuthbertson Abt
1958



C. M. S. Crombie
(Captain)



Mike Salmon Abt.
1955



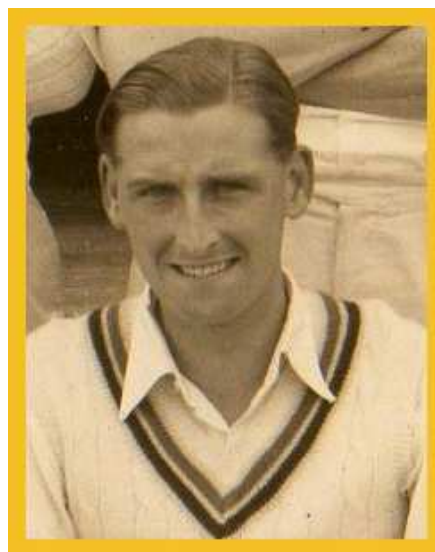
Cecil Grieshaber. He
proudly announced to
everyone that he Joined the
Club in 1922.

Reading Cricket Club Captains 1946 - 1960

As already documented Mr. H. T. Palmer both Captained and kept wicket for the Reading Cricket Club throughout the (1939 - 1946) Second World War years. It is said that after the War Alan Sears took over the captaincy for the 1947 and 1948 seasons. After which it is understood that Mr. Colin Crombie held the Captaincy for a few years and he was followed by Cecil Northover and John Tovey.



A. (Alan) Sears Abt. 1953



C. M. S. Crombie (Captain)



C. M. Northover



J. R. Tovey

The Reading Cricket Club's West Country Cricket Tour Week.

By the 1950s The Reading Cricket Club's fixture calendar had reached saturation point. The Club was obligated to accommodate its Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday scheduled fixture games, Minor County annual fixtures, Evening and National Cup Games plus countless colts' fixtures and then somehow squeeze in Club, County and colts' training sessions. In truth it had become a Fixture Secretary's and Groundsman's nightmare.

To ease the Club's fixture burden during the month of June many members held the view that a week's West Country tour might go some way to ease the Club's fixture problem. With many of its members happily away touring the West Country the Groundsman at Headquarters would be able to rest the Square and complete the many outstanding jobs he could not otherwise have done with a Ground in continuous use.

So it was that in 1950 the Reading Cricket Club decided that a West Country cricket week should be arranged. The then Club President's Son, George Armitage, volunteered to be the tour Secretary and Mr. Peter G. D. Gleeson began arranging fixtures for a week's cricket tour in the Torbay Area with its headquarters to be based at Paignton.

Tony Davies a past Club Chairman captained the touring sides in its first five years and it was about this time that Stan Stafford succeeded George Armitage as Tour Secretary. As one would expect the yearly touring teams varied in strength from year to year. In 1953 the West Indian Test Player, Mike Fredericks, made himself available to the Reading Cricket Club's touring squad. The redoubtable Bertie Woodford and Mr. A. McLennon-Jones umpired most of the early 1950s games. These sociable but challenging annual West Country tours continued right through to about the late 1970s.

There were many colourful personalities that travelled with the Reading Touring sides in those long ago days. To name but a few:- Harry Fox, Harold Fairweather, H. George, Denis Oxlade, Jim Coop, Trevor Tollerfield, Harold Neilan, H. Khote, Geoff Knight and his Father Ken, Bob Barnwell, Eddie Pickford, Lee Ali, Adrian Darby,

Mick Pilditch, Bill Sanderson, John Phillips, John Cooke, Peter Watts,
John Tutton, Mike Salmon, Keith Linnington, Norman Amey, Garry Scott, Andy Dindar, Geoff Ames. Many of the players used these enjoyable cricket tours as annual pilgrimages. The weeks scheduled fixture list usually comprised visits to the following clubs: - Exeter St. Thomas, Dartington, Torquay, Paignton, Exmouth, South Devon, and United Services.

For those members who proudly thought that it was they who invented and introduced “a week’s West Country tour” will be surprised to learn that the Reading Cricket Club toured the county of Devon in the years 1922 and 1923.

It is also known that those two touring squads visited Paignton, Exmouth, Bovey Tracey, Tavistock, Chudleigh, Exminster and Bradninch. The success of those long ago tours was due to three none playing members. Namely: Mr. A. G. Sims the resourceful Club President and his two loyal disciples Mr. A. Bennett and Mr. J. Royal.

The Reading Cricket Club's Account of its convergence with the Reading Hockey Club 1957 - 1961.



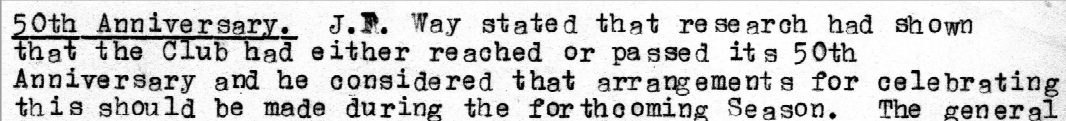
Mr. W.(Bill) Stokes. A Victorian Gentleman
Player Twice Captaining and President for 21 years
(1955 - 1976)

**As Club President Mr. Bill Stokes
Presided over Proceedings relating to the
Reading Cricket Club's Convergence
with the Reading Hockey Club.**

The Reading Hockey Club Prior to its Convergence in 1959.

Much of the Reading Hockey Club's early history has not been researched properly and for this reason it is largely expressed by hearsay and guesswork. However that is not a valid reason for the Author of the Reading Cricket Club's History to interfere or attempt to set straight the many wayward assertions unless its hearsay and guesswork contradicts the Reading Cricket Club's own researched 191 years' History. (see **Mr. A. W. Carter paragraph 5**). And (see **Messrs Huntly & Palmers paragraph 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11**) .

Nonetheless having had the opportunity to read and absorb the Hockey Club's Minutes from the middle of the 1940s through to the end of 1959 it has to be said that they make interesting reading. Selected parts of the minutes have been reproduced and included in this Cricket Club's History where it is thought it might be of interest to the reader. The Minute below show that the late John Way did produce an unsubstantiated report for the hockey Club in which he expressed an opinion that the Hockey Club's 50th Anniversary was thought to be around the year 1956.



50th Anniversary. J.M. Way stated that research had shown that the Club had either reached or passed its 50th Anniversary and he considered that arrangements for celebrating this should be made during the forthcoming Season. The general

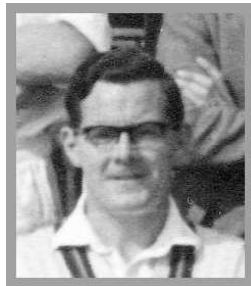
Reading Hockey Club Minuet 25 September 1956

The Minutes generally show that the Reading Hockey Club to be a progressive Club and that its Higher Echelon had a somewhat intrusive and self-preservation quality. As explained elsewhere in this work they had no Real Estate and their Centre of Operations since 1927 was with the Reading Corporation and its "Sol Joel", Public Park. For that reason it had no alternative but to hire other club's pavilion facilities and other club's hockey pitches. They had to pay for these hired facilities and clearly they fought hard to ensure they received the very best for their hard earned money.

The Reading Hockey Club had always hoped and envisaged it would

amalgamate with the Reading Cricket Club for the good reason that many superb cricketers of the 1930s 1940s and 1950s were also most able and loyal hockey players. Not least of these were John Tovey, Joe Mence and Stan Stafford. There were many other less gifted players who were also loyal members of both the Reading Clubs not least of these was Goalkeeper Andrew Slade (See pages 92 to 94 **The late Alfred (Alf) Smith and the late Andrew Slade**).

The Author was intrigued by the number of cricketing names that appeared in the Hockey Club's Minutes. Mr. Roy Turner the Cricket Club's Chairman in the late 1940s was also the Hockey Club's President for five years prior to being its Treasurer. Mr. Colin M. S. Crombie was the Hockey's third eleven Captain in the 1950s. There were other good Cricketing players and friends:- Paddy Padwick, Mr. Peter Gleeson Reading Cricket Club's Match Secretary for almost 50 years, Kieth Streams, Brian Irving, David Rimmer, wicket Keeper Inge, W. R. Fletcher, Jim Coop and what in Heaven's name was Arthur Cuthbertson (who never held a hockey stick in his entire life) doing in the Hockey Club Minutes?



Arthur Cuthbertson Ab
1958

For countless years Arthur Cuthbertson was a splendid cricketer. He occasionally played when he was 80 years of age. If the conditions were right his Swing Bowling could be devastating. He once made a hundred and never let anyone forget it. He died aged 86 years old in 2012. He whispered many Club secrets into the Authors ear which with hindsight would have been best left unwhispered.

The Reading Hockey Club was clearly not backward in coming forward with their progressivism and influencing nature. They often tested the patience of the Reading Football Club, the unknown owners of a Holme Park Hockey Pitch, the Old Redingensians and lastly the Reading Rugby Club where there seemed to be untold trouble and disagreement. The Author has been unable to obtain any information about The Western manufacturing Co.

As already mentioned the Reading Hockey Club had countless problems with the Reading Rugby Club. The Minute dated 25 September 1956 provide a flavour of a whole range of disagreements.

that the liaison Committee of the Reading Rugby Football Club had not met and there was no improvement in the position to be reported. We had been unable to establish contact. The Secretary was instructed to write expressing dis-satisfaction at the lack of liaison once more and to say that there were certain urgent problems which should be tackled by this Committee without delay, in particular, the conditions in the kitchen and the quantity of the food.

Reading Hockey Club Minute 25 September 1956

The following two Minutes dated 24 February 1958 and the 12 September 1957 indicate that there had been little progress or improvement made during that period.

the 27th May: Turner, who was deputed by the Sub-Committee to speak for the Hockey Club at this Meeting, reported to the Committee what had occurred. Our argument had been based on the failure of the Reading R.F.C. to act on three letters which had been written whilst Turner was Secretary. It transpired that many Wanderers had never seen these letters. The Reading R.F.C. asked us for our constructive suggestions and the following were put forward:-

1. That an active Joint Pavilion Management Committee be formed.
2. That there should be a distinct improvement in teas.
3. That the Reading Hockey Club should be allowed to assist in the Bar, in order to promote sales.
4. That there should be an improvement in the Changing Room facilities.
5. That there should be an improvement in the Kitchen.
6. Urgent steps should be taken to eradicate the present lack of co-operation between both Clubs.

Reading Hockey Club Minutes 12 September 1957

The Hockey members of the Committee were very dissatisfied with the barrack type tables at present in use in the Pavilion and Turner reported that at the next Management Meeting we should be pressing for small formica top tables. Turner finished by saying that it had been extremely difficult for the Committee to function effectively, due to the lack of interest on the part of the Rugby Club and their consistent failure to attend meetings.

Reading Hockey Club Minutes 24 February 1958

The following minute dated 23 May 1957 show that the Reading Hockey Club fared little better with the O.Rs. Other similar Minutes suggest that they were having an on going battle about the preparation of the Hockey Pitch in question.

that the Club had been faced with a cost of approximately £10.0.0. as the O.Rs had failed to cut our pitch properly

Reading Hockey Club Minutes 23 May 1957

The Author is unable to provide any additional clarification about the below 1950 Minute other than what has already been written earlier. But it does illustrate the daunting problems the Reading Hockey Club were having with all the various clubs where they had to negotiate an agreement for pavilion and hockey pitch usage.

Cutting of Holme Park pitch was not really satisfactory in summer months. Arrangement accepted for Western Manufacturing Co., to cut in exchange for use of the roller in the winter. In addition we had the use of their hockey pitch on Saturday if they did not require it on the following Sunday. There is however nothing in writing and Duncan Vincent agreed to try and put the matter on written basis, although he stated that this was difficult.

Reading Hockey Club Minute 20 March 1950

Buying Shares in the Reading Football Club, Minuet 12 September 1957 below, might well have been seen as progresses for the Reading Hockey Club but the Reading Football Club were quite happy for the Hockey Club to use their Bathroom facilities but anything other than that was considered an intrusion.

3. Reading Football Club: J.R. Tovey reported that the share plan had fallen through but that the Appeal Fund was still open.

Reading Hockey Club Minutes 12 September 1957

In the past the club had had no real security with the R.R.F.C. and Turner often wondered whether we would not do better to think in terms of alternatives, such as joining with the O.R's or the Reading Cricket Club. At this juncture Clark

Reading Hockey Club Minutes 26 March 1958

The above Minute of the 26 March 1958 confirms what has already been briefly suggested that the Reading Hockey Club had scant regard or paid little attention to other established club's opinions or requirements. Provided that the other clubs owned its property the Reading Hockey Club believed that it had a Divine right to amalgamate with it. Whilst the Author has sympathy with the damnable position they were in in those days he has little sympathy with its unilateral and lack of consideration it had for other clubs it decided it would amalgamate with to solve its own problems.

Once again the Reading Hockey Club's 23 September 1958 Minute reproduced below clearly show that they were heartily sick with the Reading Rugby Club and also with all the other clubs they were

having never ending problems and difficulties. But those problems and difficulties were not the Reading Cricket Club's problems and neither were they valid reasons for the Reading Hockey Club to imply that "as the Reading Cricket Club had decided to go ahead with its planned new Pavilion arrangements" it will now go and play Hockey at Church Road Earley. Did the Reading Cricket Club not have any say in the matter?

1959 is the centenary of R.C.C. and plans were in hand for the extension of their Pavilion arrangements. This fact at once re-opened interest for the plan, often discussed hitherto, for hockey to be played on Church Road, particularly in view of the existing unsatisfactory conditions in the R.R.F.C.

Reading Hockey Cclub Minutes 23 Sept 1958

The “hockey utilization grant” which has been fully explained in **An Account of the Reading Cricket Club’s convergence with the Reading Hockey Club 1957 - 1961** would require an up-dated business structure to accommodate a more modern financial model. For this reason it was undeniable that a club “convergence” was necessary for the purpose of renaming the Reading Cricket Club to its present day trading name “Reading Cricket & Hockey Club”.

With this trading name requirement together with the utilisation grant there were those who misguidedly believed that it constituted an amalgamation of the two clubs. This clearly was not the case as there were no legal or constitutional changes made to either the Cricket Club’s Tenancy Rights or to the Cricket Club’s Title Deeds.

The Hockey Club Minute 1 October 1959 was written in the belief that the trading name requirement was an amalgamation of the two clubs and that this entitled it to "take over" all of the Cricket Club's Assets and in return the Cricket Club would be entitled to "take over" all of the the Hockey Club's assets.

The Reading Cricket & Hockey Club shall take over all assets and liabilities of the Reading Hockey Club and the Reading Cricket Club, as from the 1st October, 1959.

Reading Hockey Club Minute 1 October 1959

As the Reading Hockey Club had no Real Estate or any other Asset for the Reading Cricket Club to "take over" it has to be said that the Hockey Club's magnanimous gesture was somewhat empty because their gesture was simply valueless and worthless.

It is evident that the Reading Cricket Club President, Bill Stokes, was not impressed with the Reading Hockey Club Minute dated 1 October 1959 because he produced a different version in the Reading Cricket Club's Minutes dated 16 April 1960. It clearly stated that all of the Reading Cricket Club's liabilities would remain in the hands of the Trustees appointed solely by the Reading Cricket Club. That is to say there was no amalgamation of the two clubs.

The freehold of the Church Road ground shall remain vested in the hands of trustees appointed by the Reading Cricket Club

A Reading Cricket Club Minute 16 April 1960

As mentioned on a number of occasions throughout this History the Reading Hockey Club had always hoped it would amalgamate with the Reading Cricket Club. It wisely made no overtures in this while Mr. A. G. (Archie) Sims, Mr. H. A. D. (Harry) Bartlett, Mr. W. V.

(Senior) Stokes, Mr. J. Royal, Mr. A. Bennett, and other eminent and long serving Victorian and Edwardian members were around and/or alive. The reason being they would have received a very disappointing response.

It is thought that the faded 1955/1956 £292 Hockey Club Balance Sheet shown below might rouse some interest by those with an inquiring nature. The £292 would need to be multiplied by about 100 to meet today's 2014 needs.

| BALANCE SHEET AT CLOSE OF 1955/56 SEASON | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|----------|------------|--------------|--|----------|------------|--|--|
| 1954/55 £ | RESERVES AND LIABILITIES | | | 1954/55 £ | ASSETS | | | | |
| 9 | Provision for accrued expenses | | 7 0 0 | 200 | Palmer Motor Roller at Cost | 250 0 0 | | | |
| | <u>Accumulated Fund</u> | | | | Less Depreciation to date | 100 0 0 | 150 0 0 | | |
| | Balance at credit thereof at commencement of Season | 272 15 7 | | 1 | Changing Hut at cost | 37 10 0 | | | |
| | Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for 1955/56 Season per attached account | 10 2 8 | 292 18 3 | 72 | Less Depreciation to date | 36 10 0 | 1 0 0 | | |
| 273 | | | | - | Debtors - Subscriptions in arrear | | 4 4 0 | | |
| | | | | 9 | Balance at Bank | 28 17 10 | | | |
| | | | | - | Cash in hand | 5 16 5 | 34 14 3 | | |
| | | | | | Suspense Account - Changing Hut at cost in course of being sold | | 100 0 0 | | |
| £ 282 | | | £ 289 18 3 | £ 282 | | | £ 289 18 3 | | |
| | | | | | N. E. PADWICK, Hon. Treasurer. | | | | |
| | | | | | I have examined the foregoing Revenue Account and Balance Sheet with the Books, Bank Account and Vouchers of the Club and certify the same to be in accordance therewith, and with information supplied. | | | | |
| | | | | | K. W. CLARK, Chartered Accountant Hon. Auditor. | | | | |
| | | | | | B. Forbury, READING 14th September 1956 | | | | |

Reading Hockey Club Balance 1955/1956

An Account of the Reading Cricket Club's convergence with the Reading Hockey Club 1957 - 1961.

Had it not been for the cricketer's distinguished Forefathers' Legacy together with their foresight to purchase the freehold of its Church Road, Ground in 1928/9 today's members would not be enjoying its present facility at Sonning Lane, Sonning.

Unlike the cricketers our Hockey associates had no Forefathers or any worthwhile ancestry. All that is known about their past history is that their Home was with the Reading Corporation and its "Sol Joel", Public Park. This recreational park remains in existence to this day (2014) and is located in Church Road, Earley, adjacent with St. Peter's Church.

They can however take comfort in the knowledge that the public Park was donated by Solomon Barnato Joel "Solly" to the Reading Corporation and its community in 1927. It was named after its donor's nickname "Solly" and was officially opened by the then Duke of York who was later to become His Majesty King George VI. A Synopsis about Solomon Joel can be found in: **Mr. Solomon (Solly) Barnato Joel.**

It was after much protracted and not well received negotiations in the middle to late 1950s that our hockey associates persuaded a few of the Reading Cricket Club's higher echelon to allow them to utilize the Club's facilities at Church Road, Earley.

It is true to say that this utilization grant was by no means a unanimous or a popular decision within the Cricket Club's membership. Nonetheless as from 1959 there was a convergence of the two clubs and our Hockey associates became essentially Paying Guest's of the Reading Cricket Club.

A Victorian cricketer, Banker and lifelong family friend angrily and publicly announced "mark my words the wallet's and back pockets will be zipped-up-tight after this nonsense". It has to be said in fairness to him and to the many others sharing his sentiments; they had put an awful lot of their own money into the club's coffers.

At the time of the convergence the very idea of having to share their Club (which they had for thirty years subsidized through their own back pockets) with strangers who had made no financial or evolutionary contributions whatsoever was simply abhorrent to their everyday thinking and club lifestyle.

To be fair to those members who took an opposite stance to that of their benevolent and disappointed friends did so because they took the view that their outlook was outmoded and that it was no longer feasible, practicable or sensible for the Club to rely on “back pockets” to keep the Club solvent over the next 100 years. Whilst everyone had enormous sympathy with its generous and disappointed friends the view was that the Club could not continue forever on that tenuous financial footing.

Of overriding importance the Hockey utilization grant would allow the club to become operational fifty two weeks a year; something the Cricket Club unaided could not achieve. Moreover the grant would realistically go some way in alleviating the Club’s ever increasing security problem.

Clearly this “hockey utilization grant” would require an up-dated business structure to accommodate a more modern financial model. For this reason to accommodate the utilization grant it was necessary to rename the Reading Cricket Club to its present day trading name “Reading Cricket & Hockey Club”.

With this trading name requirement together with the utilization grant there were those who misguidedly believed that it constituted an amalgamation of the two clubs. This clearly was not the case as there were no legal or constitutional changes made to either the Cricket Club’s Tenancy Rights or to the Cricket Club’s Title Deeds.

The reason for this was because the Club’s Trustees stubbornly refused to authorize the Club’s higher echelon of the day a mandate to change or amend either the Club’s Tenancy Rights or the Cricket Club’s Sole and Freehold Title Deeds. These two Club Legal Documents remained in there original format until 1986.

**The Reading Cricket Club was one of
the most Powerful Club's in the UK
Between 1961 - 1985**



David Laitt. Player & Captain. A Big Man In Every Respect.

**Everything that is known about the Reading
Cricket Club's Most Powerful Years 1961 - 1985.
It was overseen by one the Club's most Influential
Characters of its entire History.**

One of the most powerful Amateur Cricket Clubs in the Country.

From about 1961 through to about 1986 the Reading Cricket Club was one of the most powerful top ten Amateur Cricket Clubs in the United Kingdom. At that time the club was servicing the Berkshire County Cricket Club (BCCC) with as many as eight of its first team players. Bampton, Johnson, Knight, Head, Orton, Child, New, Jones and there were a host of other equally talented players.

The Reading Cricket Club at that time were blessed with a superb Extra First Eleven that comprised players who were quite able to replace any of its first team players that were selected for BCCC duties. In those days BCCC Games commenced on a Saturday and this gave our magnificent Extra First players the opportunity to thump our first eleven opponents with impunity. These Extra First eleven players were way above a second team standard and it was for this reason that their weekly fixtures were played away at clubs that had a vacant Saturday from their first eleven league fixtures.

Those remembered players included Massey, Stafford, Darby Wilkinson, Gerry Trott (Many believed Gerry was the Club's best Reading Wicket Keeper) Reynolds (Second Wicket Keeper) Hinchcliff, Amjad, Walder, Ray Woods, Guy Dexter, Victor Bell, Derek Sparks, West (Dick & at varying times all three sons who were at some stage promoted to the first eleven) and apologies to the many other excellent players not forgotten but the aging brain just cannot recall who they were.

The Great David Laitt who directed operations of the Reading Cricket Club between the years 1961-1986. One of the most powerful amateur cricket club's in the UK.

If the first one hundred and thirty eight years (1823 - 1961) history of the Reading Cricket Club produced some remarkable and irreplaceable personalities then it is also true to say that David Laitt was just as remarkable and irreplaceable between the years of 1961 and 1986 as any of his predecessors.

He was a splendid cricketer, bowler, Team Captain, Club Captain and a real force to be reckoned with on any Committee that he either Chaired or Served. This highly respected individual was a “big man” in every respect and was blessed with a demanding and dominating personality. He investigated a club bar theft and the identified Culprit quite rightly served a period of time in Prison. David Laitt suffered no fools and he took no prisoners on or off the field of play.

Arguably he reigned over the most effective Reading side of all times. All team positions were filled with a superb set of gifted players and the cover for each and everyone of them were equally as gifted and effective. So strong was Reading at that time that all opponents tended to play an uninteresting damage limitation game. If they were lucky enough to win the toss they simply “stuck you in and Blocked-out”. At that time many cricket enthusiasts often used the cliché “they are to good for their own good”. With hindsight it is true to say that Reading’s unimaginable strength for that period proved that this awful cliché to be embarrassingly true.

David Laitt was an Oxfordshire man and he proudly played all his Minor County Cricket for that County. His Minor County achievements and Statistics are simply mind boggling. No attempt whatsoever has been made in this limited Club History to do justice to his exceptionable records and abilities and therefore those wishing to further their own education about this great man most look elsewhere to satisfy their own curiosity.

The Reading Cricket Club's Saturday Captains 1960 - 2014.

With the exception of the semi-professional Midlands and Northern Leagues it is safe to say that it was in the late 1960s and early 1970s that the majority of amateur club cricket **leagues** came into existence. The original Thames Valley League was established in 1971 and if the memory is still in reasonably working order then Basingstoke were the worthy champions in its inaugural year.

As mentioned elsewhere in this document (see page 50 **Pre-League Cricket (1929 to about 1970)**) Sunday cricket from 1929 to the late 1960s was arguably the principal day in cricket's annual calendar. However, once the newly structured Saturday leagues were introduced Sunday cricket soon took second place to the all important Saturday league side and with it the Saturday League Captain became the Cricket Chairman's right-hand man.

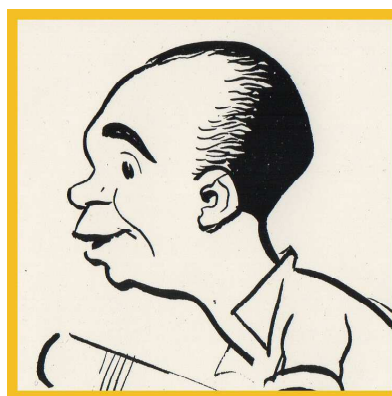
It was sometime towards the end of the 1960s that Alvin Neino replaced John Flower's as Saturday Captain and he was in situ at the time that David Laitt joined Reading from Oxford St. John's C. C. also known by many of that period as the Cowley Jacks). Laitt insisted that he should be treated the same as all other new members and for that reason "good as he was" he abided by the then Club Rules and elected to play for Reading's splendid Extra First eleven for almost half of the Season.

In 1971 David Laitt was unanimously elected Saturday Captain a position he retained unopposed for many years. For full details about David Laitt see page 77 **The Great David Laitt who oversaw the history of the Reading Cricket Club between the years 1961-1986. One of the most powerful amateur cricket club's in the UK.**

It is hoped all the Saturday Captains have been remembered even if their order of succession is somewhat suspect: John Tovey, Trevor Tollerfield, Bob Barwell, Jon Flowers, Alvin Neino, David Laitt, Malcom Head, Jefferson Jones (twice) once during Malcom's illness), David Gorman, Jefferson Jones (twice), Sam Patel, Mark Simmonds (twice), David Barns, David Barr, David Hartley.



J. R. Tovey



Cartoon of Bob Barnwell



Trevor Tolerfeild Abt1958



Alvin Neino about 1966



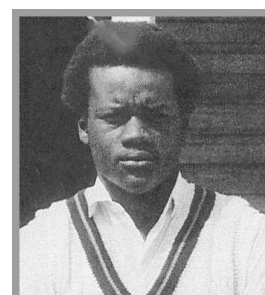
Alvin Nieno about 1980



David Laitt about 1979



Malcom Head about 1979



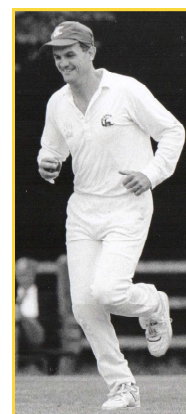
Jefferson Jones about 1973



Jefferson Jones about 1980



David Gorman about 1979



Mark Simmons about 1984.

Reading Cricket Club Players between 1961-1986.

It is thought appropriate that any player that represented the Reading Cricket Club during the 1961 to 1986 period (totalling well over 200 names) should be recorded so that their combined efforts are never forgotten. Should anyone have slipped through the rigged safety net then the Author is deeply sorry and accepts sole responsible for any omissions.

The two damaged and mislaid 1961 photographs displayed below have thankfully been recovered mounted and reframed. As John Tovey was the Captain it is certain that the year was about 1961. They were both taken within fifteen minuets of each other on the same day. Why anyone would carefully mount and frame a team of players without the identifying names beneath the picture defies all logic. The Author is able to put a name to a few of the players faces (Tollerfield, Neilan, Stafford) but will leave it to the more discerning reader to discover how many players he can name by comparing faces available from the many photographs displayed elsewhere in this History.

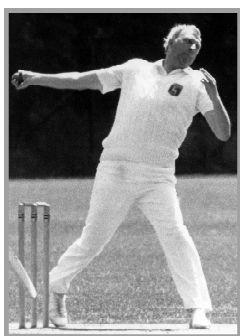


Abt. 1961 John Tovey was Captain

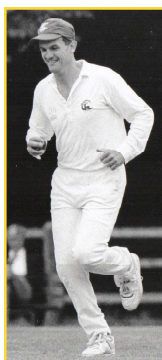
Brian Ace, Roger Adams, Lee Ali, George Ames, Clem Applewaite, Brian Arnold, David Ashworth, Geoff Ash, Martin Avis, John Ayre, Fred Baines, Rod Ball, Terry Bampton, Tony Bampton, Frank Barker, Bob Barnwell, Don Barry, Alan Bartlett, Nick Bather, Andy Beales, John Beard, John Beaven, Roger Beaven, Victor Bell, Alan Best, Basil



Abt 1961 John Tovey was Captain



Raymond Wood about
1985.



Mark
Simmons
about 1984.



Jefferson Jones about
1980



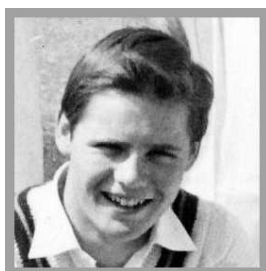
Alan Massey about 1979



Alan Walder about 1980



David Gorman about 1979



Geoff Knight about 1960



Gordon Child about 1979.



Malcom Head about
1979

Birchall, Jim Bosley, Cliff Bosley, David Bowden, David Bradley,
 David Dibbin, Brian Brooks, Pat Brooks, Phil Burns, Rick Burrows,
 Rudi Bute, Eric Carrington, Alan Castell, Keith Catis, Richard
 Cavendish, Ray Cheal, Gordon Child, Ray Clements, Brian Clift, John
 Cook, Jim Coop, Gordon Cordery, Keith Cortis, Ken Cotterell,
 Richard Cotrell, Peter Crisp, Colin Crombie, Dennis Crown, Arthur
 Cuthbertson, Adrian Darby, Bernard Day, Geoff Day, Tony Denness,
 and his Son, Guy Dexter, David Dibben, Mike Dyer, Robbie Dymont,
 Peter Fletcher, Jon Flower, John Ford, John Franklin, John Fraser, Jon
 Fullbrook, Harold George, Byron Gill, Ted Goodhew, Mike
 Goodrich, John Gosney, Chrs Greetham, Cecil Grieshaber, Ian
 Hammond, John Handy, Fred Hawkins, Malcom Head, Harry Hall,
 Norman Hobman, Harry Hollinsworth, Maurice Houghton, Brian
 Hutt, Brian Irving, Douglas Jackson, Mike Jefferies, David Johnston,
 Bob Jones, Jeff Jones, Vince Kelly, John Kernick, Freddie King,
 Geoff Kirby, Geoff Knight, David Laitt, Roger Laitt, Albert Lewis,
 David Lewis, Keith Linnington, Harry Loader, Charlie Lorenc, Peter
 Lush, Johnny Mahibir, John Mahone Alan Massey, John McAdam, Ian
 McCann, Robbie McFarlane, David McIntosh, Alec McKenzie, Robbie
 Mears, Jim Melville, Peter Merrett, Ron Mobey, John Morgan, John
 Morris, Teddy Munday, Harold Neilan, Mike Neilan, Paul New, Alvin
 Nienow, Cecil Northover, Richard Orton, Brian Parsons, Alan
 Phillips, John Phillips, Frank Picket, Eddie Pickford. Derek Pike,
 Mike Pildich, Nigel Pilgrim, Peter Pinfield, Mike Pitt, Geoff "talky"
 Powell, Richard Pudney, Ken Ramsden. Richard Rand (Club Auditor
 for many years) W. K. Reynolds (very good wicket keeper), David
 Richards, David Rimmer, Ben Roseff, John Rowlands, Mike Salmon,
 James Salmon, Richard Salmon, Vic Sampson, Bill Sanderson, Wilber
 Stout, Allan Walder, Andy Dindar, Barry Jackson, Amjad Ali, David
 Gorman, Martin Hinchcliff, Garry Scott, Nigel Scott, Rod Self, Ray
 Sharp, Danny Sheen, Mark Simmons, Les Smith, Mike Smith, Rex
 Smith, Tony Smith, Derek Sparkes, Mike Spearman, Ken Speller, Stan
 Stafford, Peter Swift, Bill Sykes, Bill Taylor, Brian Thompson,
 George Thompson, Keith Tipples, Trevor Tollerfield, Pete Tomlin,
 John Tovey, Gerry Trott, Mike Trott, Roger Truelove, Robin Turk,
 John Turner, Jon Tutton, Julian Tutty, Geoff Velde, John Wade, Doug
 Waghorn, Peter Walker, Peter Watts, John Way, Dick West, Adrian
 West, Chris West, Rod West, Chris Wetherall, Doug White, Colin
 Wicks, Phil Wilkinson, Peter Withers, Ray Wood, George Yates Fish.



Amjad about 1980



A young Tony Bampton
aged about 17



Alvin Nieno about 1980



David Laitt about 1979



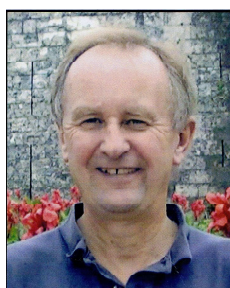
Len Cross about 1980



Paul New about 1979



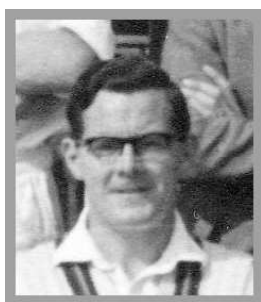
Alan Massey about 1979



Mervyn Edward
Myers



Mike Salmon Abt. 1958



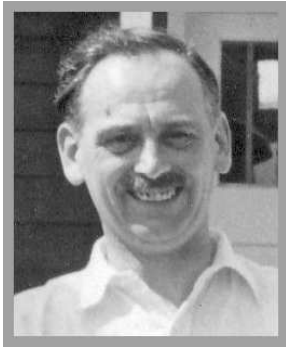
Arthur Cuthbertson Abt
1958



A young Tony Bampton aged
about 17



Derek Patience about 1980
(Groundsman and Umpire for
over twenty years)



Jim Bosley about 1966



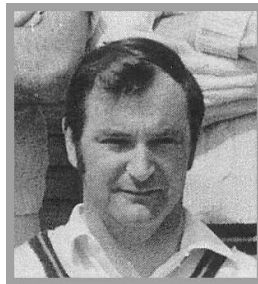
Harold Neilan Abt.
1958



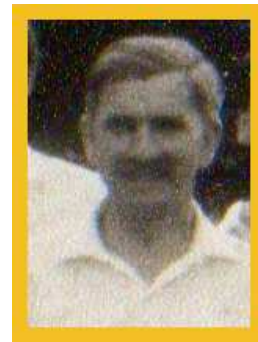
John Tovey Abt. 1958



Trevor Tolerfeild Abt1958



John Phillips about 1966



W. Bill Sykes



David Johnston about 1979

Pre-League Cricket (1929 to about 1970).

After the First World War and through to about the 1950s private car ownership as compared with today's (2014) transportation madness was at best limited. For this reason fixtures from 1929 to 1950s were generally within relatively easy reach of its Church Road, Earley, home. Distances seldom exceeded the Basingstoke, Guildford and High Wycombe clubs and it was simply coincidence that these three clubs happened to be the three strongest outside of the Greater London area.

That is not to say that the games were not competitive. Indeed our predecessors would argue that they never played friendly games in those days. The all-day Sunday games were often considered brutish affairs. Arguably the most hostel bowler ever produced in club cricket was Alan Castell. No batsman relished facing Alan "*helmetless in those days*" at eleven O-clocks on a lively wicket on a Sunday morning.

From 1929 to about 1970 Sunday cricket was the principal cricketing day of the week. After 1970 many and varied structured Saturday leagues were introduced and thereafter Sunday cricket gradually degenerated into unimportant cricketing days. From about 2000 it is true to say that Sunday cricket largely a non event and few cricketers participated with any great enthusiasm.

From about 1960 through to about 1990 the National cup games produced some of the finest limited over cricket of all time. As did the Evening Post 20 over games but they also gradually lost there popularity and largely went out of fashion. Saturday League cricket (2014) dominate Club cricket to the detriment of all other competitions and forms of the game.

Alan Massey's High Tree's Land Project.

In the 1970s Alan Massey (deceased) worked relentlessly on a club project that was structured to purchase adjoining woodlands for the Cricket Club's second cricket square. The land in question was at the eastern perimeter of the ground (known as High Trees Woods). Unfortunately a group of local Conservationists "masquerading under the banner of environmentalists" deliberately (for their own financial vested interests) blocked all of Allan's negotiations.

Once the club had successfully negotiated planning permission for the Church Road Cricket Ground these wretched people soon displayed their true motives. They unashamedly discarded all of their strongly felt environmental emotions and conservation passions and immediately applied for planning permission to place houses on their own adjoining lands thus enjoying huge personal financial rewards.

With hindsight it can be said that these awful people were indirectly responsible for destroying the Church Road, Reading Cricket Club. Had it not been for these dreadful people the Reading Cricket Club would now (2014) be enjoying its second Cricket Square at Church Road Earley, and more importantly the Cricket Club would still be a thriving self governing body at the very cricket ground that our Cricket Forefather's had proudly purchased 86 years earlier.

The late Alfred (Alf) Smith and the late Andrew Slade.

The late Alfred (Alf) Smith was a lifelong member and deserves a mention if only because he bequeathed a sixth part of his Legacy to the Reading Cricket Club. The wooden pavilion that graces our second cricket square is to his memory.

It was sometime in the 1950s that Alf Smith took me to one side and proudly produced an old out of focus photograph of himself. As it is the only known snapshot of him it is reproduced here. A large cap of the period dominates but his eyes are just visible and is proof that Alf Smith is not a figment of imagination and that he really did exist.



Mr. Alf Smith in a
1927 Spectators
Crowd.

It has to be said that Alf was not much of a cricketer but his passion for the game was undeniable. Between the two world Wars he would willingly Umpire the lower elevens' games but it is said that he was always overlooked until all other avenues had been explored. He was a wonderful Social member, supporter and in his younger days he would help the Club with its Administration and any other day to day chores.

Alf was a lifelong Proof Reader employed by the long gone Cox & Wyman's Printers of Reading and he never tired of elegantly narrating his stories with great speech precision. With his exaggerated diction it was a joy and delight listening to his never ending cricketing and Club stories that often predated the First World War days.

He was appointed in 1959 by the Club to meet and greet our hockey associates on their arrival at Church Road, Earley. But it was some time later that he, in his own inimitable style, narrated the account of their arrival. It is repeated here as it is thought it should forever remain part of the Reading Cricket Club's Folklore.

"They were seen loitering slowly down Church Road towards the Cricket Club pulling behind them a somewhat dubious 'rotating cylinder'. This they unceremoniously deposited in the Cricket Club's

car park. This outrageous vessel had to be disposed of with great immediacy before the monstrosity with all its peculiar eccentricities assassinated the entire membership”.

It is said that there were other versions of Alf Smith's account but the Author is confident that these differing versions should not be attributable to that stylish Gentleman Alf Smith. This history has the good sense and grace to leave whatever other versions there were to the year of 1959 where they belong.

The reason Andrew Slade is bracketed alongside Alf Smith is because a search discovered that Andrew was a business colleague of Alf's at the long gone Cox & Wyman's Printers of Reading. While they had great respect for each other the Author always held the impression that there was little love lost between these two unspoilt Victorian Gentlemen.

After Alf Smith's mid week Funeral which was held at St. Peters, Earley had taken place Andrew visited the Cricket ground on the following Saturday afternoon and with a broad grin on his face let it be known that he always thought “Smithy” would have “seen him out”.

Andrew Slade was, in the 1920s 1930s and 1940s, a Hockey Goalkeeper and the late John Tovey (who was for a few years his First Team Captain) has said that Andrew was a bit special for that period of time. He lived in a large Victorian house in The Mount, which to this day lies North off the Shinfield Road and is almost opposite the remnants of the long ago Jarvis Garage.

It was from this residence that Andrew would ride an ancient, sit-up-and-beg, magnificent bicycle to the Cricket Ground. Andrew was a tall man and when he cycled into the Cricket Ground propelling this enormous pedal machine it gave the impression he was ten foot tall.

Whenever those two Victorian Gentlemen were found sitting together they invariably began their conversations with “do you remember” followed by accounts of past club happenings. Fortunate were those

sitting close enough to listen to these two old codgers exchanging remembrances about long ago people and of past club history. The Author unashamedly admits to including many of their exchanges in this Reading Cricket Club History. The following is an example of just one of their countless exchanges.

A likeable and first class cricketer by the name of Les Smith was a splendid left hand batsman of the 1980s and he was responsible for achieving many unforgettable deeds and wonderful Reading wins. Unfortunately for Les, in his teenage years, he was also employed at the long gone Cox & Wyman's Printers of Reading and again unfortunately for Les our two Old Codgers remember both him and his youthful eccentricities which at the time caused much dismay to some and much amusement to others.

It seems that the then Cox & Wyman's establishment was a maze of long passageways which employees would normally walk along from one destination to another. Les Smith it seems, according to the two Old Codgers, travelled along these passageways from one place to another by incessant Cartwheels. It is unlikely that the lovely Les is Cartwheeling (2014) anywhere these days.

One sunny afternoon in the 1950s the Author was lucky enough to have been sitting between these two eminent gentlemen when it was not long before they began arguing about where the Club played its cricket immediately after the Great War.

From what the Author could gather from their animated argument was that our first Post War President, Mr. A. W. Carter, negotiated with Mr. Reginald Palmer (**Not Mr. Howard Palmer the Old Codgers area of much dispute**) an agreement for the Reading Cricket Club to use his small ground sited at the rear of the Kings Meadows Playing field from about 1919 until 1928. (**see Messrs Huntly & Palmers and how it helped the Cricket Club paragraphs 6 to 11 pages 33 & 34**).

A Synopsis of the Sale of Church Road, Earley, Cricket Club in the 1980s.

Of the period in question the majority of the Club's Cricketers were wholly ignorant about what they were voting for and also ignorant about what the reality would be by selling their Church Road, Earley, Cricket Ground.

To this day (2014) few (about 6) of those questioned knew that when they voted to move from Church Road, Earley, they were also voting to give away half of their newly bought Sonning Lane acquisition to the Reading Hockey Club.

It beggars believe that those questioned between the years 2008 - 2014 still remain wholly convinced that the Reading Cricket Club remain the sole owners of the Sonning Lane Asset as it was the sole owners of the Church Road, Earley, Asset.

Another aside conveniently forgotten by those of that period was the shameful way the Cricket Club treated its Social members and its 1920s, 1930s and 1940s old cricketers. These staunch Club members who were the heart and sole of the Club for over sixty years were ignored, disenfranchised and their opinions about the proposed relocation of the Cricket Club totally ignored.

Of the three hundred or so lifelong, donating, forgotten, disenfranchised offended and deeply hurt social club members only about a dozen of them ever stepped one foot over the Sonning Lane threshold.

Once the Club had completed its journey to Sonning Lane a consequence of the cricketers' ignorance soon became disagreeably apparent. It was not long before they became aware that a financial burden was imposed upon them and their perpetual successors requiring them to pay each year a bankrupting thirty three and one third cost imbalance with a membership differential ratio of upwards of ten to one.

To put this obscene imbalance and membership differential ratio into perspective one need only know that for every £1 hockey members contribute each year a Cricketer contributes £10. Furthermore for this offensive financial imbalance cricketers will play a minimum of thirteen fewer games each year than their hockey counterparts; and all for an equivalent annual subscription.

In summary: Reading Club Cricketers voted to sell their freehold Church Road, Earley, Asset, purchase Sonning Lane, give half of the new Asset away to the Reading Hockey Club, pay each year a minimum of ten times more than a Hockey Player; play 57 per cent less games per calendar year than his Hockey counterparts; and pay an equivalent annual subscription.

Lastly it raised a very ordinary public park hockey club into one of the finest in the country and arguably the world and in so doing reduced itself from being one of the top ten National Cricket Clubs and relegated itself into being the poor relations within the present day Reading Cricket & Hockey Club.

The Sale of Church Road, Earley, Cricket Club in the 1980s.

In the early 1980s it was being implied by hockey members that the Reading Church Road Cricket Club was not suitable for its current day activities. In truth the Reading Cricket Club's facilities were quite adequate for the cricket club's immediate needs but not large enough for an aspiring Hockey Club who had since 1960 thoughtlessly, relentlessly and outrageously outgrew the cricket club's adequate and first class urban facility.

The Reading Hockey Club of that period had with its never ending expansive policies outgrew the Cricket Club and for that reason it encouraged and abetted the Reading cricketers to sell its cricket ground as they desperately needed six grass pitches and land for an All Weather Hockey Pitch.

The cricketers on the other hand were the first to admit that Church Road was unable to accommodate a much needed second cricket pitch but other than that the two club's needs were light years apart. The Cricket Club knew that by purchasing a modest four acres of land it would be sufficient to accommodate a second cricket pitch and therefore a much better alternative than purchasing twenty four acres of land to accommodate six grass hockey pitches and land for an All Weather Hockey pitch.

With hindsight and with the greatest respect to our hockey friends it would have been in the Cricket Club's best interests had the Hockey Club moved away and left the Reading Cricket Club to manage its own affairs at its natural Home at Church Road, Earley. It had managed itself successfully for 163 years and there was no reason to suppose it could not manage itself equally successfully for the next 163 years.

It is quite untrue to say, as the Hockey Club's history does, that there had been a number of abortive attempts or projects to move away from Church Road, Earley. What is true to say is that there had been two failed projects to acquire an additional four acres of land adjacent to the Cricket Club to accommodate a second pitch; and that had either of those two projects been successful then the Cricket Club would have remained forever at Church Road, Earley.

Both of these projects have already been fully reported elsewhere in this History. The first was the late Mr. Roy Turner's 1940s project that was structured specifically to purchase suitable land at the Southern perimeter of the Church Road cricket ground to accommodate a second cricket square. Unfortunately for Roy the Local Authority and the Allotment Association frustrated all his sustained efforts. **See Page 52.**

The second project was in the mid 1970s when Alan Massey (deceased) worked relentlessly with a project that was structured to purchase adjoining woodland (known as High Trees Woods) for the Cricket Club's second cricket square. Unfortunately a group of local Conservationists "masquerading under the banner of environmentalists" deliberately (for their own financial and vested

interests) blocked all of Alan's negotiations. See (**Alan Massey's High Tree's Land Project**).

Because of some younger cricketers' impatience and desire for a second cricket pitch together with the never ending hockey cajoling to dispose of the cricket ground our hockey lodgers gradually won the cricketers over and convinced them that it was in their best interests to sell their vibrant Church Road, Earley, ground.

With the Cricket Club's proceeds it foolishly purchased a bleak, soulless and unfriendly Sonning Lane. For some of that period it seemed the right decision but with hindsight it heralded in a slow decline for a once thriving and proud "Top Ten" Reading Cricket Club.

There is no question that the Reading Cricket Club experienced many problems in obtaining the required mandate from its membership for the sale of its ground. See pages 99 & 100 (**Outraged Players & Social Members of earlier times**) The elder statesmen and Trustees of the club made it abundantly clear to Alan Massey that whilst the Club was financially sound and able to purchase Sonning Lane, a Cricket Club with a small membership (about 30 to 40 members) would never be unable to pay its way with such an ambitious project.

Alan Massey's two Trustees at the time were Mr. William Robert Fletcher and Dennis Wilfred Stokes (the son of W. D. Bill Stokes & Grandson of Mr. W. V. Stokes who played for Reading in the 1890s). These two Trustees administered the special dispensation needed to manage Doctor Sharp's gift of Land in 1928. (**See paragraph 5 page 13 of this History**).

Alan Massey's mind was put at ease when the Hockey Club assured him that if the Cricket Club would sell its Church Road Asset and purchase Sonning Lane they would administer, maintain and meet the everyday expenditure costs at the new premises. They also accepted

his expressed formula that the Cricket Club would contribute an annual contribution commensurable with its small membership - not a thirty three and one third financial bankrupting annual contribution.



Allan Massey
about 1980

Our Trustee, Raymond Wood, assured the Author as late as (2014) that Alan Massey's expressed formula mentioned in the paragraph above was definitely honoured for the first few years of the club's move to Sonning Lane. Unfortunately he cannot offer any guidance about how or when his formula was abandoned or how or when the existing annual cricket contribution was introduced.

This History should make it abundantly clear that Ray Wood made no mention of Alan Massy's expressed Formula. He simply stated that for the first few years after the move to Sonning Lane that the Cricket Club's annual contributions was based solely on its Membership Number. In essence the two systems are the same thing expressed by two different people in two different ways.

Surprisingly Ray appeared somewhat doubtful about whether or not the Cricket Club gave half of its newly bought Sonning Lane acquisition away to the Reading Hockey Club. As a serving and current Trustee he surely must have studied the Club's Title Deeds.

It beggars believe that those questioned between the years 2008 - 2014 still remain wholly convinced that the Reading Cricket Club

remain the sole owners of the Sonning Lane Asset as it was the sole owners of the Church Road, Earley, Asset.

It is true that in June 1984 Messrs Massey, Wood, Miller and Ash issued a Minute that stated amongst other things :- "the details of the economics of exchanging the Church Road ground for Sonning Lane have been explained to members of the General and Section Committees. Consideration is also being given to the running costs of the new complex".

But nowhere is there a Minute or any other indication or suggestion that this foursome provided these important financial details to either the Cricket Members or its three hundred Social members together with its old cricketers' of the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s. See paragraph four (**A Synopsis of the Sale of Church Road, Earley, Cricket Club in the 1980s**).

Alan would now be devastated if he knew that his proud and expressed formula would be translated into a thirty three and one third financial bankrupting annual contribution. With a membership differential between the two sections averaging a hideous ten to one it is not necessary to be an accountant to calculate that a Cricketer would contribute about ten times more per annum than its Hockey counterpart.

Once the move had been completed the hockey seasons lengthened because the new Sonning Lane facility became available to it for a whole year rather than a restricted 24 week availability when it was in situ at the Church Road, Cricket Ground. That is to say Hockey can be played throughout the Cricket Club's thirty three and one third Cricket Season but Cricket is unable to play Cricket during the Hockey Club's Sixty Six and two thirds Hockey Season.

This one-sided playing differential has never been explored let alone considered when negotiating any financial arrangement between the two sections. Moreover with the lengthening of the Hockey season a hockey player can if they wish play a minimum of 30 games each season for their annual subscription. By contrast a cricketer might (weather permitting) play about seventeen games each season for an

equivalent subscription. In no way was this what the Reading Cricket Club's Elders and Trustee's had in mind when they gave the late Allan Massey a mandate to go ahead with his intricate negotiations.

It has to be said that the Author has nothing but praise with the way Alan Massey handled the sale of Church Road, Earley and his unstoppable enthusiasm in the purchase of Sonning Lane. But he does nonetheless question the manner in which the cricketers were persuaded to vote for the move.

There were two salient reasons for the Author's cynicism with the manner in which the cricketers were misled into voting for the sale of the Church Road Ground and the purchase of about twenty three acres of land at Sonning Lane. The Author had no to doubt that time was of essence and fully understood that an urgent response from the cricket membership had become paramount if the negotiations were to proceed.

Paramount or otherwise the playing cricket members should not have been pressurised into voting for a move without knowing exactly what the vote entailed. It was "just wrong" for cricketers to vote "believing as they apparently did" that they were simply voting to either reject or agree the disposal of Church Road, Cricket Ground and the purchase of Sonning Lane.

The reason why it was wrong was because at the end of their rushed through urgent and paramount vote "to reject or agree the disposal of the Church Road Ground and the purchase of Sonning Lane was: unbeknown to the unsuspecting cricketer's was a missing adjunct which specified "*and let the hockey members own the land jointly with them*".

It could be said that the cricketers' got their long awaited second cricket pitch. But the Hockey Club received (all ex-gratia) six grass pitches, land for a programmed All Weather Hockey Pitch and it now Owned half of the Cricket Club's Assets.

By raising capital from its Freehold Church Road, Earley, Asset the Reading Cricket Club foolishly utilised its vast financial resources to elevate a very ordinary public park hockey club into one of the finest in the country and arguably the world.

But in so doing it has reduced itself from being one of the top ten National Cricket Clubs and relegated itself into being the poor relation within the present day Reading Cricket & Hockey Club that it foolishly purchased with the capital it raised from selling its Freehold Asset at Church Road, Earley.

Players and Social Members of earlier Times who were outrageously ignored in the 1980s by its then extant Members who voted to sale and unwittingly give away half of the Church Road Cricket Ground Asset.

Another aside conveniently forgotten by those members of the 1980s was the shameful way they treated its old players of the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s alongside its staunch Social members.

These unimpeachable and irreplaceable Club supporters who for over sixty years were the lifeblood and heart and sole of the Cricket Club were outrageously ignored, ruthlessly disenfranchised and unforgivably given no say whatsoever in the matter of the disposal of their beloved Church Road Cricket Ground.

During the course of this History much has already been written about those many loyal club supporters together with their associate cricketers' who faithfully attended and supported Saturday, Sundays and often a Wednesday afternoon game if it happened to be a warm summery day. Moreover, while it was true that most of these faithful supporters were Pensioners they nonetheless and collectively made a sizeable contribution to the Club's annual income.

Of greater importance to the Cricket Club was the inescapable truth that these loyal club supporters (about 300 in number) were violently opposed to any move away from their beloved Church Road, Earley, Cricket Ground. Had they not have been so outrageously disenfranchised then there would have been no move to Sonning Lane because they would have simply outvoted those privileged enfranchised, foolish and outwitted playing members by about seven to one.

After the move to Sonning Lane these disappointed and outraged social supporters remained unforgiving towards their adversaries to the end of their days. Of all those lifelong and deeply hurt social club members only some dozen ever bothered to place one foot over the threshold of Sonning Lane.

To the Cricket Club's eternal shame it has to be said that it heartlessly snubbed and treated our lovely old members with brutal contempt. It also has to be said that in return for their heartless treatment these wonderful people simply snubbed the Cricket Club's Sonning Lane white Elephant. The Club has never been able to replace these social members or indeed recruit anything remotely akin to our faithful and contributing friends.

The picture below shows just a few of our faithful friends. They were for over sixty years the lifeblood and heart and sole of the Reading Cricket Club.



Spectators at 1937 Cricket Match

The National and Evening Post Cups & Eric Carrington.

It was during the 1950s 1960s 1970s and 1980s that the British Amateur National Cup competition was at its pinnacle. Throughout the competition it has had various Sponsorships. Perhaps the most striking sponsorship name of all was “The Haig Cup”. It was in 1979 when The Reading Cricket Club played the Scarborough Cricket Club in the final at Lords that Brian Close referred to the game as the Whisky Final.

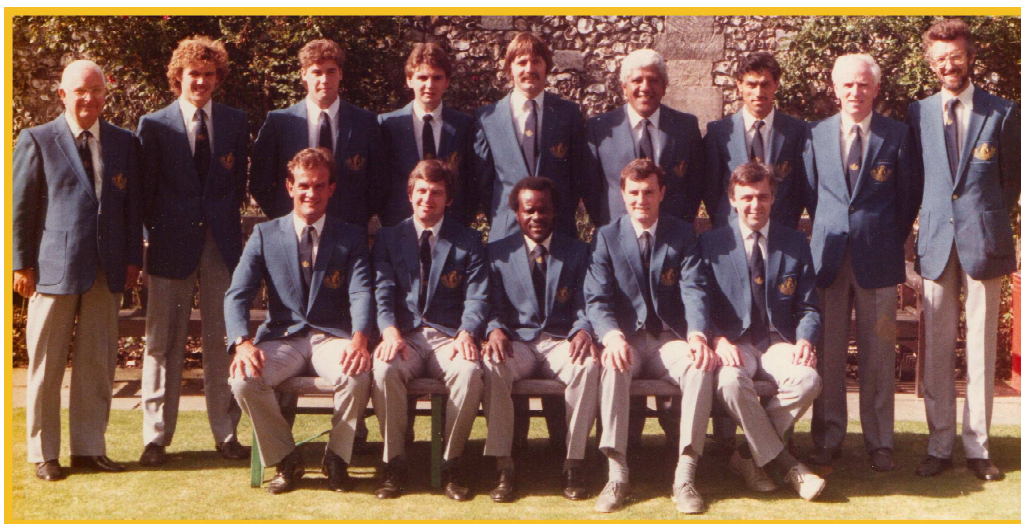
It was during the Haig Cup Sponsorship period that most clubs considered it to be the most prestigious competition in their seasons Calendar. For that reason every effort was made to field the strongest possible side in anticipation of getting through to the next round.

READING CRICKET CLUB JOHN HAIG TROPHY FINALISTS 1979



A.MASSEY M.AMJAD A.WALDER J.TUTTY D.GORMAN M.SIMMONS P.NEW G.KNIGHT A.NEINOW
G.CHILD D.LAITT M.HEAD J.JONES D.JOHNSTON
Captain

Cricketers of today would be dumbfounded by the huge number of spectators these Cup games would attract. Come six o'clock after most people had finished work for the day Church Road, Earley, would be heaving with three to four hundred people all urging the Reading team on whilst drinking their favourite tippie.



The 1985 William Younger Lords Cup Finalists

The 1981 “Old Hill” William Younger Cup Finalists played at Lords. Len Cross, Barry Jackson Stephen Keen, Chris West, Paul New, Andy Dindar, M.Amjad, Gordon Child, Derek Patience, Mark Simmons, Alan Walder, Jeff Jones, David Gorman, Malcolm Head.

On two occasions The Reading Cricket Club went through all the various qualifying rounds to reach the Lords final. Once in 1979 and again in 1981. Both times Reading were unsuccessful but it has to be said that neither Scarborough or Old Hill were bona fide Amateur cricket clubs. Yet the higher echelon decided that these semi professional Midlands and Northern League Clubs were eligible to take part in a competition that they structured solely for the traditional Amateur Club's who's players Paid to Play.

Both these semi professional clubs unashamedly played former Test Match Players (one was still a current Pakistani International and was

officially designated by his Club as the Assistant Groundsman) and many others were former County Players who still occasionally were called upon to play for their counties.

Most of the Cup Games played before the Regional Finals were usually played on a weekday when the majority of the players were supposedly at work. The following day's Evening Post and the other long established Weekly newspapers were all eagerly awaited to read the Sports Correspondents' full reports followed by his skillfully manipulated Scorecard.

All weekday cup scorecards had its amusing aside to them as most of the participating players went under some strange and outrageous pseudonym. They did so for the very good reason that they would rather not be identified whilst performing their extracurricular talents. Club members who were unable to attend the game and were not familiar with the individuals' pseudonyms would have to guess which cricketer was who or what player did what before being told the truth on his next visit to the Club.

At this juncture it would be appropriate to mention our splendid cricketer Eric Carrington of the 50/60/70 and 80s. During his long cricketing career Eric Carrington was a prolific run maker. Nobody would ever accuse Eric of being a big hitter but he had an insatiable appetite for pushing and stroking runs to all parts of a cricket field.

Eric was just as guilty as any of those other cricketers who played under a pseudonym during Cup games. He did, of course, play a number of mid week games but Eric had many Business commitments and so his pseudonym seemed to be endlessly in use. It can now be safely revealed that Eric's pseudonym was Mr. E. Carstairs. The Author has not attempted to calculate the number of runs he scored under his proper name let alone those under Mr. E. Carstairs. All he is prepared to say is that Eric Carrington was a prolific a run maker.

The Haig Cup's Regional Final was won by Reading on ten consecutive years and as far as the Author is aware this feat has never

been emulated. The Regional Winner went into the last sixteen Draw and if unlucky could be drawn away as far afield as Aberdeen.

These competitive games were not for the feint hearted as they were often feisty affairs. Batsmen after having been given out by the Umpire were hastily shown the way back to the Pavilion. Should the batsman

be foolish enough to prolong his departure he received a few choice remarks together with descriptive gesticulations to help him find his way back to the Pavilion.

The crowd joined in with this extra entertainment and were not slow in hastening a particularly reticent batsman's return to his allotted part of the ground.

After the game it has to be said that all were good friends again during High Tea and, of course, the Bar afterwards. They were superb cricketing occasions and sorely missed.

The Reading Evening Post Cup.

As the heading suggests the competition was a Twenty/20 Evening Cup Game. The competition began as a twenty over game but to save a little time the overs were reduced to fifteen eight ball overs.

The winners were largely dominated by the big clubs but like the FA Cup the lesser lights dreamed of causing a major upset. It is fair to say that from time to time these lesser lights would play a Ringer or two and once or twice they caused an upset. The Administrators usually had the good grace to overlook the playing of these illegal players unless the opponents insisted that they should become reinstated.

For some twenty years the competition was very popular and the games were supported by large audiences but come the 1990s they began to lose their attraction and eventually went out of favour altogether.

The Bampton Twins of the 1950s, 60s, and 70s.

Walking alongside the local Loddon Riverside in 2012 the Author suddenly came upon, and vaguely recognized, an old Reading cricketer of many years ago. Greeting this hansom stranger and his passive dog with a tentative “Hello Mr. Bampton” without the slightest idea of knowing whether or not it was Terry Bampton or his twin Tony he quickly replied “Hello Mr. Gooch” and the Author's tentative greeting happily became a worthwhile opening gambit.



A young Tony Bampton aged about 17

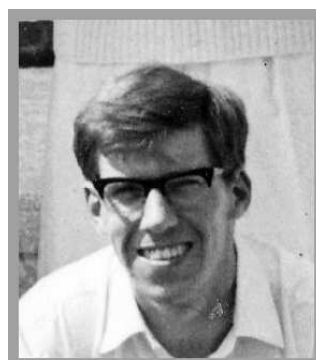


David Johnston & Tony Bampton's huge opening score.

Amongst the many cricket and football reminiscences the Author casually mentioned that he was currently and intimately immersed in writing a history of the Reading Cricket Club. That casual comment changed our chance meeting from a general sporting reminiscing into a Reading Cricket Club History Crusade. From that moment onwards the Bampton Twins became unstoppable with the provision of limitless information about their cricketing days at the Reading Cricket Club.



David Johnston about 1979



Terry Bampton about 1966



Reading Sunday 2nd XI v. Chippenham on May 1st 1966.

Back row. Adrian Harland, Victor Bell, John Morgan, Jim Bosley, Douggie White, Eric Carrington, Mac Ross.

Front row. Jim Handy, Terry Bampton(capt), Chris Wetherall, Geoff Knight, Alvin Neinow.

Reading Sunday 2nd XI v Chippenham on May 1st 1966. Back row Adrian Harland, Victor Bell, Colin Morgan, Jim Bosley, Douggie White, Eric Carrington, Mac. Ross (Umpire). Front row Jim Handy, Terry Bampton (Capt), Chris Weatherall, Geoff Knight, Alvin Neinow.

An old Cricketing friend (Alf Smith) let it be known that "The Umpire Mac. Ross" was knocked down and killed in a Road accident outside of the Public House (College Arms) in Wokingham Road, Reading, not long after this game was played. Alf always maintained that the accident was of his own making.

The Twins kindly provided photographs and identified players from other photographs, told many tales from their playing era, and listed countless cricketer names that might otherwise have been forgotten. All this data was freely imparted for inclusion in the ever evolving and complex story of the Cricket Club's history. My everlasting gratitude to them can never be adequately expressed other than to say a humble thank you Terry and Tony Bampton for your invaluable and generous contributions.



Tony Bampton's Sunday First XI! about 1965.

John Phillips about 1970? Sunday 1st Eleven. Jeff Jones, John Ayre, Derek Sparkes (W.K.), David Laitt, Adrian Harland, Mike Salmon, Geoff Knight, John Packer, John Phillips, (Capt), Tony Bampton, David Johnston.

The Bampton Twins willingly allowed the Author to reproduce the two photographs that grace this pages. Arguably the most hostel bowler ever seen in club cricket was Alan Castell but, having studied these two Prints the Author hastily places alongside the hostel Allan Castell the decidedly quick and thoroughly spiteful bowler Adrian Harland.



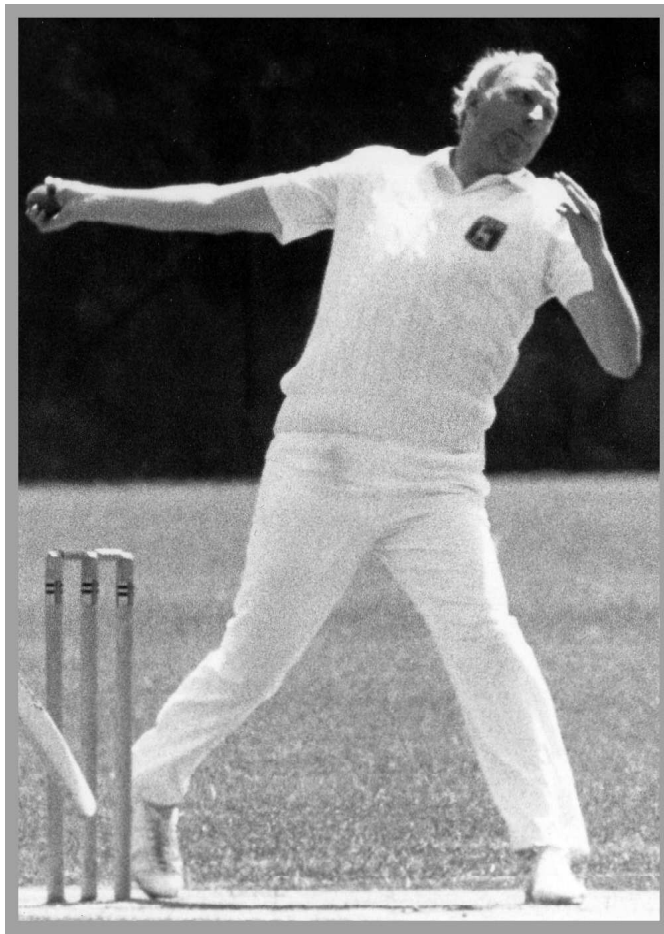
Trever Tollerfield's 1965 Sunday First Eleven

Trever Tollerfield's 1965 Sunday 1st Eleven against Chippenham. Stan Staffard, Mike Salmon, Brian Thompson, Tony Bampton, Tony Deness, David Johnston, Trever Tollerfield, Geoff Velde, Alan Massey (almost hidden by his Captain)

Through lack of space and because this document is a history of the Reading Cricket Club it is regrettable that it is for these two reasons that it forbids the inclusion of their remembrances and many tales about their parallel football playing days. Both their football careers were with the “West Reading FC”, arguable, the finest local Reading and District football club of all times.

The Author is able to testify to the Bampton' superb football careers with the unique and unmatched West Reading F.C. - the like of which will never be seen again on the local parks of the town of Reading. Needless to say there are a host of West Reading F.C. names deserving attention and a mention but this Reading Cricket document must limit itself to cricket and therefore the readers must be content with only the names of Jack Jarvis (deceased) and David Chard.

The Reading Cricket Club's First Trustee after it had Purchased the Sonning Lane Premises in 1986.



Raymond Wood about 1985.

Ray featured in many Club games for all elevens for many years. After his 50th Birthday Ray also bowled and took on the Administration for the Berkshire over 50s. With the inception of the Home Counties Cricket League Ray has served as Chairman and also featured in many other of its High Office Positions.

The Reasons for the decline of the Reading Cricket Club and the coincidental rise of the Reading Hockey Club after the move to Sonning Lane had been completed.

By raising capital from its Church Road, Earley, Asset the Reading Cricket Club foolhardily utilised its lucrative financial resources to elevate a public park hockey Club into one of the finest Hockey Clubs in the country and arguably the world.

It was by any standard a praiseworthy accomplishment. Unfortunately in so doing it reduced itself from being a proud top ten National Cricket Club into a second rate one and the poor relation within the present day Reading Cricket & Hockey Club.

It would not be unreasonable to expect that its Hockey counterpart would be grateful to its generous benefactor and make an effort to understand its financial difficulties. Unfortunately the reverse is true. All that is ever heard is that the Cricket Section is not paying its way or that it ought to be contributing more.

The Cricket Club's Financial difficulties is not something new or something that has just happened. It was known about and predicted both before and at the time of the move from Church Road, Earley, to Sonning Lane. Had Allan Massey's "Commensurable Financial Formula" not have been accepted then he would not have received a Cricket Club Mandate to proceed with the move. It was made abundantly clear at the time that a Cricket Club with a annual membership of about 30 members could not and never would be able to pay its way in the proposed new complex.

After some thirty years no effort has been made to accommodate the late Allan Massey's "Commensurable Financial Formula" that would have ensured that the Cricket Section's annual contribution would reflect its small membership and not the Club's Annual Financial Needs.

With the purchase of Sonning Lane it naturally followed that the Hockey Club's playing season increased from about 23 weeks each calendar year, as it was at Church Road, to a 52 weeks per calendar

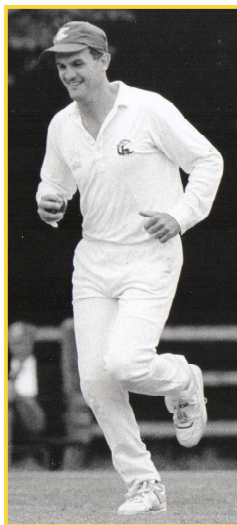
year. With their slip dates, social games, cup games, end of season play-off tournaments, summer hockey, other delightful boozy knocking shop special events, prestigious European Tournaments a hockey player might, if they so wish, play anything from 30 or more games per calendar year for their annual subscription.

By contrast (over the last twenty or thirty years) the manner in which Football, Rugby, Hockey and other Winter sporting events have encroached upon Club Cricket's playing seasons the reverse is true. The consequence of these Winter sports encroachments have effectively reduced the Club Cricket playing calendar from about 28 to about 20 weeks per calendar year - weather permitting.

Unlike their hockey counterparts when a cricket season ends it is irrefutably over. There are no slip dates for rained-off games (average three to four weekends per season over the last 20 years) and there are certainly no play-off games, winter cricket or social tournaments etc., etc., during the months of September to April.

That is to say an adult male cricket member would hope to play about 17 games per calendar year. As documented elsewhere (**see The Sale of Church Road, Earley, Cricket Club in the 1980s.**) a cricketer will play 57 per cent less games per calendar year than his Hockey counterpart but is required to pay an equivalent annual subscription.

Two splendid Servants of the Reading Cricket Club.



Mark Simmons about
1984.



Jefferson Jones about 1980

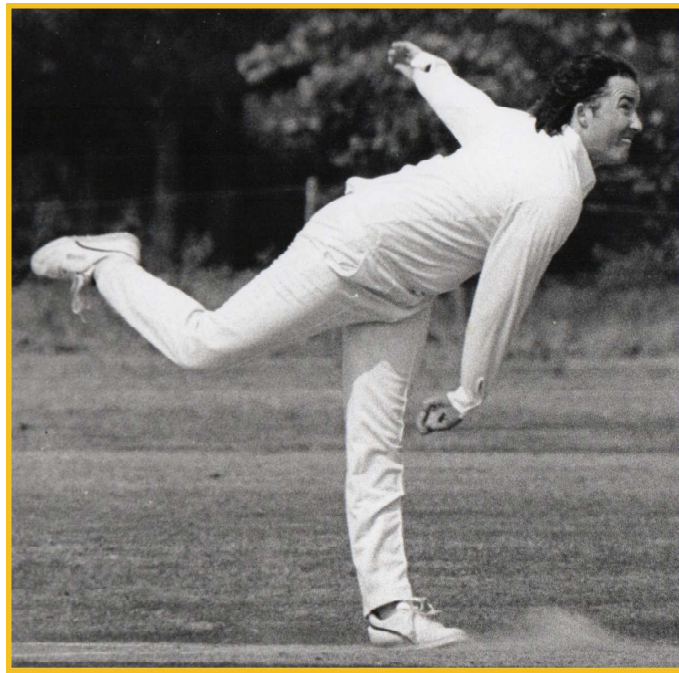
Mark Simmons was a solid left hand bat who never gave his wicket away without a dogged fight. He also Captained both Reading CC and Berkshire CCC with great success for many years and perhaps this is the reason why he seldom bowled his more than useful left arm goodies. Mark is still (2014) intimately involved in all matters of the noble game of cricket.

Jefferson Jones was a splendid right arm fast bowler. He bowled with great distinction for both the Reading Cricket Club and Berkshire C. C. C. for many years. It is doubtful if the pace trio of Jefferson Jones, Paul New and David Laitt has ever been matched in the Club's entire 191 year History. Jefferson also captained Reading for many years. After his playing days were over he unselfishly coached the up and coming youngsters. Currently (2014) he is managing the Berkshire County Cricket squad.

Their Reading Cricket Club and Minor County achievements and Statistics would be difficult to emulate. No attempt whatsoever has been made in this limited Club History to do justice to either Jefferson's or Mark's exceptionable records and abilities and therefore those wishing to further their own education about these super cricketers achievements most look elsewhere to satisfy their own curiosity.

Douglas Seeburg and Derek Patience (Groundsman and Umpire).

The photograph displayed here of Douglas Seeburg is included in this History for no other reason than his picture happened to take the Author's eye and because he thought it was an excellent action picture that represented an everyday Reading Cricket Club player.



Douglas Seeburg about 1990

There are and have been over the years a host of very useful club players which without their various talents the Cricket Club would never have survived. In general these very useful cricketers do a bit of everything, and are always available for any side where they are asked to play and lastly they, to a man, are loyal Club members.

With all those outstanding qualities in mind there is every good reason to suppose that Douglas Seeburg would be the ideal person to represent a large body of very good cricketers that have never quite made the Headlines or any other eye catching events.

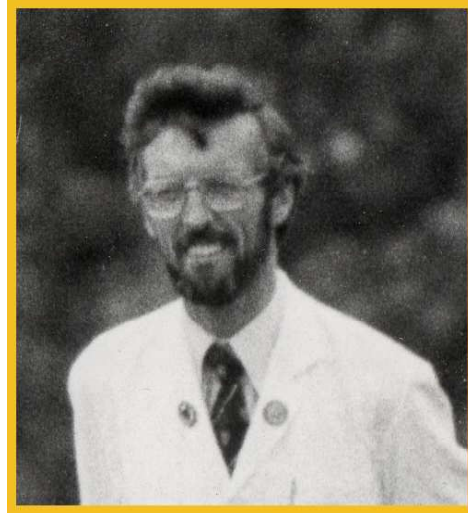
Derek Patience (Groundsman and Umpire for over twenty years).

Derek Patience shares these pages with Douglas Seeburg because it is awkward to place him elsewhere in this history. Nevertheless as long

as he is placed somewhere in the scheme of things it is doubtful if the Reader will have any preference as to where his characterization is found, rather than completely overlooking him on the pretext that there is no logical or natural position for him in to go in this Document.



Derek Patience (Umpire) July 1990



Derek Patience about 1980 (Groundsman and Umpire for over twenty years)

For some extraordinary reason Derek Patience gave-up being a well respected Banker and happily took on the responsibility of becoming the Reading Cricket Club's Groundsman, Secretary and Umpire. It is true to say that he became a very good Groundsman and many will agree that he was one of the better Umpires on the Circuit. As with all Umpires he had his detractors but over the many years he served it can safely be said that his countless good decisions attracted many more supporters than the few opposition grumblers.

Having sung his praises it should not go unrecorded that at one memorable away game (where the result was in some doubt) he gave Reading the maximum winning points by unerringly ruling the last three opposition batsmen out LBW. At a later date Derek assured an inquisitive Club member that they were all "plum" and the Author has no reason to doubt the authenticity of Derek's plum assertion.

It would be remiss not to end Derek's characterization without reference to his Companionable Dog. Not a very special Dog but, a

truly faithful animal that happily followed his master everywhere with a tail that everlastingly wagged.

On one of Derek's more ordinary grass cutting days he was driving his Tractor around the Club's ground, towing the large grass cutting Gang Mowers, when for reasons Derek has never been able to explain, his much loved Dog allowed itself to be run over by one of the huge Tractor Rear Wheels. With a healthy yelp of fright his faithful Dog ran to his Master still wagging his Tail without as much as a mark or injury to be seen. The faithful Dog went on to live a long and happy life.

Derek and his wife Gloria moved on to a Linconshire school where they they are enjoying life (2014) to the full. Gloria devoted many efficient years as the Club Bar and Catering Stewardess. Thank you both for all the hard work and happy memories you both gave to our splendid Reading Cricket Club.

The Extraordinary but never to be forgotten Don Barry.

Another forgotten club stalwart is Don Barry. For many years Don bore the burden of Match Secretary. During his time as Match Secretary nobody in their right senses would consciously allow themselves to be elected as Club Match Secretary. Bless is old Heart Don Barry carried out this awful and unforgiving duty for more than twenty years.

Not many cricket orientated people understood Don's Umpiring decisions but he nevertheless persevered with them for a good part of his life and when in difficulties he invented his own cricket rules. He gave his decisions fairly to each side and because of this fairness most games were seldom affected by his well balanced and sensible cricketing rules.

Throughout his Motoring Days the lovely Don Barry earned the reputation of being an awful car driver. If there was a gate post to hit then Don would hit it over and over again. His cars had dents and scratches in places where most people believed it impossible to put one.

Vera, his lifelong Housekeeper simply gave up replacing their residential gate or anything else that could be mowed down by Don. He could and did reverse into anything and everything. Vera never defended Don's eccentric driving habits but she enjoyed having the Clubhouse members holding their sides with laughter when happily explaining away her lovely, Don's, driving peculiarities.

To the Club's everlasting shame not one of its Members attended this wonderful Clubman (DON BARRY'S) Funeral.

The proficient Len Cross and the indestructible Miss K. E. (Betty) Shepherd. Also Dorothy Bosley and the unknown Mrs. Hillman.

Len Cross hailed from Gosport Hampshire and was a Civil Servant for his entire working life. After he had retired he devoted the remainder of his social life to being Reading Cricket Club's Proficient Scorer.

He was a meticulous book-keeper and as one would expect kept his cricket scorebooks in prime condition. It is a heinous crime that these superbly maintained scorebooks are nowhere to be found so that all club members today are able to study a now long overtaken craft.



Len Cross about 1980

At the end of each season he would also produce a huge and colourful Wall Chart displaying each first team player's detailed statistics. Players and non players alike would crowd around to admire these immaculate and informative Wall Charts.

Len not only applied his skillful scoring abilities to the Reading Cricket Club because as soon as the Berkshire Cricket Club knew about Len's exceptional book-keeping abilities they hastily enlisted him for all of their County games until his awful illness prevented him carrying out his labour of love.

After his dreadful Throat Cancer Death his younger Brother often would visit Sonning Lane just to have a chat with those members who knew Len. One of his many stories about his Brother was not, as people might think, about cricket but about his Accountancy abilities.

He was speaking, of course, about those unthinkable days before Calculators and Computers. It seems that Len was able to mentally add whole columns of the pre decimal currency days £. s. ds three units altogether. Ordinary Mortals would painfully add each column separately and still arrive at the wrong answer.

The Indestructible Miss K. E. (Betty) Shepherd.

It was sometime in the middle 1950s and on the Author's return from his Middle East duties that he first was introduced to Miss K. E. (Betty) Shepherd. It was not a experience easily forgotten. If the memory serves correctly it was after applying her with a number of costly beverages that it then became a very pleasant and enjoyable experience.

Little or nothing is known about this self opinionated personality accept that everyone was left gasping for breath when the Great David Laitt put his strong arm around her shoulder after she had completed her scoring duties for the day and affectionally said "thank you Mother".

Heaven help anyone else who thought they were big enough to be so bold or foolish for she was an inveterate Dragon. This highly respected lady was a "bruiser" and was blessed with a demanding and dominating personality. Like the Big Man who had the audacity to put his big arm over her shoulder to thank her she suffered no fools and spared nobody's blushes.

Otherwise she was a lovely lady. She had impressive contacts in the business community which she unmercifully used to the Club's advantage as and when necessary. She was not afraid of hard work and expected (demanded) everyone else work hard for the Club. She died in 1981 aged 73.

Dorothy Bosley and the Unknown Mrs. Hillman.

For some forty or more years it has always been accepted that Betty Shepherd and Dorothy Bosley were the first two Reading Cricket Club's Lady Vice Presidents. However, this understanding is wrong and therefore the Author believes that this is now the proper time to put the issue to rest and elevate the late and unknown Mrs. Hillman to her rightful place in the Reading Cricket Club's History. Her Husband, Ron, died many years ago, it is said, in tragic circumstances.

There will be those who might argue that after all these years it is a little fussy to correct something that was doing little harm in the great scheme of things. The Author will argue otherwise.

It is regrettable but no photographs have been found for either Mrs. Hillman or Betty Shepherd but the Author can display a 1965 one of Mrs. Dorothy Bosley and a smiling 1966 picture of her Husband Jim.



Mrs. Dorothy Bosley 1965



Jim Bosley about 1966

The proposed two new Hockey Pitches to be placed on the Reading Cricket Club's first eleven's Cricket Square.

With the sale of the Church Road, Earley, Cricket Club and the purchase of Sonning Lane the cricketers, not unnaturally, expected that this would end the Reading Hockey Club's relentless expansion policies and not outgrow the new twenty four acre rural facility. Having received (all ex-gratia) half ownership in the newly purchased Sonning Lane Asset, seven grass pitches and the land for an All Weather Hockey Pitch what more could the Hockey Club expect from the Reading Cricket Club. But it seems our Hockey friends demands are insatiable.

It was in 2007 that the Author first wrote to Nick Tucker the then Cricket Club Chairman about the outrageous planning permission being sought by the Hockey Section to place two new hockey facilities on the Cricket Club's principal cricket pitch. Unbeknown to cricketers it emerged that our Cricket Club Chairman had given (without a cricket mandate) his Blessing for the Hockey Club to apply for the required Planning permission.

Had the proposed two hockey facilities been placed on the Cricket Club's principal cricket pitch where did he suppose the cricketers would play cricket? That question was answered at the 2008 VPs Cricket Luncheon when the VPs were unambiguously told that the Cricketers would have to rent a pitch elsewhere. This awful statement implied that the cricketers' would have to play their cricket away from the very Home that was bequeathed to them by their forefathers' who bought and paid for it through their own resources and endeavours long before the Hockey Club was in existence.

At the time (2007) another reason the Author first wrote to the Cricket Chairman was to initially guide him in the right direction and to remind him that he was elected to his high office to defend the Cricket Club from challenges from other directions. Not assist these challengers with Planning Application's that would effectively remove Cricket from its natural home.

It was because Nick Tucker, our then Cricket Chairman, had little or no knowledge of the Club's long History that the Author thought it appropriate to Baptize him with a version of the 7 pages under the heading of: (**The Sale of Church Road, Earley, Cricket Club in the 1980s**).

The Author expressed the hope that his History lesson would go some way in helping him make his task more easier to promote the wellbeing and the future of the Cricket Section in a more proper manner.

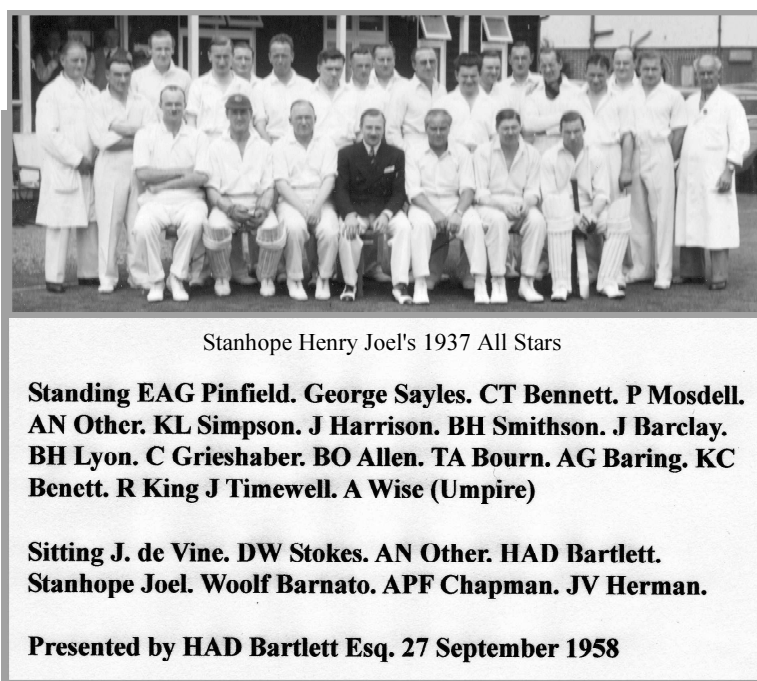
At a later date Nick Tucker did graciously admit that what he did was wrong and gallantly made amends for his miscalculations when he single-handedly and resolutely stood foursquare against the Hockey's intimidating tactics and forcefully demonstrated that the Cricket Club was not going anywhere or hustled away by anyone from its natural home.

There were many other good things Nick Tucker achieved during his difficult and lengthy tenure and for that all cricketers' ought to be thankful and wish him well; for let it be known; that with very few exceptions, Nick received scant support from an unprecedented apathetic Cricket Section.

Reading Colt's & Associated Players who made the Big Time.

Over the years the Reading Cricket Club have introduced many superb players to both County and International Cricket. Some played for England and other MCC sides.

Going back to the 1920s Mr. A. P. F. (Percy) Chapman (Kent) was associated with the Reading Cricket Club and he often graced Mr. Stanhope Henry Joel's star studded sides of the 1920s and 1930s when they played at Church Road, Earley. Below is a photograph of Mr. Joel's 1937 side showing, amongst others, Mr. Percy Chapman.



It has been argued over the years that Mr. Percy Chapman took the strongest ever MCC side to Australia. His overall 1925/26 tour success tend to support the argument and for this reason the Reading Cricket Club is proud to have had Mr. Percy Chapman's connection and also his unstinting support.

Whilst acknowledging Mr. Percy Chapman deeds of long ago they ought not to be allowed to overshadow other splendid Colts and Reading players who made the "big time" namely; Tom Dollery, the famous twins Alec and Eric Bedser, Peter May, Ken Barrington, Aftab Habib (all test Match Players). Peter May was also an equally capable England Captain.

Neither must we forget Tom Jewell and our classy Wicket keeper Geoff Kirby both of Surrey. And, of course, the little known Tim Hancock of Gloucestershire and Alf Croom of Warwickshire. Lastly but not least Michael Mence played for both Warwickshire and Gloucestershire.

In addition to these splendid players already mentioned there have been countless Reading Colts and other young players who have been accepted by the MCC and the Middlesex CC developing academies which improved their various and considerable abilities. Keven Shine not only played for Middlesex but is to this day (2014) a highly respected fast bowling coach.

Currently (2014) the Reading Cricket Club manage a first class Colt's Section operated by a dedicated team of both qualified and enthusiastic Coaches who have every expectation that some of their young and talented colt's will follow in the footsteps of their illustrious Ancestors and extant forerunners. Moreover, Reading is an ECB Clubmark accredited club and all at the Reading Cricket Club are very proud of our Colts Section.

Reading Cricket Club's 150 Years (186 years) Anniversary.

It was in 2009/10 that a number of eminent cricket members attempted to raise enthusiasm for the approaching Cricket Club's 150 year Anniversary. Like their 1959 Cricket Club's Elders before them they also inexcusably overlooked that the Club was in the year of 2009 factually celebrating its 186 year Anniversary and not a 150 year one.

There is no argument that those members who served on the 150 year Anniversary Committee had the Cricket Club's best interests at heart. There is also no argument that they devoted a lot of time and effort in making this unique (186 years) Anniversary a successful, enjoyable and non stop reminiscing extravaganza for all of its past and present day members.

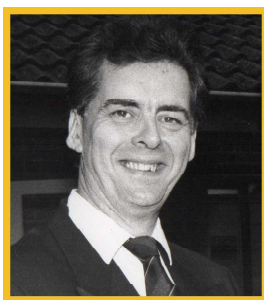
Unfortunately after all the hard and intricate work this committee expended in trying to make this unique event something to behold the response received was woefully disappointing. The Organizers were understandably upset and rightly so by the apathetic interest and enthusiasm displayed by the Cricket Club's past and to some extent present day members.

Their expressed disappointment is understood but, it can be argued that had they bothered to seek out the Club's history rather than look for sympathy they would have discovered why their efforts might end in disappointment.

Members who have taken the trouble to read and study the Cricket Club's History, particularly the 7 pages under the heading (**The Sale of The Church Road Cricket Club in the 1980s**) of this document will quickly grasp why a dismal failure was always likely to be a possibility.

Reading Cricket Club Players between 1970 to about 2014. Also the industrious David (Scoop) Wright plus his donated photographs.

The Reading Cricket and Hockey Club's good friend David (Scoop) Wright has for countless years faithfully reported in depth accounts of both our Hockey and Cricket club games. Regardless of any adverse weather conditions you can always rely on David being in attendance scribbling away with his endless notes which end up in another one of his splendid editorials. Moreover this Treasure of our's who often is just taken for granted continues to report his detailed and well prepared editorials about both the Club's forward planning and other important public policy issues.



David Wright About
1992

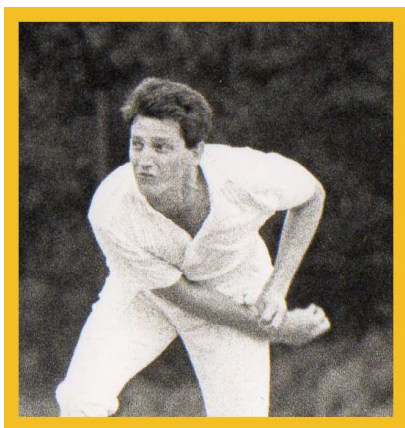
Of more recent times and with a little prompting from the Author our ever faithful Scoop has handed over a number of photographs which are shown below. David also reminded the Author about many other interesting tidbits that had been carelessly forgotten and who then unashamedly included those forgotten tedbits into this History of the Reading Cricket Club.



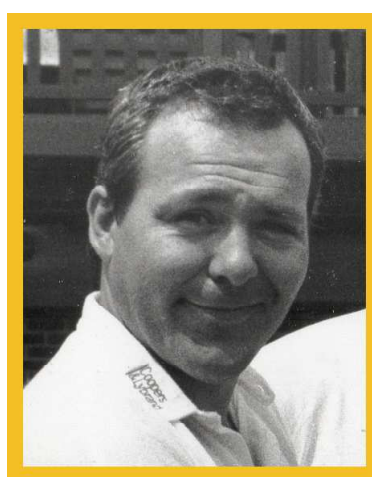
Steve Keen About 1988



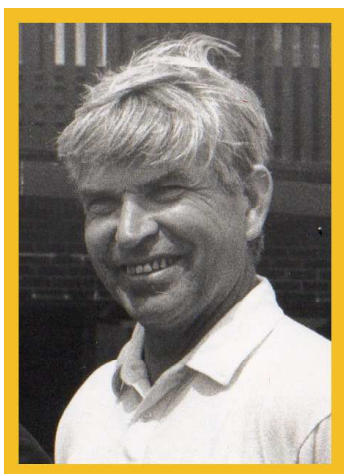
Garry Scott 1990



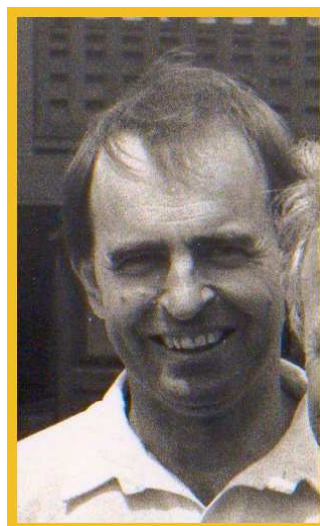
David (Flakey) Baker About 1990



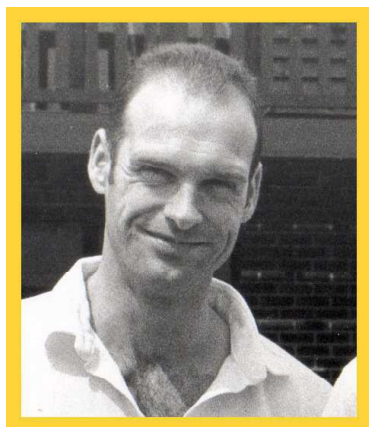
David Mercer About 1994



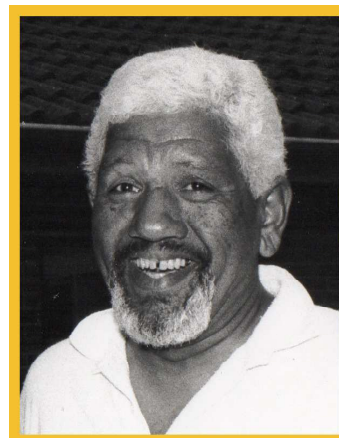
Guy Dexter About 1994



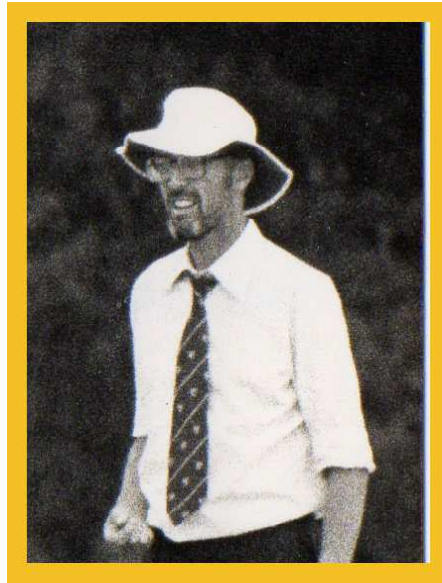
Geoff Ash About 1994



Hugh O'Keefe About 1994



Andy Dinda 1990



Derek Patience (Umpire) July 1990



League Champions Sept 1992

Many of the old group photographs recovered throughout this history have no identifying names appended below the picture and this 1992 League Champions photograph displayed above falls into this category. The Author has rectified the surprising omissions and appended the names. They are as follows:- James Lindley (Groundsman), Rob Pitcher, Ian Cuthbertson, Geoff Ash, Peter Lambsdell, Garry Scott, John Beaven, Len Cross (Scorer), Nick Pitchell, Jeff Jones, Mark Simmons, David Mercer, Tim Dodd.

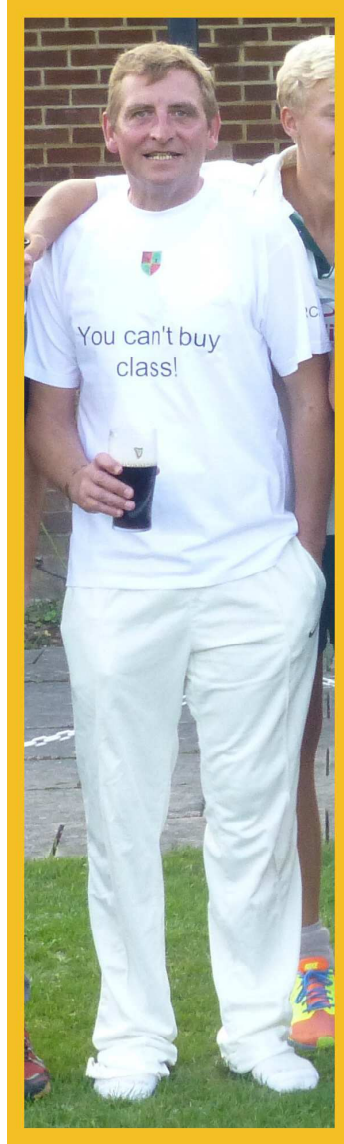
It was Jack Beaven who climbed up into the Club's Clock Tower and safely returned with a number of long lost battered Cardboard Boxes. In these battered boxes were numerous old score sheets from about 1970 to the 1990s and also a number of long lost photographs from many years ago that needed much care and loving attention. Below are the names of players extracted from these score sheets that were recovered from those long lost and battered old boxes.

J McAdam, R Hulett, R. Truelove, A. Beales, B Arnold, C. Jacobs, D. Fulbrook, D. Macintosh, Pat Brooks, B. Hardie, Malcolm Head, J. Matthews, Adrian Harland, D. Hoskins, S. Khan, Paul Johnston, J. Packer, Gordon Child, W Salter, Mick Salmon, Alan Castell, John Beaven, P. Kellaway, John Mahoney, M. Asheriff, P. Bell, R. Salmon, R. Cottrell, R. Burrows, Nick Taylor, J. Wade, R. Wood, O. Cocks, G. Clark, A. Trott, G Powell, G. Edwards, M. Myers, G. Nienow, P. Nienow, T. Wright, M. Sullivan, L. Ali, M. Ali, D. Sparks, L. Duncan, Wilba Stoute, S. Keen, I. Hussian, M. Amjad, D. Allison, Ron Ogles, S. Griffiths, Ron Hone, A Bunce, A. Darby, D. Cocks, C. Archer, Phil Wilkinson, Alan Massey, J Billington, Terry Bampton, Roger Beaven, Roger Laitt, D. Sams, R. Denness, Julian Tutty, R. Bute, J. Ash, David Dibbin, Colin Wicks, R. West, C. Dye, S. Dye, R Tomlinson, B. Ahmad, K. Hunt, G. Powell, N. Teagle, J Mahabir, M. Butler, T. Wright, A. Neilan, J Skepper, P Swift, M. Pitt, Ricky Orton, M. Hill, J. Twyman, K. Linnington, J. Carr, Les Smith, Bob Barnwell, D. Stitt, Mike Dye, P. Reakes, David Dolman, Geoff Knight, A. Wijeratne, C Greenhalgh, J. Chidgey, P. Jackson, D. Winship, Doug Seeburg, A. Dodd, David Gorman, Alan Walder, E. O'Leary, J Noakes, L. Tollerfield (Was he Trevor's Son?), Pat Flower, J & N Henry, Les Andrew, Mark Simmons, Colin Quick, J. Wise, Ralph & Robert Martin, T. Taylor (A good Bat), Richard Cavendish, L. Bennett (A good all rounder), Adrian West (One of the West Family. He would bowl all day for his Captain), C. Dunning, D. Poskett, John Pritchard (He would bowl all day for his Captain), D. Lawson, R. Williams, R Carter (this boy had the longest feet you ever did see), J Quilter, D. Hardy, J Noakes, A. Lunsden (Played Rugby for Bath), Ian Harris (Son of Peter), M. Pattern, Kevin Shine (Played for Middlesex & is still 2014 a first class bowling coach) N. Lanch, Martin Stevens (Good W/K), K Merryweather, Garry Scott, David Gorman, David Mercer,

Andy Dindar, Rob & Nick Pitcher, Malcom Head, Hugh O'Keefe, Mark Stevens, John Pritchard, Jeff Jones, Adrian Darby, Alan Walder, Mark Simmons, G. Hossick, G. Forrest, J Brown, M. Amjad, Keven Shine, Alistair Wrenn, M. Aftab, D. Wallwork, M. Jagmeer, Metab, Mervyn Myers, Nick Geale, John Beaven, Roger Beaven, M. Sagheer, Guy Dexter, Adrian, Rob & Chris West, Robert Dorrington, Rick Burrows, Tom Connor, Ralf & Roger Martin, T. Snow, T. Pilgrim, Peter Sherrell, D. Ewbank, G. Wheeler, Les Andrew, Richard Cavendish, Peter Trott, Ian McCann, A. Olney, Stev Keen, D. Waters. Richard Salmon, Paul Johnson, L. Farmer, Ian Duffy, J. Rahman, J. Dance, David Allen, R. Williams, A. Bond, Doug Seeburg, S. Fisher, T. Campbell, Adrian West, B. Richards, N. Porter, G. Wheeler, P. Purcell, N. Beard, D. Lawson. David Hunt (he died aged 21), Chris Dindar, Ian McCann, S. Wainwright, M. Chowes.

Should any player have slipped through the rigged safety net then the Author is deeply sorry and accepts sole responsible for any omissions.

The 2014 Champions Captained by David J. (Harters) Hartley.



2014 Champion's Captain David J. (Harters) Hartley.

The 2014 Champions year was Captained by David J. (Harters) Hartley. He and his Cricket Chairman for the last two years are the Club's two most Influential Characters of its entire History.

A Lineage/Link of the Reading Cricket Club from 1823 to 2014.

Never was it a conscious decision to make available a direct descent from the Reading Cricket Club's Original Founding Fathers to the present day. It was only after assembling many hundreds of cricketers names over a period of nearly two hundred years that in its 2014 Championship year did a Lineage become a justifiable contribution.

It was Jefferson Jones who on the 17 May 2014 when talking about old times whilst walking around the lovely old Chesham cricket ground that the Author happened (as the Author often does) began to baptise him in the ancient history of the Reading Cricket Club. This Club Cricket baptism introduction suddenly triggered Jefferson's fertile cricket brain for he unexpectedly and suddenly recalled that he had placed much cricket memorabilia high in the Clock Tower at Sonning Lane during the late 1980s move from the Kennsington Road Cricket Ground.

The following week the ever willing workhorse, Jack Beaven, climbed up into the Club's Clock Tower and safely returned with a number of long lost and battered Cardboard Boxes. There was score sheets that were mostly for the Sunday Second elevens' from about 1970 to the 1990s. Amongst other treasures were a number of old, faded and damaged photographs. Thankfully they were able to be saved, enhanced and re framed. The lost pictures were also placed in the Author's Computer for the eventual display in the Cricket Clubs 2014 splendid web site.

It is a documented fact that the undermentioned named players were all participating for the Reading Cricket Club both before and beyond the 1860s because their names unquestionably appear on the extant score sheets displayed on pages 9 and 10 of this history. A Few of these ancient players are more than likely our "Original Founding Forefathers". There names are:-

Mr. Almack, Rev. N. I. Baldrey, Mr. Beal, Mr. W. Bryn, Mr. Cobham, Mr. Cocks, Mr. C. Collins, Mr. F Crowder, Mr. Educy, Capt. Fortune, Mr. I. Hargreavs, Mr. N. Hawkins, Mr. G. Hayward, Mr. N. L. Hunter, Mr. Lowsley, Mr. Ormsby, Rev. W. Powys, Mr. G. H. Russel, Mr. J. Simmons.

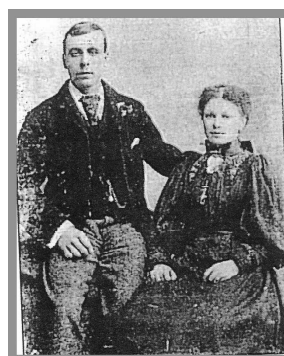
A few of those 1860s players listed above could have been in their fifties or more and therefore it follows that they might have been playing cricket alongside some of our 1823 founding Forefathers who were still playing in the 1840s. Indeed it is a distinct possibility that a few players aged sixty plus and still playing in the 1860s could be those self same members who had the good sense and foresight to establish in 1823 the Reading Cricket Club. Either way the Lineage or Link, call it what you will, is established.

While it is true that our Original Founding Forefathers would have been by the 1870s in their seventies and therefore likely to have been restricted to administrative chores; but it should never be forgotten that, of more recent times, Pat Brooks, Bill Stokes, Guy Dexter and Ray Wood to name just a few of our splendid club members all played good cricket after their seventieth birthday.

Henry Creswick Fuggle was not, like his Son Henry Campbell Fuggle, a Reading Cricket Club Captain but nevertheless he did play for the Club for a good many years. (see page 25 to 26 (**Henry Campbell Fuggle: A pre 1900 Captain and Player**)).



Henry Creswick Fuggle the Father of
Henry Campbell Fuggle.



Henry Creswick Fuggle &
his Wife Hannah.

Henry Creswick Fuggle's, playing days were in the 1870s through to the late 1880s and possibly into the early 1890s. He clearly would have been on speaking terms with most of those named players of the 1860s and it is likely that he would have been acquainted with a few of our 1823 seventy year old Original Founding Fathers.

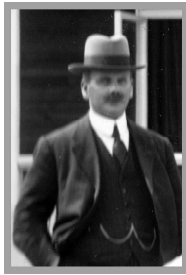
From about the late 1880s to the First World War the Reading Cricket Club was captained by Mr. H. R. Willisom, Mr. H. C. McCormack, Mr. A. W. Carter and Mr. Henry Campbell Fueggle. If the Australian, Mr. Rodger Baker, is to be believed then Mr. Henry Campbell Fueggle Captained the Reading Cricket Club in the late 1890s and early 1900s.

Mr. Rodger Baker, wrote to the Author and proudly stated that Mr. Henry Campbell Fueggle's Grandmother played the piano and sang songs of that period in the Cricket Clubhouse for its members after Club games and at all other club social events. **(see pages 25 to 26 Henry Campbell Fueggle: A pre 1900 Captain and Player)**. This suggests that these entertaining delights would have taken place sometime between 1880 and 1914 and performed in the Pavilion of Mr. Howard Palmer's Kensington Road Cricket Ground.

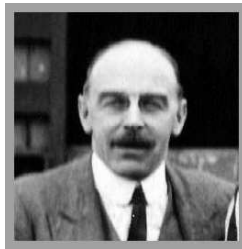
As already documented Mr. H. R Willison Captained the Reading Cricket Club in the late 1880s (He was also the Club's Secretary for many pre first World one years) and he was followed by Mr. H. C. McCormack through to the mid 1890s. It was then that Mr. Henry Campbell Fueggle took over the reigns of the Reading Cricket Club which was to last for a period either side of the year 1900.

It is not clear if Mr. Henry Campbell Fueggle's Father ever played alongside his Son but what is clear is that he (his Father) played alongside the gentlemen depicted below and that there is no doubt whatsoever that Mr. Henry Campbell Fueggle was for a period of that time their revered captain until around the early 1900s.

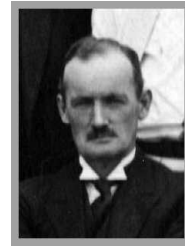
After 1900 until the Great War the Reading Cricket Club was captained by Mr. A. W. Carter, Mr. W. Senior V. Stokes, and Mr. H. A. D. Bartlett. Their descending captaincy order and durations is open to speculation.



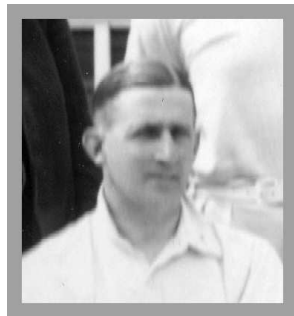
Mr. H. C.
McCormack Pre
1914 Player &
Captain.



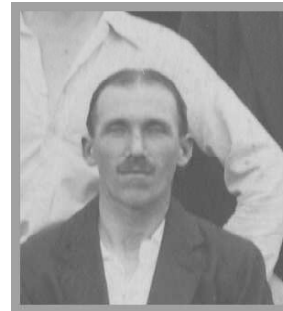
Mr. H. R. Willison Pre
1914 Player, Captain
& Secretary.



Mr. A. W.
Carter Pre 1914
Player, Captain
& President.



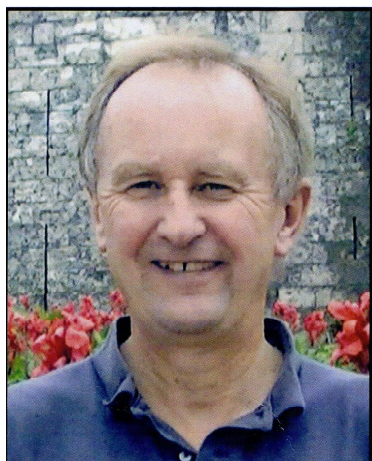
Mr. W.V. (Senior) Stokes.
A pre 1914 Player, Twice
Captain & Father of Mr. D.
W. (Bill) Stokes.



Mr. H. A. D. Bartlett pre
1914 Reading Player. A
Victorian Gentleman and
thrice Club Captain.

Deaths of Mervyn Edward Myers, John Roger Tovey, Joseph Mence and his Son Michael.

Below is Mervyn's Obituary as it appeared in the Wednesday's Reading Post dated 9 April 2014. It is true that David Hunt died suddenly just prior to his twenty first Birthday but other than him no other member immediately comes to mind who died as relatively young as Mervyn.



Mervyn Edward Myers was born on the 27 January 1954 and died 16 March 2014 aged 60 years. A former Reading Cricket Club player and official died following a brave fight against cancer. Club supporter and historian Allan Gooch said: "Mervyn was blessed with a cheerful character which spread not only through the teams he played with, but through the whole Club.

Mervyn a proud Yorkshireman graduated at Cambridge before moving to Reading in the late 1970s. He played for the club for two decades and also served on Club committees.

During his playing days he was affectionately known as "Merv the Swerve". He took countless wickets and often made useful runs as a lower-order batsman. Many of his former club colleagues were among the funeral service which took place at Tilehurst Methodist Church.

John Roger Tovey dies at age of 91.

It was just two month's later that the Death (9 May 2014) of John Roger Tovey was reported. John was born at High Wycombe in 1922

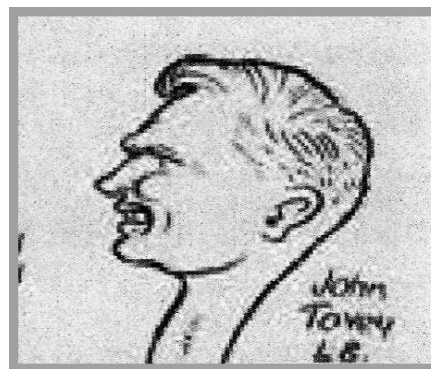
and was educated at Cranleigh School.

He played for the Buckinghamshire County Cricket Club in 1939. After the War he represented the Berkshire County Cricket Club from 1947 to 1961 and was Capped in 1948. John was also a splendid Hockey player and regularly represented the County of Berkshire at right back.

John Tovey played both Cricket and Hockey for the Reading Cricket and Hockey club for almost four decades and also presided for 7 years (1977 to 1983) as its Club President.



J. R. Tovey



Caricature of John Tovey

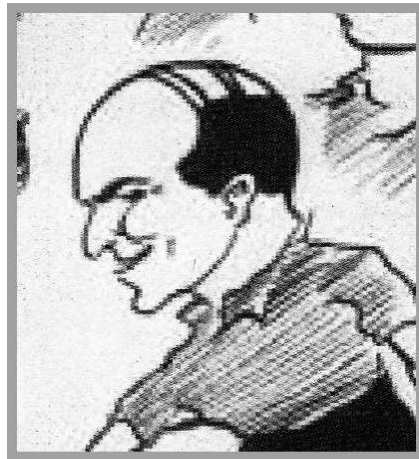
During his cricketing career he would ferociously drive a cricket ball through the Covers and the proverbial V leaving many a prudent fieldsman waving it on its way to the boundary rather than risk a hand or finger injury. He was also a fierce hitter of a Hockey Ball on Grass Pitches and it is speculative how his aggressive hitting would have been accommodated on today's (2014) rapid All Weather Courts?

Joseph (Joe) and his Son Michael Mence.

Joseph (Joe) Mence was born in the year 1921 and died 12 May 2014 at the splendid age of 93 years. He made 134 appearances for the Berkshire County Cricket Club between the years 1946 to 1965; skippering the side in 1954 and 1955. He was the last surviving member of the 1953 championship winning side.

It was the Club's President, Mr John Miller, together with one of the many esteemed Club friends, Peter Watts, who let it be known that Joe Mence was for many years the highly regarded Estate Manager for The Lord & Lady Iliffe's Yattendon and Basilden Park Estates.

Three days later 15 May 2014 it was announced that his son Michael Mence died at the age of 70 years. Michael was born at Newbury in the year 1944 and he was educated at Bradfield College. Following in his Father's footsteps Michael also represented the Berkshire Cricket Club and made 59 appearances between the years 1961 to 1982. He was also the captain of the side in the 1976/77/78 seasons. He went on to do better than his Father for Michael played county cricket for both Gloucestershire and Warwickshire.



Caricature of Joe Mence

The talented twosome were Vice Presidents of both the Berkshire and the Reading Cricket Clubs. Both played for the Reading Cricket Club spanning a number of years.

On a visit to the Faulkland Cricket Club the Author had the pleasure of socializing with its President, Mr. Pat Neat. Amongst many other things he told me about his last visit to Yarmouth IOW where he had

arranged to meet his old friend Joe Mence at his local Pub just a few weeks before his Death. The story goes that Pat Neat and his lovely Wife were due to meet Joe about midday and when they arrived and were warmly welcomed it was noticed that Joe was already on his second Bottle. It seems Joe Mence was a hard hitting happy gentleman to the end.

2014 Champions. The Captain David (Harter's) Hartley and our Enthusiastic Cricket Club Chairman Micheal Southern.

If the first one hundred and sixty three years (1823 - 1986) history of the Reading Cricket Club produced some remarkable and irreplaceable personalities then it is also true to say that David Hartley has become just as remarkable and irreplaceable between the years of 1975 and 2014 as his predecessors.



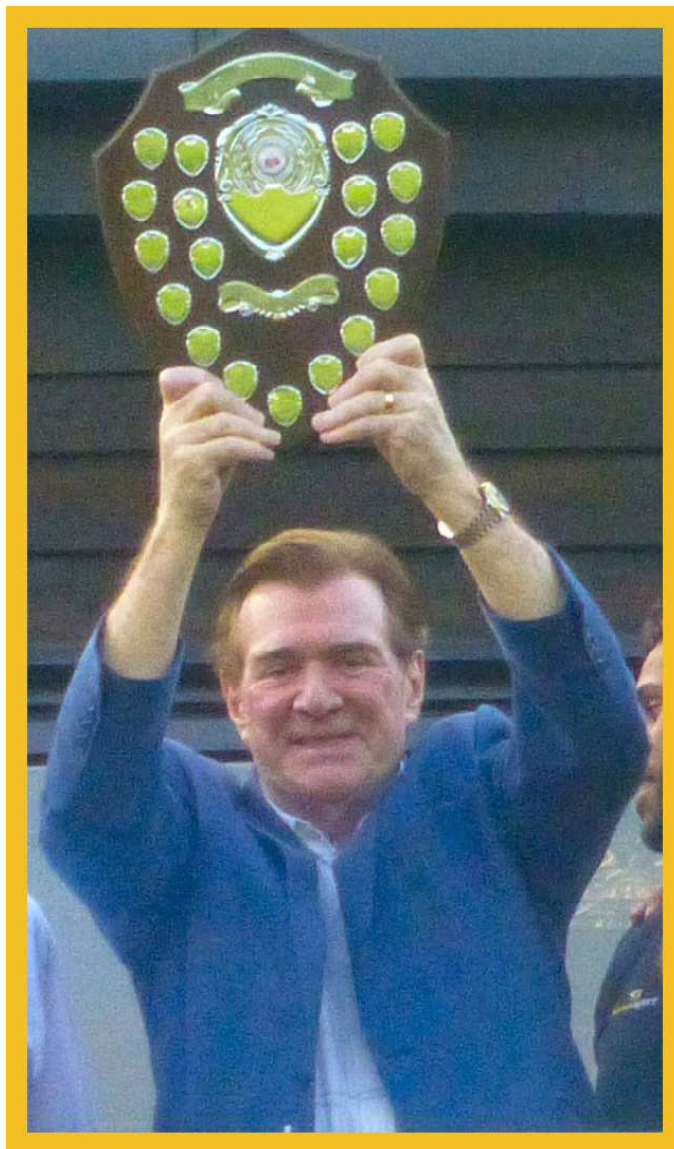
2014 Champion's Captain David J
(Harters) Hartley.

As a skinny boy of some twelve years of age David arrived at Church Road, Earley, through the good services of his chauffeuring Mother. Whilst David was showing everyone his undoubted and distinctive forthcoming abilities his Mother, who was a Teacher at the Avenue School, Reading, gracefully merged in with other social members and together with her agreeable sense of humour balanced out her young Son's somewhat likeable excesses.

For a few years David was with the Three Springs Cricket Club, Sussex, otherwise he was a regular at Reading where year after year he took countless wickets with his splendid leg-break bowling and artful half Trackers.

In 2013 London-based 51 year old David took over the Captaincy of Reading and with great verve he bonded together a largely inconsistent bunch of youngsters into a very talented side. He always had great confidence in his youngsters and sincerely believed that they all had real potential for the coming 2014 Season.

By coincident the year 2013 was the same year that our new and enthusiastic Reading Cricket Club Chairman, Micheal Southern, took over the reigns and he together with Harter's deservedly placed the Reading Cricket Club back to where it belongs - at the very top.



Cricket Club Chairman Mickeal Southern.

It was our long serving Malcom Head who originally introduced Micheal Southern to the Reading Cricket Club. He was known for many years as a generous Sponsor to the Club before he was thankfully persuaded in 2013 to accept the arduous position of the Reading Cricket Club Chairman.

During his two year tenure Micheal has worked tirelessly to rescue the Reading Cricket Club from difficult times. What is not generally known is that he has frequently come to the Cricket Club's financial rescue through the resources of his private Cheque Book. And contrary to those mischievous opinions expressed - let it be known - that Micheal's financial aid has always paid Cricket Debts and Bills - not Players.



2014 League Champions.



2014 Saeed Waheed
(Scorer).



2014 Amardeep
Dosingh.



2014 Kashif Nasim.



2014 Martin
Andersson.



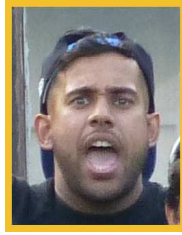
2014 Andy Rishton.



2014 (Gooches
Player of the year
) Jack Beaven.



2014 Tom Fray.



2014
(Unnatnural)
Sukhi Kang.
(W/K)



2014 (Natural) Suhhi
Kang (W/K).



2014 Champion's
Captain David J.
(Harters) Hartley



2014 Khalid (Bobby) Malik



2014 Praful Waghela.



2014 Curran Gaur. Pav Deputised for
Curran in this Game.



"2014 Curran Gaur did not play in
this Game.



2014 League Champions.



2014 League Champions.

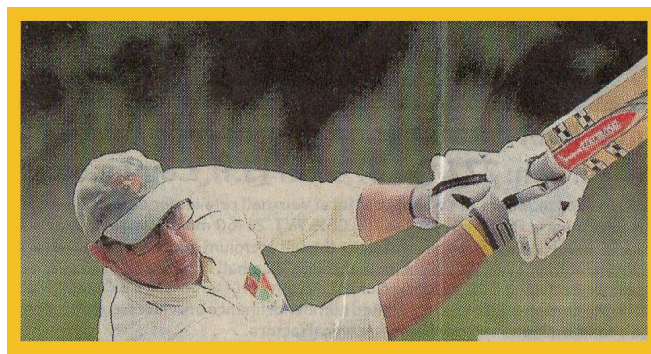


2014 Tom Fray.

Barman Abdul Waheed & Part Time Groundsman & General Factotum.

Abdul Waheed is one of many Club servants who over the years has always been taken for granted. Whenever at short notice something needs to be done and nobody is around to do the essentials ever faithful Abdul is always on hand to see the Club through a difficult and very often an embarrassing situation.

Another Club Treasure (David Scoop Wright) described Abdul in one of his many Reading Cricket Club Editorials as follows "Abdul is almost a one-man workforce at Sonning Lane. He is the type of person that no club can really do without". He simply covers all bases in a one-man show at the Reading Cricket & Hockey Club".



Abdul Waheel 2014

Abdul helps to look after the wickets and when any of the Club's sides are suddenly short of players he not only fills the vacancy at a minutes notice but more often than not makes a useful score. Afterwards off he goes to fulfill his never ending miscellaneous and Bar duties.

When the first or second eleven team's are at home it is usual to see Abdul dashing around between innings sweeping, rolling and re-marking the pitch so that the games second innings can get underway.

In spite of Abdul's irreplaceable all round efforts our Chairman, Micheal Southern, is still in great need of many more "ABDULS" during both the cricket and hockey seasons.

At the end of the Cricket season Abdul's irreplaceable all round efforts continues for our Hockey Section also appreciate what a treasure he is and gratefully employ behind the Bar and all that it entails throughout its eight month long season. As David Scoop Wright wrote (see **The industrious David (Scoop) Wright plus his donated photographs**) "he is a year long one-man show at Sonning Lane".

The Presidency of John Miller and his successor R. Geoff Ash.

That John Miller's Presidency should end in 2014 (the very year that the Reading Cricket Club should have won its League) is sad but then all good things must come to an end. This Cricket History has mentioned and also praised many of its earlier Presidents but none will leave the Presidency high office with more heart felt affection and respect than for our own John Miller.

Many of his more closer friends will, and rightly so, be elegantly eulogising all of his praiseworthy deeds and also the unfussy and gentlemanly way that he went about his often unenviable duties. On behalf of all those associated with the Reading Cricket Club the Author of this History will humbly say "Thank you John Miller for everything".

The inauguration of Mr. R. Geoff Ash our new President must also be acknowledged and the Cricket Section will wish him well in his High Office. For countless years Geoff has worked tirelessly for the Reading Cricket & Hockey Club and has taken many difficult decisions during his Club Chairmanship days.

Not all of his decisions pleased everyone but nonetheless Geoff had the courage and grace to see them through. Well done Geoff and although the Author will have passed through the Pearly Gates by the end of your exalted Presidency may he together with everyone in the the Reading Cricket Club humbly say "Thank you Geoff Ash for everything".

David Johnston Died 26 October 2014 Aged 71 Years.

David Johnston is the forth Reading Cricketer to have died in our triumphant Cricketing (2014) year. But then everything David Johnston achieved in cricketing terms was triumphant so while all at the Reading Cricket Club will mourn his passing everyone who knew him will welcome his good cricketing sense to do it in **David** Hartley's triumphant cricketing year.



A young Tony Bampton
aged about 17



Terry Bampton about
1966

It is, of course, true that the legendary Bampton Twins had already let it be known in advance that David Johnston had been unwell for some time but nonetheless when the unwelcome news came on the 31 October 2014 it was was still unwanted and unhappy news.

David the son of the legendary International and Blackpool footballer, Harry Johnston, was born at Blackpool in 1943. After his Father's football playing days were over he moved on to Reading to take up the vacant position of Club Manager of the Reading Football Club. At that time the Reading Football Club was operating at the ancient but fondly remembered Elm Park football ground.



David Johnston about 1979

That was how in the 1950s David Johnston came from Blackpool to the town of Reading. The Bampton Twins also surprised not only the Author but many other cricketers' of David's era when they revealed that David had played, as a youngster, football for the Chelsea Football Club's youth elevens. But that apart it is irrefutably true to say that David was a Cricketer and unquestionably a truly splendid cricketer for over two decades.

Many years ago, in the Author's younger days, he would visit the Reading Cricket Club on a Boxing Day Lunch time (12.00 to 1400hrs) where (and *When*) he was able to happily drink Schooners of the Harvey's Bristol Cream Sweet Sherry without any adverse effect and, at the same time, talk trivial with all of the old cricket and social members. Sometimes on these festive occasions one or maybe two cricketers of the period would make a welcome appearance.

This piece of trivia is included in David Johnston's part of this History for the good reason that with his untimely departure the Author is now the last living remnant of those long ago happy and reminiscing festive occasions.

Much has already been written about those days (see **Socializing and Snobbish Behaviour after the Second World War**). It was on one of those Boxing Day gatherings that (after our second or maybe third Schooner) David freely admitted in some detail that in his early days at the Reading Cricket Club he was allowed to play for the First Team because of who his "Old Man" was in the Town.

As we all know, with or without his "Old Man" David Johnston went on to be a magnificent cricketer and also a Legend within the Reading Cricket Club. He made 115 appearances (between 1960 to 1980) for the Berkshire Cricket Club for whom he scored 4,943 runs at an average 31.89. He also took 99 catches and with his funny Leggies he claimed one wicket.

The Author has not attempted to calculate the number of runs or catches he made for the Reading Cricket Club. Neither is he prepared

to say how many wickets he took with his funny bowling. All he is prepared to say is: David Johnston was a prolific run maker and a terrific cricketer. With his long time opening partner, Tony Bampton, they held/hold the Club's first wicket record score. A picture of this remarkable feat is displayed below.



David Johnston & Tony Bampton's huge opening score.

The Reading Cricket & Hockey Club's Membership Card.



Over the last thirty to forty years many hundreds of playing members have passed through the Club and many of these short stay member's, have been forgotten. With such a huge "New Age" turnover it is inevitably that so many of our old and long serving players of the 1950s through to the 1980s have sadly been forgotten.

This is not, of course, true of everyone, for it is certain that if our existing Veteran's applied their minds they would be able to remember some of these lovely old people that the Author has in mind. Sometime around the 1970s and 1980s the Author was fortunate enough to have known a Hockey Veteran by the name of John Anderson. For a number of years John would each week passionately record every hockey teams' result and carefully store them away at his home. It was an enormous private and unusual collection.

Resisting the Author's constant prompting John never shared his labour of love with the club. After he died his extraordinary collection died with him. John a proud Scotsman died suddenly and it was many months before the Author was told about John Anderson's (1988?) departure.

Another reason for remembering John Anderson is because he designed and introduced a Plastic Club Membership Card. He also had in mind an annual renewal procedure that he was prepared to manage alone but this likable man died before his idea and enthusiasm came to abrupt end. The reason it came to an abrupt end was because no

current member of the period was prepared to take over this useful administrative chore.

A facsimile of John Anderson's Plastic Club Membership Card is displayed at the head of this Item.