

ETON RAMBLERS

NOTICE 1987

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

	<i>Matches</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Drawn</i>	<i>Tied</i>	<i>Lost</i>	<i>Abandoned or not played</i>
1987 . . .	57	19	10	–	14	14
1986 . . .	66	13	14	–	15	24
1985 . . .	65	15	14	–	17	19

Once again we had, weatherwise, a lousy cricketing Summer, but in spite of that there was much to be pleased about in this Rambler year. First, our overall results showed an improvement on those of the two previous years: second, the number of matches “Abandoned or Not Played” dropped noticeably: third, the burdens of both batting and bowling was spread more evenly over a larger number of performers: fourth, and most cheering, new names of younger players are beginning to appear amongst those who played often and well for the Club.

The Batting Averages were headed by Mike Horsfall, John Rawlinson and Danny Russell, all with averages close to or over 50. Our most prolific scorers were Danny Russell (who scored our only century), and Simon Sudbury (15 innings), two of the younger faces already mentioned, with approximately 350 runs apiece. Andrew Bowman-Shaw, whose brother played at Lord’s this year, played 10 innings for us.

Anthony de Grey headed the Bowling averages. He has clearly got more cunning in his old age, as he only needed 69 overs for his 18 wickets: two and more years ago he was putting 200 plus overs under his belt for a not unlike reward. Our most successful wicket takers were Richard Bluett (27) and Harry Rawlinson (21), and Mervyn Dunnington-Jefferson (17) had another good year – perhaps because his catering duties have been so light for the past two years. Amongst those who bowled in less than five innings the names of Charlie Redmayne (8 for 61) and Tom Prest (9 for 113) seem to catch the eye.

This seems an appropriate place to record that only one century was scored against the Club.

The coming season will show a fixture list with four more matches. There are three deletions (temporary) and seven additions: Horsham and Hampstead (played every second year), Royal Corps of Transport is back, and there are four new fixtures against Little Durnford, Oundle Rovers, Butterflies and Old Cranleians.

CRICKETER CUP

I have to record with regret that we lost once again in the First Round, and with even deeper regret that our opponents were Harrow, playing on their own ground. The Harrow Wanderers collapsed to 102 all out, having at one time been 80 for 1. Their collapse was caused largely by Matthew Fleming who was hit for 16 in his first over, but finished with 6 for 32 in 11.5 overs. Our innings was a chapter of eccentric incidents and we fell 10 runs short with only the Captain making a reasonable contribution with 27.

In 1988 we have again drawn Harrow in the First Round, but on this occasion the encounter is at Eton on Sunday, May 29th – when hopefully we can turn the tables. Support from the boundary would be more than usually welcome.

Philip Remnant is once again to be our Captain, though he has warned us that he does not wish to continue this arduous assignment for more than a year or two more.

ETON v. HARROW

On a lovely July day with a firm wicket (all part of our very short “Summer”) the 1987 match ended in a disappointing and dull Draw.

Harrow won the toss and batted. Their opening pair De Souza Girao and Borelessa were not separated until after lunch with the score at 118. This is, I believe, a Harrovian record for an opening partnership at Lord’s, and is, therefore, I suppose a matter for congratulation, but to paraphrase the last words of Charles II, they were “an

unconscionable time a 'doing of it", and made the draw almost inevitable. At lunch the score was 102 for 0 after 35 overs – 3 runs an over: I could not help reminding myself that in 1931, when the Eton opening pair had gone into lunch still unseparated, the score was 200 not 100.

After lunch Harrow, trying to ginger up the scoring rate, started to lose wickets and slumped to 148 for 6. It was only a quickly scored and thoroughly sensible partnership of 30 between Snow and Green that enabled the Harrow Captain to declare at 4.15 p.m. on 196 for 8 after 74 overs – a testudinal performance of just over 2.5 runs per over, and, as it turned out, without the happy outcome of the fable.

The Eton bowlers had performed very steadily with Erith (4 for 70 in 25 overs) and left-hander Fleming (2 for 32 in 27 overs) the most impressive. The fielding got a little ragged towards the end of the long opening stand but improved tremendously after lunch as the wickets started to fall.

It was clear that Eton would only have 40 odd overs (44 in the event) to make the runs. They made a promising start and at tea, after 10 overs, were 40 without loss: alas, in the critical few overs after tea they became becalmed; the scoring rate fell and all hope of victory vanished. Macleay (70 not out) played much the best innings of the day, successfully combining the role of anchor-man with a reasonable scoring rate – and some lovely strokes: he was well supported by Lunt in the closing stages.

Lord's will be earlier than normal in 1988 – on Saturday, June 25th. As usual there will be a Rambler Box in the Tavern Stand, where members and their families will be welcome.

FINANCE

Our Finances seem to be in a reasonably healthy state. There was a surplus for the year of approximately £1,000 on the Income and Expenditure Account. This was due on the Income side to higher Entrance, Life Membership and Match Fees, and on the expenditure side to a fall in Cricketer Cup expenses (defeated by Harrow in Round 1 playing on their ground), and in the Taxation Charge (Hon. Treasurer overprovided in 1986).

Our finances were also helped by a legacy left to us, as his last service to the Club, by Miles de Zoete. May I commend his example to the notice of other elderly members who, like him, have enjoyed their Rambler cricket.

It was decided at our December Committee Meeting to raise the fee for compounding Life Membership and for the Annual Subscription: not because we were in immediate need of cash, but on the grounds that, at their present levels, they no longer bare any sensible relation to life in 1988. The Annual Subscription (for *future* members who wish to pay that way) goes from £1.00 p.a., to £3.00 p.a. The fee to compound Life Membership rises from £25.00 to £35.00. The Entrance Fee remains at £15.00.

OBITUARY

I have to record that 17 Ramblers have died during the year, two of whom played a great deal of Rambler cricket in their time – Ralph Cobbold and Miles de Zoete.

Major R. H. Cobbold was three years (1923–5) in the XI: he made a century against Harrow in 1923, a century against Winchester in 1924 and was Captain of the XI in 1925. He got a Blue at Cambridge, but never played serious first class cricket. He was a fine all round games player, a very good, if somewhat mercurial shot and a keen fisherman. After War Service, he spent most of his working life in the Wine Trade, ending up as Managing Director of Justerini & Brooks. He was an extrovert and gregarious person with a mass of friends: always full of fun and good stories, and not infrequently the subject of a good story himself.

M. H. de Zoete was a much respected and much loved man. He laid no claim to intellectual eminence, but was full of common sence, honour, charm and humour, and was the fifth generation of his family to become Senior Partner of the firm of Stockbrokers which bore his name – de Zoete & Gorton, a position which he held with distinction.

He was in the XI of 1926 and made a splended 73 at Lord's, one of the best exhibitions of golf on the cricket field that I have seen. He spent one year at Cambridge before deciding that the City would suit him better. He played some minor County Cricket for Hertfordshire and a great deal of Club cricket, of which the Ramblers got their fair share. He was an even better golfer than cricketer, and a fine shot: in his later years he became, I am told, a good fisherman.

He had one gift, amongst many others, that I envied. He did everything at his own speed – rather slowly, but he never seemed to be under pressure and although it often seemed as though he was going to be late, he usually, in some miraculous manner got to the desired place on time.

J. H. Nevinson was the fast bowler in the XIs of 1928 (the year of a wonderful Eton victory at Lord's) and 1929. He was slight of build and did it all as the result of a very good action. Surprisingly he achieved little success later: he did not get a Blue at Oxford, and after a few disappointing matches for Middlesex in 1933 played no further first class cricket. He turned out from time to time for the Ramblers, but most of his Post War working life was with the John Lewis Partnership, and the attractions of the Cricket Ground at their agreeable Country Club on the banks of the Test proved too strong.

Lt. Col. Angus Mackinnon D.S.O., M.C., T.D. was a well known and respected figure in the City, and during the War a gallant and successful amateur soldier. After Eton and Oxford he started his career in Calcutta with his family firm, but after the War joined Brown Shipley, of which he subsequently became Chairman. He was also Chairman of the Australia and New Zealand Banking Corporation during the difficult time when the Head Office was being moved from London to Australia: he held many other Directorships and appointments and was for twenty five years connected with the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital.

He was a Territorial Officer before the War and apart from a stint in mid-War on Auchinleck's staff spent the rest of it as a fighting soldier with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, with whom he won an M.C., in 1940 and the D.S.O., in 1944.

He was a man of some reserve, and it took a little time to get to know him. Once admitted to his confidence there was much to enjoy: high standards, integrity, generosity, a good dry sense of humour and a practical and independent way of thought – perhaps his habit of wearing braces with his kilt was an example of this.

At an unreasonably early age we have lost A. M. K. Meysey-Thompson who was in the XI of 1967 when his name was Russell-Scarr. On leaving Eton he spent a short time in the Greenjackets before moving to Yorkshire, where, on changing his name, he took over a family Estate. He became a regular player during our Yorkshire Tour, often had players to stay and entertained us splendidly after our match at Harrogate each year. He was a fearsome hitter of spinners and had a wonderful pair of hands in the outfield.

In these days of types, mass-this and mass-that, the agreeable eccentric whose ideas, likes and habits are his own is to be applauded: R. N. Stephenson Clarke was surely one of them. When he succeeded to the family house he acquired a cricket ground (built by his grandfather) where he devoted his energies and enthusiasm for cricket to the promotion of village cricket in Sussex. For a number of years the Ramblers had a fixture there. He himself played well into his fifties being a medium paced leg-break bowler off the wrong foot (no mean physical feat – try it!) and on occasions a punishing No. 8 batsman.

He was an authority on the English and French Railway Systems, and he made himself (from scratch) a leading figure in the world of breeding Rhododendrons and Azaleas. Shortly after the War he produced a privately printed guide to the more exotic Paris restaurants of the day, having done tremendous research into the personal histories and family background of the proprietors and their staff – a work which was much in demand in the gastronomic world of France.

His rather tragic death seems somehow appropriate to his life: he was on a life-support machine at the time of the Great Hurricane of last October and when the power for the machine went, he went with it.

M. H. Farebrother was the leading bowler of the 1938 XI – fastish left-hand. The War restricted him to one year at Oxford, so thoughts of a Blue disappeared and after the War he played a little Club Cricket – mainly, I think, for the Arabs. He became a Schoolmaster and was from 1956–82 Headmaster of St. Peter's, Seaford, where his brother, a Housemaster at Malvern joined him in 1968. He had, I believe, the unusual privilege of reading his own obituary: the 1945 Wisden mistakenly reported him as having been killed in Italy in 1944.

Our oldest casualty this year was Major G. H. Barrington-Chance, C.B.E., who died in his 94th year. He was in the XI of 1912 and was top of the bowling averages. He played once for Hampshire in 1913, but after World War I he played no first class cricket. He was a very loyal Rambler: the 1986 Dinner being the first at which he could have been present

but was not. He wrote to me regularly every year after the appearance of the Notice in an exceptionally beautiful and legible hand. He remained active in business and drove himself everywhere until very near his death. When he was over 90 he was involved in some very minor road accident. He had to appear before the magistrates, who absolved him from blame, but decreed that in view of his age, if he wanted to go on driving, he must take the Driving Test: he passed with flying colours.

As usual we have lost some Ramblers who made their mark in fields other than that of cricket. Lord Soames P.C., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., C.H., C.B.E., was Politician, Minister, Ambassador in Paris, Governor of Southern Rhodesia in the last year of its existence under that name, leader of the House of Lords and son-in-law to Winston Churchill: also Director of many companies.

Viscount Trenchard, M.C., survived with distinction being the son of a famous father. He was a War time Greenjacket and then went into industry, joining the Unilever empire, enjoying in due course considerable success. He took time off for a four year stint as Minister of State and then returned to business. He was a delightful man, and was an ardent and expert fisherman: he was deeply involved in the affairs of the Endesleigh Fishing Club on the Tamar.

The Marquess of Linlithgow, M.C., T.D., was one of a pair of (physically) unidentical twins. He was tall, rather heavily built and a cricketer (XXII): his brother John was rather slight and a half miler of great class. Linlithgow served in the Scots Guards in the War, most of which he spent as a prisoner: he was one of the "notables" who had the misfortune to find their way to Colditz. After the War he earned his livelihood as a stockbroker, but his interest was in Public Affairs in Scotland: he was Lord Lieutenant of West Lothian at the time of his death. He was a companionable and humorous man with great gifts of mimicry.

Sir Vivyan Naylor-Leyland Bt. was in the 1942 XI. Always an enthusiastic and skilful horseman, after the war he caught the polo bug, and his appearances on the Rambler field – sometimes arriving in his own aeroplane – were all to infrequent.

Finally, I think I should make mention of someone who, though an O.E., was not a Rambler, but to whom the Ramblers owe a debt of gratitude – THE EARL OF CARNAVON. For many years we have played a match against a team bearing his son's name and on the cricket field in his grounds. We are grateful for the past and hope that this agreeable tradition will continue.

SUNDRY

1. Forty years ago Lord Home of The Hirsel, as he now is, started the Border Week. To mark this occasion there was this year an extra match, a party at The Hirsel and a small presentation to Alec Home from the Club and some Rambler friends. It was a successful week on and off the field. Our thanks are due to Edward Douglas-Home who has been Match Manager of the week for 36 years, to Harry Rawlinson, joint Match Manager for the first time this year, upon whom fell the main burden of raising the side and finally to David Barnes who played an unsung but critical part in the administration of the week and organised the presentation.
2. Eton undertook their first overseas cricket tour at Christmas to Hong Kong and Australia. The party consisted of two 1987 colours who have now left and the fourteen boys who will be the basis for the 1988 XI. Of the nine games scheduled two were rained off but cricket was played in Hong Kong, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. Of the seven games five limited over contests were lost and the two declaration games were drawn. Despite extenuating circumstances, the results were thus a little disappointing, but there is no doubt of the enormous benefits in experience that should have been gained.

FLOREAT ETONA

J. N. HOGG, President