

# ETON RAMBLERS

## NOTICE 1989

### RESULTS AND STATISTICS

	<i>Matches</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Drawn</i>	<i>Tied</i>	<i>Lost</i>	<i>Abandoned or not played</i>
1989 . . .	54	21	11	—	18	4
1988 . . .	61	15	13	—	16	17
1987 . . .	57	19	10	—	14	14

The glorious weather of 1989 spurred the Ramblers to spectacular efforts, and the results, both collectively and individually, were on the whole better than for many years past, and in one case an all time record. The 21 victories is a splendid result, all the more so because our fixture list has been shortened, mainly owing to the lamented disappearance of the Border Week. Not a single match was lost to the weather. The 4 matches 'Not Played' were all cancellations, two by us and two by our opponents; all, however, has been amicably settled and the matches renewed for 1990.

The hard wickets suited our batsmen and our top three performers, Rory Macleay, Michael Brooks and Danny Russell each had averages of over 50. Rory MacLeay's average of 109.88 is, I think, an all time record for a 'proper' average, as is his feat of scoring 6 centuries. Buns Cartwright scored 5 centuries in 1933, and four other people have, at various times, scored 4 each. The last time we had an average of 100 plus was in 1980, when Victor Cazalet reached 134, but in only 5 innings including 3 times Not Out. Rory's aggregate of 879 runs is the best for some ten years, but does not quite match James Leonard's 884 in 1978 – but James played 17 more innings. David Barber (twice) and Buns (once) have each scored over 1000 runs, but at averages of around 40. May we therefore congratulate Rory on an outstanding all-round performance: may he do even better in 1990!

Other highlights on the batting scene: – amongst those who batted 2–4 innings there were 5 who averaged over 50, and Matt Fleming, who was only able to turn out for us once, made 85, but importantly in the First Round of The Cricketer Cup against Charterhouse.

There were 14 centuries scored for the Club (including Rory MacLeay's aforementioned 6): though highly creditable this is not as good as the 17 scored in 1933. Centuries against totalled 9 – 6 of them in three matches!

The bowling pattern in 1989 differed markedly from that in 1988. For the former year the four top wicket takers each got between 20–25 wickets: in 1989 Tom Parnell (one of the four in 1988) was way out ahead with 44 wickets to his credit in 292 overs, with Andy Watt (again one of the four in 1988) as proxime accessit with 29 wickets in 108 overs, and Robert Peel, heading the averages at 12.90, third with 20 wickets.

Amongst those who bowled in fewer than 5 innings mention should be made of Philip de Lisle, who only turned out for us once, but in 20 overs (7 maidens) got 6 wickets for 52 runs. Rather surprisingly in a very dry summer Ramblers bowlers achieved two hat tricks – Tom Parnell v. Dorset Rangers, and Simon Sudbury v. Broomhills.

The programme for 1990 at present amounts to 51 matches, and includes the welcome return of the Marlborough Blues.

### HON ASSISTANT SECRETARY

For some time I have been urging our Hon Secretary to find himself an Assistant. His eye has lighted on William Russell, who has agreed to take the post, and was duly elected at last December's Committee meeting. I give him a warm welcome and am confident that he will do us an excellent job.

### CRICKETER CUP

Once again we failed to survive the Second Round. Having performed very well to beat Charterhouse Friars in the First Round, we were outplayed in the Second by Oundle Rovers, who then went on to win the competition for the second year running.

Playing at Charterhouse, we chose to bat, and our veteran (relatively) opening pair of Johnny Barclay (70 – runs, not age) and Peter Lowndes (28) gave us an excellent start. The good work was continued by Matt Fleming (85) in his best form and Michael Brooks (35). We reached 270 for 5 in our allotted span, the highest total, I believe, ever achieved by the Ramblers in this competition.

Charterhouse started badly losing a wicket in the first over to an exceptional catch at second slip by Johnny Barclay, and a second wicket in the second over. They never recovered; the wickets fell regularly thereafter and they were all out for 158 runs. Johnny Barclay and Andy Watt, with 4 and 3 wickets respectively were the most successful bowlers.

The Oundle Rovers were the most professional (in the nicest sense of that word) side that I have seen in some years of watching Cricketer Cup matches. They were the product of much winter practice in Oundle's indoor cricket complex, and also of having played together as a side in several matches before the Competition. We were put in to bat on a stinking hot day and were dismissed for 100 runs in 40 overs. The first wicket fell at 18, and the last wicket put on 44, largely due to an excellent 52 by Michael Brooks, who showed that with a mixture of caution and intelligent aggression something could be done with the bowling. Oundle bowled 14 maidens in our innings, while Edwards, their most successful bowler, had 8 maidens (of the 14) in his stint and got 4 wickets for 5 runs. Oundle had little difficulty in getting the runs for the loss of 2 wickets.

In 1990 we are to play away in the First Round against the Old Cholmeleians at Highgate on Saturday, June 3rd – the first time that these two sides have ever met in the Cricketer Cup. As always, Rambler support on the boundary would be much appreciated.

Johnny Barclay has again agreed to be our Captain. In spite of our mauling this year at the hands of Oundle, there is no doubt that we put into the field in this competition a much better and more competent side that we did, say, five years ago.

#### *ETON v. HARROW*

On arrival at Lord's I was delighted to see that the pitch for the contest was right in the middle of the Square. I thought that this might be due to the fact that the President at that time of MCC was a Rambler, or even possibly that some percipient eye at Lord's had noticed a passing comment on this subject in Dick Southby's Obituary in the 1988 Rambler Notice. However, subsequent enquiry of that 'Fount of All Knowledge', The Headmaster, proved that I was wrong on both counts. Apparently the Groundsman had been watering the Square in the already dry summer, and had temporarily overlooked the fact that water tends to run downhill, so that the 'normal' (in recent years) Eton v. Harrow pitch, right on the edge of the Square nearest the Tavern, was too wet for the occasion. We got the strip where England and Australia had battled in the Texaco Limited Overs match two days before.

Writing in the O.E.A. report for 1988, John Claughton, reviewing the cricket in 1988 and peering into the crystal ball for 1989, said "Perhaps we might even bat first at Lord's and set a target for Harrow to chase. But there is no justification for criticising Harrow for failing to do that until we have done it ourselves". Well, we failed: Eton batted first and very slowly, and had, therefore, to declare late; then had neither the time nor the bowlers to get Harrow out. Having said that, there were a number of excellent individual feats on both sides.

Harrow won the toss and fielded. Bignell and Lush began in promising fashion and after 45 minutes had scored 43 without loss. Then either one or sometimes both batsmen seemed to lose the ability to score; some nice strokes were made, but to a fieldsman, and in the next hour only 23 runs were scored. Lunch was taken at 108 for 0 after 135 minutes. This was only marginally better than the 102 for 0 by Borelessa and De Souza for Harrow in 1987, but a very long way short of the 202 for 0 achieved by Allen and Hotchkin for Eton in 1931.

After lunch, when quick scoring was clearly necessary in order to get the match back on the rails, runs still came at a funereal pace – 15 runs in 30 minutes for the loss of Bignell and St George. Just as Martin and Morgan looked as though they might be getting going, Morgan was run out, and it was left to Martin to supply the aggression so badly needed. He was eventually out for 71, victim of a really magnificent running and one-handed catch by Raper at deep mid-on. Eton eventually declared shortly before 4pm on 226 for 5 off 73 overs. Edlin (3 wickets) was the most successful Harrow bowler; Raper looked to me the man most likely to get a wicket, but in fact did not do so. The Harrow fielding was not quite of their usual high standard. The Eton batting was stylish but lacked punch, and the running between the wickets (particularly of the short single) was only very moderate.

Harrow with the prospect of only some 50 plus overs to get the runs, started confidently but without urgency. In the 80 minutes before the first wicket fell 64 runs had been scored. It was not until the Eton spin bowlers (Fleming and Chetwood) came on that things began to happen; two wickets fell

at 64, another at 88, and two more at 98. This was the moment of breakthrough, but it did not happen. Hill and Jarett did not 'flap', but it looked as though Eton did. Frequent rather pointless (to me) changes of bowling, and much discussion on the placing of a not very hostile field took the pressure off Harrow, who survived without difficulty to a total of 171 for 6, and another not very exciting draw.

Chetwood (4 wickets) and Fleming (2 wickets) were the best and only successful bowlers. Chetwood bowled very well indeed, and Fleming well, but not as well as in 1988. The Eton fielding and throwing were good; the field placing too kindly to the opposition.

The Ramblers will again have a Box in 1990 for the benefit and entertainment of Club Members and their families or friends. The date of the match is once again too early – Saturday, June 9th.

### *FINANCE*

The accounts for the year contain no horrors or surprises. A modest overall surplus of £60 is the result a surplus of income of £459 on the Cartwright Legacy Fund over a deficit of £399 on our General Income and Expenditure Account. It was agreed that the Match Fee could be held at its present level for another year, but that it might be necessary to consider an increase in 1991.

The most gratifying feature of our finances for the year has been an entirely unexpected and generous legacy from a Rambler – Major N V Johnstone, DSO, who had spent the last years of his life in South Africa. The legacy of 100,000 SA Rands (approximately £15,000 if we brought the money to the UK) has been given to us with the object of subsidising future Rambler tours to South Africa. These tours have been such a success in the past that it may not be overlong before we can reasonably go again.

### *RAMBLER DINNER*

May I remind all and sundry that 1990 is the year of our Dinner – to be held on Thursday October 25th at the Savoy Hotel. The speakers will be The Rt Hon Sir Anthony Lloyd PC, DL, who will propose the Toast "Cricket and The Ramblers", and Field Marshal The Lord Bramall GCB, OBE, MC who will reply. A further Notice and Application Form for tickets will come out about the end of July. Please put the date in your diaries now. I hope that in the year in which Eton celebrates the Five Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Foundation of The College the turn out will be a particularly good one.

### *OBITUARY*

By mid October I thought that there was going to be remarkably few deaths to record, but the last months of the year brought an unwelcome rush. I have 9 Ramblers to mention, and 1 Honorary Rambler.

**Sir G O B Allen CBE, TD** Gubby Allen who died in December aged 87 was undoubtedly Eton's most outstanding contribution to the world of cricket – both as player and administrator – since the 4th Lord Harris. Three years in the Eton XI (1919–1921), two years in the Cambridge XI, many years playing as a half time amateur for Middlesex, 25 Test Matches, Captain of England against India, Australia and West Indies. On one or other MCC Committee from 1932–88, President of MCC in 1963, Treasurer of MCC 1964–76. What a record; one might say "What a love affair"!

He was lucky, in fact, to play for anybody. At the age of six he was booked to travel with his parents from Australia, where he was born, to England. For some reason they transferred to a later ship. The first ship was lost with all hands – she simply disappeared somewhere in the Indian Ocean.

In so far as one can judge from a little distance, Gubby's success was due to his tremendous application – on and off the field – his rock-like firmness when he had decided that this or that was right, and, dare I say it, the fact that he was a true amateur. He played less than half the season for Middlesex, but was good enough to be always welcome. He was a Stockbroker by profession and his livelihood did not depend on his cricket; therefore any judgement that he made, or position that he took was not influenced by his pocket. To those who think that Jardine and his body line bowling in 1932–3 was the first step on the downward path to bouncers, intimidation, head helmets and all the stuff that is now so familiar, Gubby's refusal to bowl body line on that tour looks even more right now than perhaps it did then.

It is hardly surprising that Gubby did not find too much time available for Rambler cricket. I remember playing with him perhaps half a dozen times in the years just before the War, and when his first class days were over he returned to occasional Rambler cricket. In 1952 he made three centuries for us, (I think in successive innings) – the last when he was a few days short of his 50th Birthday. As a Rambler he wished to be regarded as a batsman, and was, I remember reluctant to bowl. I remember, too, his manners on the field; there was nothing of the Test-Cricketer-come-slumming-in-Club-Cricket



about him. He was unobtrusive, unassertive – in so far as he ever could be – and alert. He didn't hold forth, and he was kind and encouraging to those younger and less talented than himself – a characteristic that remained with him all his life.

**D Lomax CBE** Derek Lomax was the wicket keeper and a middle order bat in the XI's of 1925–26. He went on to Magdalen, Oxford where he gained both a Blue and a Degree, which made him perfect raw material for the Sudan Civil Service, which he joined, in the Legal Department, in 1929. When Sudan gained its independence he became, for a short while, Legal Adviser to King Idris of Libya, and then the Legal Adviser to the Kuwait Oil Company. He retired to Majorca.

One of the advantages of life in the Sudan Civil Service was the 3 months or so leave to which everyone was entitled in the Sudanese hot weather (or English Summer). So both before and after the War Derek was home playing quite a bit of Rambler (and other) cricket. He was an immensely fit man so that he was a welcome and useful performer until his fifties. He was also no mean performer on the tennis court and was, I believe, for many years the winner of the Annual Tennis Championship in Khartoum.

He was a reserved and somewhat shy man who lacked the outgoing qualities of his nephew Ian. However behind the shell there was, when one got to know him, great kindness and a nice quirky little sense of fun.

**Sir John Reiss BEM** John Reiss was one of those Ramblers who was a much better player after he had left Eton than when 'in statu pupillari'. I don't think he had a cricket colour, but he had a great love for the game, and this combined with his natural determination made him an effective cricketer. His family came from Cheshire and he was a regular performer in the Cheshire Weeks which used to be such a delightful feature of the Rambler calendar. He was a goodish in-swing bowler, rather surprisingly, because he was a tall, awkward, rather top-heavy man, who did not look any sort of athlete. However, he took wickets.

He never went to University, but joined his family firm almost straight from Eton. He had a quick succession of jobs in the difficult times of the early thirties until he joined Associated Portland Cement (now Blue Circle Industries) in 1934; he stayed with them for the rest of his working life and was Chairman from 1957–74. Even at that stage he would occasionally turn out for them on the Company cricket field, and was often there as a spectator.

He was, as I said, a man of great determination leavened with a good sense of humour and a dry wit, which was emphasized by a slight impediment of speech. He was a good friend, and I suspect could be as good an enemy. Outside his main business life he became actively involved with Aims of Industry and Cancer Research. His first marriage was to one delightful actress (Ambrosine Philpotts); between them they produced another (Amanda Reiss).

**N G D Proudlock** Nigel Proudlock died in November aged only 64 and was one of a small band of entrepreneurial industrialist Etonians who, by a combination of astuteness, determination and ability, made a success of both their business and sporting activities.

Nigel was in the Eton XI in 1942 and 1943 as a very quick, very mean and, dare one say it, occasionally erratic opening bowler. His fielding was always excellent, his middle order batting competent and his appealing loud. His agreement with the umpire whether on the field or the balcony at Lords was rare!

After Eton Nigel joined the Fleet Air Arm. He played golf (Handicap 2) for the Navy and cricket for the Combined Services for whom, so good had his batting become, he went in No 3. On leaving the Navy Nigel founded his own hi-tech engineering company which, after various vicissitudes connected with the demise of several aircraft companies, he rebuilt with great courage and later sold to BICC.

Nigel believed that only wimps went to bed before breakfast. His friends will remember many Rambler matches, when he was a match manager, v. Rickling Green CC, of which he was Chairman, when his loyalty could be doubted, as the chances of a win were destroyed by the pre-match parties given by him and Betty at their home in Old Harlow.

Nigel's kindness, enthusiasm and generosity will be sorely missed and one can only hope that he has re-joined his old friends Ken Boles and David (Boots) Norton, and has once again become a member of the 'The Three Buccaneers'.

**P B Powell AFC** Pat Powell's contribution to cricket was interest and enthusiasm rather than expertise. He was a late entrant into the Ramblers where his chief claim to fame is that he produced for us two delightful and active Rambler sons – Bruce and Martin.

At University, bitten by the flying bug in the early 1930's, he joined the Air Squadron and was a qualified pilot by the time the War started. He did two years as a Bomber Pilot, won an AFC, and then at the huge age of 31 was considered too old for further flying duties, and spent the rest of the war training others to fly.



He worked from 1933–77 in the family Stockbroking Firm – the last ten years as Senior Partner. He was Master of the Haberdasher's Company in 1974, and for many years on the Board of Governors of two of the Haberdashers Schools. He was also a Trustee of Treloar College.

Major N V Johnstone DSO is the benefactor already referred in the Finance section. He was one of those Ramblers, who, although a keen cricketer, had no opportunity to play for the Club. From Eton he went to Sandhurst and the Indian Army (3rd Carbineers, later amalgamated with 25th Dragoons). With them he took part in the Burma campaign and in 1944 was severely wounded in the Battle of Arakan (where he got his D.S.O.).

He left the Army after Korea, trained as a School Master and came to South Africa, finally ending up as Second Master of the Ridge School in Johannesburg, where he organised and coached the cricket. After retiring from teaching he became a 1st Class Umpire, and his final post was as PA to Dr Ali Bacher of the South African Cricket Union.

He was regarded, I am told, as a stern but respected disciplinarian by his pupils: his close friends found him a humble, courteous and considerate man.

This seems the proper place to make mention of our Honorary Rambler – W G Bowles. Bill was Groundsman at Eton for about 50 years (1936–84) and was responsible for what is probably the largest turfed area in Britain. A tall and dignified man, nothing ever seemed to put him in a flap, and he was never one to say that because of rain one of his precious pitches could not be used. He was upright of character and forthright of speech. In 1934 he was the moving spirit in founding the Institute of Groundsmanship. (£1 each from himself and about a dozen other groundsman), which now has offices in Milton Keynes and its own technical magazine.

He was a very good friend to the Ramblers, and I like to think that making him an Honorary Member gave him as much pleasure as anything else in his life. He has been kind enough to leave the Ramblers a small legacy "as a gesture of appreciation for their kindness to me over many years".

As usual, there are a few names of Ramblers, who, for one reason or another, made no particular impact on the Rambler scene, but who nevertheless should be mentioned.

Sir James G Le N King Bt was born in 1898 and was not quite our oldest member at his death. He spent most of his active life in Berkshire, where he was sometime Master of the South Berkshire Foxhounds. He was also for many years an active Territorial in the Berkshire Yeomanry.

Colonel The Hon Sir Gordon W N Palmer KCVO, OBE, TD after Eton, Oxford and war service in the Berkshire Yeomanry became Director and later Chairman of his family biscuit firm, a director of many other well known companies and great public servant in Berkshire. He was also a very active Territorial and ended up as Lord Lieutenant of his county.

Colonel F G W Lane Fox born in 1899, started his life as Francis Ward-Jackson. A regular soldier in the Royal Horse Guards, he married in 1929 the eldest daughter of Lord Bingley (Lane Fox) who had four daughters but no male heir. In 1937 he changed his name by Deed Poll to Lane Fox, and after he had left the army he retired to Lane Fox Country at Bramham, Yorkshire. Here he devoted his efforts to various forms of public service – he was a Deputy Lieutenant, Justice of the Peace and a County Councillor.

### SUNDRY

1. Rambler Tour to Australia. January 1991. We are embarking on our second tour to Australia (1st was in 1976) and the tour will go to Perth, Melbourne and Sydney. As before, we have chosen a year when England are touring and it is hoped that we will get to a Test Match and/or some day/night matches. We are taking 16 players with wives and in addition several 'hangers-on' have signed up.
2. My rival in business, the President of Harrow Wanderers (Ian Orr-Ewing), has recently produced a symposium on the Lords and Commons Cricket Club: It contains chapters devoted to the Clubs which have had long standing connections with Lords and Commons and includes the Ramblers. The book is pleasant reading, well produced, has a contribution from Johnston, and makes a good decoration for a cricketer's coffee table. It can be obtained from Apostrophe Ltd., 11 College Street, Winchester SO23 9BK, at the price of £30 plus £2 p. & p.

FLOREATETONA

JNHOGG President