

ETON RAMBLERS

NOTICE

The 1960 Season followed our normal pattern. Of the 54 Matches all but 2 (rain) were played, defeats slightly predominating over victories. About the same number of Ramblers as in 1959, some 170, took part in one or more Match. Most of the play was of the type, if not always of the quality, invited by higher authority for the brightening of the game. For the first time for some years no "Spectacles" were made either for or against the Club, which may have been due to curtailment of opportunity by fewer 2-day Matches. It was nice to see W. G. Keighley, from Australia, and C. R. D. Rudd, from S. Africa, two of our rather rare post-war "Blues," in the field again, the latter contributing a fine century against Sussex Martlets at Hove.

Those unquenchable all-rounders W. K. Hedley and J. C. L. Jenkinson as usual devoted the majority of their Cricket time to the Ramblers and rendered most valuable services, both on and off the field. I would congratulate I. R. Lomax (in the intervals of Fox-hunting on Newbury Racecourse!), E. Lane Fox, H. C. Blofeld, P. L. B. Stoddart on their excellent achievements for their respective Minor Counties, as well as for the Ramblers. R. V. C. Robins and P. D. Hill-Wood, with a match-winning hundred on the "Fourth" maintained their family traditions. Two young bowlers B. T. J. Stevens (27 wkts) and J. P. Cripps (30 wkts) were the discoveries of the Season, and more is hoped of them. In attack, and otherwise, the Club suffered a severe loss by the posting Overseas (Aden) of that insatiable enthusiast B. J. Hodgson.

Ramblers will have been pleased to learn that C. T. M. Pugh has joined A. C. Ingleby-Mackenzie in the ranks of County Captains, of whom the Club used to have a full share. The former got his 1000 runs, in his first full season, and the latter would have, had he not chosen the wrong fieldsman to run to when 998. We wish them all good fortune.

By the death at a ripe age of G. L. Hoare, one of our Trustees, the Club lost a loyal and lifelong supporter. A keen but not distinguished player he was remarkable in that he bowled, and took some wickets, with the highest trajectory—if it could be so called—that I have ever seen. So high that in a covered-in Net he was unbowlable! It may be recalled that in the nineties the Hoare family once fielded a complete Rambler XI, and won their match, against Basingstoke. But in the last 60 years there have only been two Hoares in the Eton XI, the last, M. D., in 1943. It is time they provided another. Perhaps a Net in the garden of 37 Fleet Street?

We are fortunate in that J. N. Hogg has accepted an invitation to fill the vacant Trusteeship.

Our Hon. Treasurer, T. G. Denne, who in addition to his official duties has rendered good service by advising and assisting Norris, threatened with eviction, to purchase the house in which his family have lived for many years and which has served as a home for many of the Rambler archives. He predicts a year of financial stringency owing to the issuing of the new Book of Members and the continued uprise in the cost of printing and other things connected with the running of the Club. He would, as always, be very happy to receive further Donations or Covenants from members.

The authorities at Lord's and many Old Etonians are greatly concerned at the diminishing interest taken in the Eton v. Harrow Match. Admittedly Eton, not for the first time in her history, is on the crest of a wave of Wet-Bobbery, and her oarsmen deserve every congratulation. But this does not relieve Dry-Bobs of their duty to support by their presence what should be for them the great event of the year. I hope that every Rambler will make every effort to visit Lord's in the course of July 7 and 8. A tentative suggestion has been made that a better attendance might be obtained by playing the Match on a Thursday and Friday, and on this members' views would be welcome.

It has been decided not to hold a Rambler Dinner in 1961, but the attention of Rambler members of "The Society" is drawn to a "Pop" Dinner, to take place at The Dorchester Hotel on October 25. Members of "Pop" who may not have received the preliminary Notice are requested to communicate with the Dinner Secretary, B. D. Barton (Avenue 4266). I am informed that nearly 600 provisional acceptances have already been received.

The year 1962 is adjudged to be the Centenary of the birth of The Ramblers and a Dinner will be held. There is also a suggestion that in addition to the Dinner a Ball might take place. My personal view is that this is not a good idea, but members who would like to express their views on this suggestion are requested to communicate with our hard-working Hon. Secretary, G. E. C. Pease, to whom as always we give sincere thanks for all he does for the Club.

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JANUARY 1961

G. H. M. CARTWRIGHT,
President.