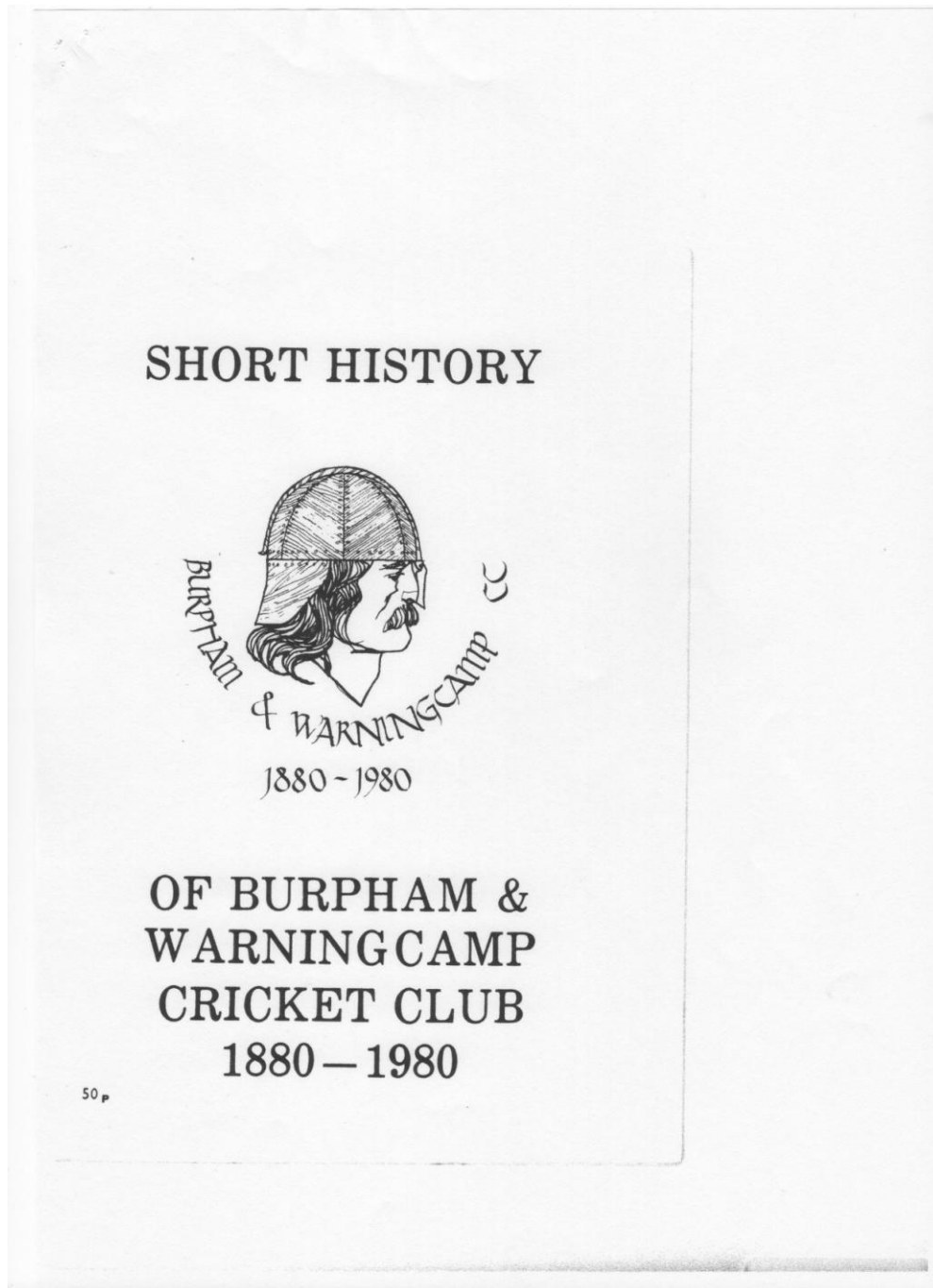


HISTORY OF BURPHAM AND WARNINGCAMP CRICKET CLUB

This is a booklet that was compiled by Edward Corcoran from a study of Club records and talks with some of the then Village Stalwarts. It was printed by the Nuns of Crossbush and published in January 1980.

We hope to get underway shortly with a "catch-up" to bring us up to 2013!



SHORT HISTORY
OF BURPHAM & WARNINGCAMP
CRICKET CLUB (1880-1980)

The Club was formed in 1880 by Mr. E. Dawtrey Drewitt, the 'Squire' of Burpham village, who lived in Peppering House and farmed the big Peppering Farm. He was keen on cricket, and he laid out a cricket ground in a field adjoining Peppering House with a splendid view over the Arun valley. He invited cricketing friends, among whom were Dr. W.G. Grace and Ranjisinghi, to play for his Burpham team against visiting teams. There is a well authenticated story of a match versus an Oxford University College team. A Drewitt cousin was talking to a pale young Oxford player during the tea interval. She asked him what he would do after leaving Oxford and he replied "I'll go back to Africa". Later she asked the College Captain the name of the player she had been talking to and he answered "Oh! That's Cecil Rhodes".

The painter and critic, John Ruskin, also played cricket on the Peppering ground, the view from which he described as "the second most beautiful in Europe". He did not say which he considered the most beautiful - perhaps it was a view in Italy where he lived as a young man or in the Lake District where he was living when he made this remark.

At the turn of the century after Mr. Drewitt's death, his successor required the Peppering House cricket field for farming purposes, and for some years cricket was played on Church field behind the present Churchyard. Below is an extract from the West Sussex Gazette in the summer of 1909 about a match played on this ground:-

"The annual cricket match between Burpham Cricket Club and Mr. Cartwright's team of Barristers from Lincoln's Inn took place at Burpham on Saturday, resulting in a win for the home eleven by 90 runs to 66. Mr. L. Graburn's fine batting contributed to the success of his side. It is only fair to say, however, that Mr. Cartwright was unable to bring a full eleven, being at the last moment disappointed by several of his leading men and the side had to be made up locally. Mr. Cartwright entertained both elevens to lunch before the match at the George & Dragon Inn, where mine host George West's catering was fully appreciated."

Another annual event was against the Jockeys of Michelgrove Training Stables, & matches were played against The Plough & Sail, Crossbush (whose landlord was Frank Millam), Amberley, Poling and other nearby villages. There was also a regular fixture after World War I against the St. Barnabas' Mitcham Boys' Club, who camped every summer in Wepham. The Old Boys of this Club still make an annual visit to Burpham and its members are generous benefactors to the village. At one match on Church field, Burpham C.C. won the toss and elected to bat. The Saints (St. Barnabas) were given a new ball: it had cost 25/-, which in those days made a big hole in

Club funds. The wicket was pitched with a leg side towards the river. Bert Greenfield opened the batting against the Saints' fast bowler, George Elliot. Bert hit the first ball round to leg - it went into the river for six and was never seen again. A replacement ball was obtained and the players got on with the game. Jack Wright (son-in-law of James Turner) was the only other scorer with 2 runs and there was 1 extra, so Burpham was out for 9 runs, which the Saints were able to beat but only after the loss of several wickets. The young Ted Agate was the scorer on this occasion.

Mr. Harold Collyer of Peppering Farm later made available for the Cricket Club some other land above Peppering High Barn on the Downland turf and matches were played there for several years. A movable shepherd's hut on wheels was used as Pavilion and store. At the interval between innings beer was provided instead of tea. This was often brought in a 4½ gallon barrel by Miss Kathleen Graburn or by Mr. Charles Foster in the Graburn's dogcart. Mr. Sidney Philby, a member of the noted Amberley cricketing family, remembers scoring as a young boy in 1921 for a match between Amberley & Burpham on the Peppering High Barn ground. Lauris Graburn, Harold and Percy Collyer, and Harry Budd were all playing for Burpham on that day. At the end of one season during a convivial celebration on this Ground the Club roller found itself across the bridle-way falling down the steep hill into the water meadows. It was too heavy to be recovered and is probably there still, overgrown by vegetation.

Towards the end of the 1920's the wish was expressed to have the cricket ground closer to the village, and the Downland turf was taken to form a new cricket pitch on the field by the river Arun at the bottom of Jacob's Ladder. Matches were played there for a few seasons, but the area proved rather wet; and in 1931 the Club with the support and encouragement of the 16th Duke of Norfolk moved to its present picturesque ground on 'Burpham Camp', which is a National Monument, being one of Alfred the Great's Saxon strongpoints in the tenth Century A.D. against the marauding Danes.

Burpham & Warningcamp Cricket Club has therefore adopted as its Emblem the Head of an armed Saxon Knight, which is depicted on the Club Flag and worn as Crest on the player's sweaters.

In 1931 the Ground had to be converted for cricket. Below is a report made in that year of the work carried out:-

"In late winter 1931, supervision of the enclosure of the ground made by Mr. Stumpy Arnoold and Mr. Harry Budd resulted in important improvements. After three weeks of strenuous work of cutting back hedges and clearing the bank of rubbish several feet up, the ground was entirely surrounded by wire netting which has kept back the rabbits.

In early spring the activity started in earnest on a Saturday afternoon, when a majority of players made use of horses, carts, harrows and rollers lent by Mr. Harold Collyer to prepare the ground for the season: on this occasion one hundredweight of grass seed was sown, another of fertiliser cast over it and

finally covered with a large amount of mould from Peppering and useful material from the Forge. The grass was cut and all the Ground horse-rolled several times during the year by Mr. Searle.

The improvement in the ground is undoubtedly due to these operations and subsequent feeding of Mr. Graburn's sheep by Mr. Kingshott on the grass, when it seemed it would get out of hand and destroy any chance of turf. Most useful has been Mr. Fred Field's pony for light mowing and rolling with a split two-horse roller, which has made an enormous difference to the turf. She, now of an obscure age, is to enjoy her retirement from regular work in permanent membership of the Club, and is welcomed by everyone!

The new rail fence is a great boon. It has made possible all the above improvements. Even had the other operations of the year been carried out, they would have been quite fruitless without the feeding of the animals on the grass and costly though the fence must have been, it is true to say that it has benefited the Club and the ground many times over already."

This was written by Bernard Wall, Captain of the Club that year and a good batsman. He delicately refrained from mentioning that the cost of the fencing, which was so important, was paid by his father-in-law, Mr. Peel of Burpham House.

The Officers of the Club in 1931 were:-

President: the Rev. E. Tickner Edwardes
Vice-Presidents: E.L. Peel, H. Collyer, P. Collyer L. Graburn, J. Helyer, L. Moggridge, G. Roadnight and J. Turner

Playing members were: B. Wall, E. Page, F. Woolven, F. Woolven junr., T. Agate, R. Foster, W. Alderslade, A. Kingshott, W. Kingshott, G. Withers, F. Whittington, B. Upperton, H. Hayler, R. Phillips, H. Budd.

In addition there were 15 Honorary members, and great support was given to the Club by the Misses West of the George and Dragon Inn, as has been given by all subsequent Landlords, especially Mr. Wilfred Briggs, Mrs. Peggy Briggs and now Mr. Peter Bench.

One of the principal village functions in the years before World War II was the convivial Cricket Club Dinner at the George & Dragon at the end of each season. Free beer was provided by the Misses West: and wives and girl friends were excluded on account of the broad nature of the stories and the singing!

Both before and after the move to the new ground, the Cricket Club produced some splendid characters who are still talked about today. One was George Goodyer (a good all-round cricketer in his day), the village Wheelwright and coffin-maker. When idle spectators were watching him at work with his carpentry, he would stop and call out "Would you like me to make you a suit of clothes to last you a long time?" The spectator might say "I didn't know you were also a tailor" - and George replied "I meant measuring you for a coffin!"

Opposite him lived Harry Budd, the Blacksmith - a big man in every way.

He ran the Cricket Club for many years – arranging fixtures, calling the committee meetings and being the Club umpire. He umpired fairly, but his sense of fairness included that Burpham should win!

Harry Budd and George Goodyer got a lot of fun by shouting insults at each other across the village street: they could do this comfortably from their own houses, as both possessed very loud voices. One day before a match Harry Budd was arguing about the time, George Goodyer got out a heavy clock and shouted "If you are so ignorant of the time, take this" – and he threw the timepiece across the road at Harry Budd's head!

The Club's reputation steadily built up with the benefit of the new Ground. The team played consistently during the 30's and there were some notable matches, including one against C.S. Marriot's Kent XI (Marriot having been a noted England player). Mr. Marriot often stayed at Burpham; he was the brother of Mrs. Vincent Jackson of Burpham Farm House and several times turned out for the Village team. Marriot was the terror of the Aussies in Test Matches with his slow leg-breaks, but he was not so successful in village cricket. Sydney Philby recalls playing for Amberley against Burpham on the new Burpham Camp ground in 1935 – he and his brother Victor put on a hundred for the first wicket against Marriot's bowling!

During this period Arundel and other strong Clubs were frequently beaten. For example on Sat. May 4th, 1938, Burpham won against Littlehampton by 30 runs: top scorer for Burpham was T. Agate with 46 and of the bowlers H. Blackall took 8 wickets for 32 runs. At another match Henry Blackall took all ten wickets in an innings!

Sometimes the agricultural workers found it difficult to get Saturday afternoons off for cricket, as a full six-day week was then worked. The Colliers gave Frank Whittington time off for important cricket matches, though this sometimes made the non-cricketers jealous! Frank Whittington was a fast bowler; other good bowlers before the War were W. (Polly) Oliver and Ernie Page.

Cricket was played throughout World War II whenever possible, but afterwards there was a lot to do to restore the Cricket Ground, because Canadian soldiers in camp at Burpham, training for D-day, had on occasions driven their Jeeps and armoured carriers over it. The Canadians were friendly but wild; they would open fire at anything that moved, rabbits, hares, pheasants etc., with live cartridges. Some bullets even went through the cricket pavilion. They gave ammunition to the cricketers enrolled in the Home Guard, and there were contests between them and the Burpham 'boys' under the leadership of Captains Vincent Jackson and Ronald Hay-Will, shooting at targets against the chalk pit in the meads beyond Peppering. The Burpham marksmen were by no means outclassed.

A concrete pill-box and a gun emplacement were built on the cricket field, and these had to be removed after the War. Also a bomb fell on the far side of the Rampart bordering the ground, but no damage was done except breaking windows and tiles in several houses.

After the War the Club team enjoyed for a few years almost an unbeaten record. In 1948 the first team was:-

H. Blackall	A. Carruthers (wicket-keeper)
T. Agate	R. Millam
K. Meek	J. O'Neill
C. Lee	G. Greenfield
A. (Tec) Tester	C. Booker
Phil Hayler	Commander Chapman

This team was regarded by Laurie and Newall Graburn, W. (Polly) Oliver and Ernie Page as the best team Burpham ever had.

During this year Jack O'Neill hit 105 at home against Clymping, and Laurie Graburn said "Jack, I'll give you a pint of beer if you make another century next match" – beer then cost around 4d per pint! The next game was Away against Ashington. Jack reached 99 and then made a big hit, but was caught on the boundary. "Cor, that was hard luck – I nearly had to give you a pint", said Laurie Graburn jokingly.

At home matches the cricketers walked down to Mr. Wakeham's cottage below the blacksmith's forge for the tea interval. Mrs. Wakeham produced excellent teas of home-made cakes and home-made jam for 1/- per head. The players sat at tables in front of the cottage protected by a shelter against the weather. Later Mrs. Peggy Briggs provided substantial teas at 1/6d per head at the George & Dragon. For forward buying of supplies she was guided by Polly Oliver, a typical countryman who always wore thick pibbled spectacles and a pork-pie hat. He was uncannily accurate at forecasting the weather. If he said there was going to be a downpour, Mrs. Briggs would go easy on ordering bread, cakes etc.

Time moved on – the Club was renamed Burpham & Warringcamp Cricket Club after the War, as some of the best players were coming from the neighbouring village. Convivial matches continued to be played each season from April to October against local Clubs, which included Bury, Durrington, Findon, Lancing Manor, Storrington, Watersfield as well as Clubs nearer home. One such match produced a notable feat from Dennis Humphrey, the West Sussex Gazette signalling it in a report on Sussex Cricket as follows:- "In August 1966 John Snow was called into the England team versus West Indies at the Oval and hit his highest score in first-class cricket. Another cricketer who achieved a personal best performance during the summer was Burpham's Dennis Humphrey who took all ten wickets for 21 runs against Bury".

There were also annual fixtures against visiting Clubs like the Privateers, sponsored by Mr. Lonnie Peake and his sons. One of these latter matches on Sat. August 16th, 1968, attracted the following banner headline in the Littlehampton Gazette "Ron Binfield hits 38 in an Over" – "A total of 143 runs was not sufficient to give Burpham & Warringcamp victory against Privateers last Saturday. They were beaten by 4 wickets in a high scoring match. But batting No.6, all-rounder Ron Binfield scored an undefeated 50.

hitting 38 off a single over . . .". Ron achieved this unprecedented feat with the aid of a No-ball – it is unlikely ever to be bettered. It was after this match that the Privateers drank the George & Dragon out of beer; Mrs. Briggs provided their team with an illuminated certificate to this effect, for preservation in their Club archives!

The present Village Hall and Cricket Pavilion was built in 1972. The cricketers constructed the foundations as their voluntary contribution to the work, Dennis Humphrey and Tom Millard being the moving spirits. The former cricket pavilion on the far side of the ground is now used for storing cricket equipment and ground machinery. The cricket table and outfield continue to improve thanks to the dedicated care of our Hon. Groundkeeper and former player, Les Humphrey. For some years past the Club has been famed for its excellent cricket teas arranged in the Village Hall by Mrs. Pauline Humphrey and the cricketing wives and girl friends.

Burpham & Warringcamp Cricket Club is now in a very prosperous state, playing some 40 matches in the season with a playing membership of thirty and a strong cadre of up-and-coming youngsters, for whom there is regular coaching each week. The batting record is held by Anthony Tester with 1001 runs in 1976 for an average of 41.2 runs per innings and the bowling record by Ron Binfield, who also in 1976 took 130 wickets at an average of 8.58 runs per wicket. One of the best of the present players is Terry Blackall (son of Henry, a Club player for 50 years, and nephew of Ernie, the noted Arundel fast bowler, who even frightened Duke Bernard, or so he told us at a Club party one evening). Terry, a fast left-hand bowler and forceful bat, won the Blomfield Cup for the Player of the Year six times with an average of 80 wickets and 400 runs each year: the Donor then presented him with the Cup outright. A recent feat of his was to take 8 wickets for 3 runs in 10 overs on June 16th, 1979.

The Club suffered a sad loss in 1977 with the deaths of Spike Chitty (who watched and analysed every match over many years for the benefit of the players) and "Tec" Tester, (faithful player and later honorary Groundsman). They are commemorated by an engraved Stone adjacent to the old Pavilion, and two chestnut trees were planted nearby in their honour.

For the centenary Year of 1980 there have been arranged a number of special matches and gala events, culminating in the all-day match versus Sussex County Cricket Club on Sunday, Sept 14th, 1980, just after the Final of the Gillette Cup.

The Club possesses the following Cups and Trophies, awarded annually, whose present holders are:-

Atterton Cup (Clubman of the Year)	George Foster
Blomfield Cup (Player of the Year)	Keith Gearing
Standing/Chitty Trophy (Most consistent fielder)	Keith Gearing
Smart Trophy (Most Catches)	Timmy Smart
Foster/Lane Trophy (Highest score)	Chubby Horne
G & D Batting Trophy (Most runs)	Keith Gearing

G & D Bowling Trophy (Most wickets) Terry Blackall

The Principal Officers for 1980 are:-

Patron: Maj-Gen The Duke of Norfolk C.B., C.B.E., M.C.
President: Maj-Gen H.M. Liardet C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.L.
Chairman: Maj. M.G. Hay-Will

Hon. Treasurer: Edward Corcoran

Captain: George Foster

Vice-Capt.: Keith Gearing

Hon. Groundkeeper: Les. Humphrey

Hon. Fixture Secretary: Tony Puttick

Hon. Recorder: Andy Lane

Committee Members: all the above, plus T. Blackall, N. Chitty, M. Challen & T. Smart.

Other Players: P. Bench, R. Binfield, H. Blackall, P. Dawkin, C. Drummond, B. Groves, C. Horn, D. Humphrey, D. Laparle, P. Lewis, D. O'Brien, R. Puttock, S. Puttock, C. Standing, M. Standing, A. Tester, A. Foster, M. Tester, A. Binfield, G. Binfield, N. Gent.

There are also 27 Vice-Presidents, resident in Burpham or Warringcamp, whose encouragement and financial support is invaluable in maintaining Club morale and Club finances in a sound state despite inflationary pressures.

The Club begins its second century with confidence, believing that the Burpham and Warringcamp cricketers will show as much team spirit and get as much good fellowship from the game in 2080 as they have enjoyed since the Club's foundation one hundred years ago.