

Village Echoes

Last October the parish magazine contained a report of Kilndown Cricket Club's season. It is a thriving concern, having amalgamated with Lamberhurst in 2001, and competes in the Kent County Village League, gaining promotion by coming second last year.

Tiffin's Jubilee Book of 1935 states that a cricket team was established in 1919 and lists the President at the time, Captain A W J Cecil JP, and other members of the Committee. No information about team members or matches played is given. However, the Coronation Book of 1937 features a team photo from 1901 taken in the field where the club still play today. Club members included three of the Brissenden family, one of whom was the umpire. On the same page is a photo of Bedgebury Park Cricket Club of 1904, which we could imagine provided considerable local rivalry.



Another evocative photo published in the 1937 book is entitled 'An old Kilndown Cricket Group' and shows a motley group of players and supporters. Later in that volume are photos of the Saturday teams of Goudhurst and Kilndown at their annual derby match in 1937. Kilndown had won with such familiar names amongst the players as Golding, Sargent, Wickham, Larkin and Pattenden.

Cricket probably existed in some form or another before becoming a regularised sport, but the first record of Kent County Cricket Club was in 1842, and in 1870 it amalgamated with Beverley Kent Cricket Club with a base at Canterbury. However, there is a rather earlier record that describes a match between Kent and London in

1718. In 1728 Kent won three matches against Sussex and thus County Cricket was more formally established.

No article about local cricket would be complete without recalling our home-grown hero Alfred Mynn, who was known as the Lion of Kent. He was over 6ft tall and weighed nearly 20 stone. Prior to W G Grace he was the most famous English all-rounder. He was born in 1807 at Twysden in Kilndown where his father William had a farm. Alfred seems to have been a very popular man and, when he died in London in 1861, a charity was established in his name and a large memorial erected in his honour.



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