



WIGAN
CRICKET CLUB
HISTORY

The . . .
Centenary
1848-1948

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This year is unique in the history of the Wigan Cricket Club. Not only does it mark the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Club, it is also the fiftieth year of their tenure of Bull Hey—a centenary and a golden jubilee combined.

There is little doubt that the Wigan Cricket Club is the oldest sporting organisation in the town. To have an unbroken record of a century is something of which the members—and indeed the town generally—have every reason to be proud.

It is fitting therefore that a history of the Club should be brought up-to-date. The first part of it has been largely re-written from the account contributed by the late Mr. C. Wall, Editor of the Wigan Observer, about fifty years ago, and the second part from the record compiled by the late Mr. J. Sandiford, a member of the Wigan Examiner reporting staff, in 1922.

J.L.

Foreword

**By the Chairman, Lancashire County Cricket Club —
MR. T. A. HIGSON**

I have been asked to write a few words about Wigan Cricket Club on its Centenary Anniversary, and I am delighted to do so, although very inadequately.

I became familiar with Wigan Cricket about 1895, when Goodwin, Prestt, Scaife, Rennick, W. P. Barnes and Ainscoughs were well known players of repute, and Arthur Ellis had just come down from Oxford. At that period I used to Captain the Manchester sides at Wigan. During this era, cricket in the town was at a high standard and when under Arthur Ellis's astute and keen captaincy Jack Broughton and Tyler joined the team, Wigan were, in my opinion, at their zenith as a local side.

Wigan and Wigan Cricketers (and Footballers) have always represented in my mind, the high water-mark of Local Cricket and good sportsmanship. There never has been any suggestion of anything but keen play, fair play, and may the better side win. Would that every Club and Athletic Organisation played games in the same spirit as Wigan.

I hope the Centenary will be a great success. We at Old Trafford owe Wigan a great debt of gratitude for its magnificent help in our Reconstruction Fund.

By the Secretary, Lancashire County Cricket Club —

MAJOR R. HOWARD

The Centenary of the Wigan Cricket Club this year distinguishes the Club as one of the oldest in Lancashire, and it joins the select band with Broughton, Rochdale, Preston, Burnley, Eagley, Worsley, Cheetham Hill, and others.

The Club has seen and helped the game to grow from very small beginnings to the stabilised position it now holds as our great national game, and has had—and still has—many happy and prominent associations with the County Club. It has provided healthy relaxation for thousands of Wigan youths, and it is certain, that in so doing, has helped in shaping the character of these youths to play their part with self reliant but also kindly and co-operative traits, for which the people of Lancashire are noted wherever they may be.

We owe a great debt to all those who, through the past hundred years, have guided the destiny of the Wigan Club, and so ensured it being the vital force it is to-day.

May the Club go forward to further prosperity and continue to provide for the recreative needs of the youth of Wigan and District.



J. OLIVER
Hon. Secretary
1948



W. H. OLIVER
Hon. Treasurer
1948



A. E. SHAW

Captain 1st XI

1948

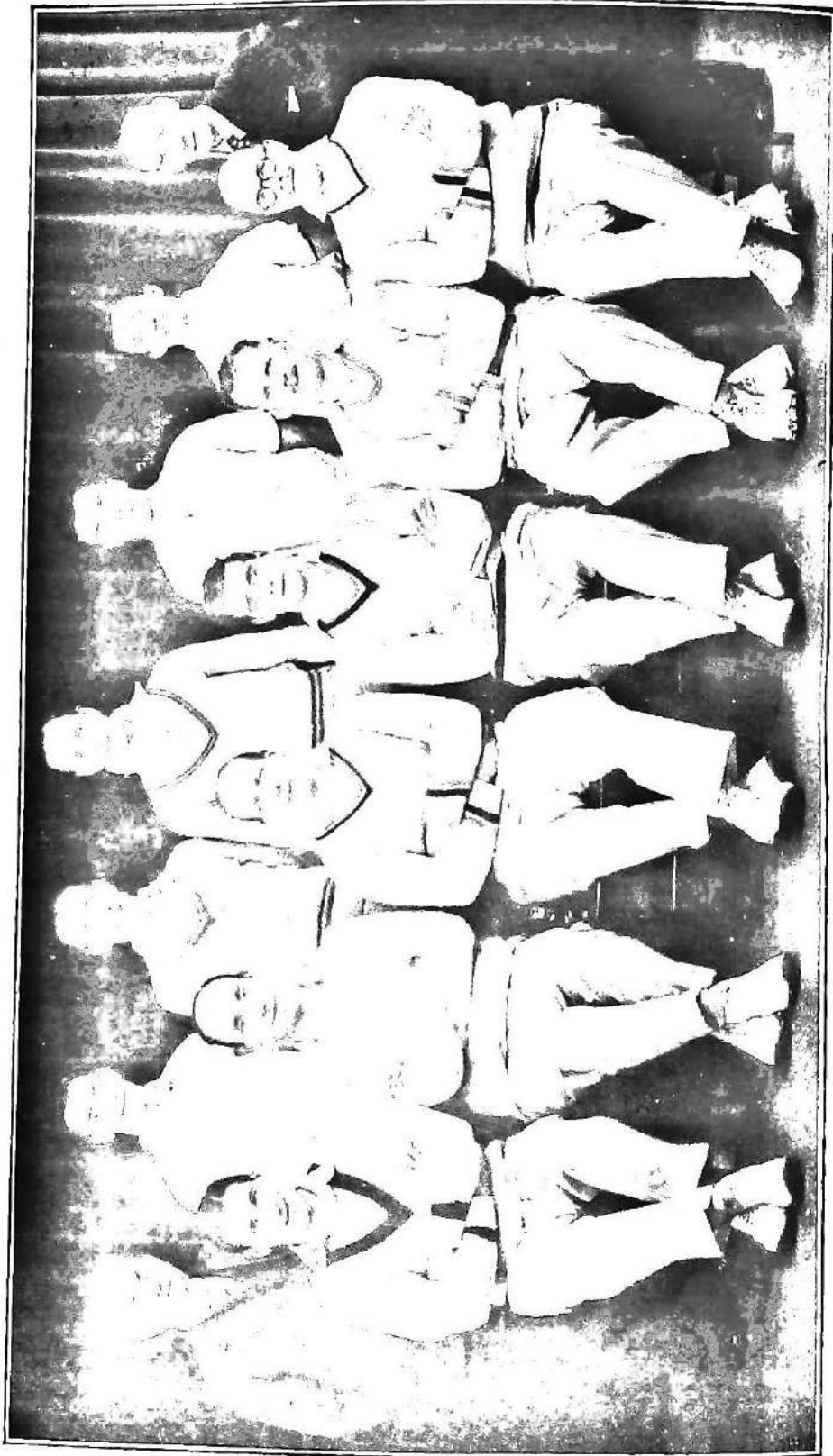


J. M. SMITH .

Captain 2nd XI

1948

1948 :: 1st XI



Standing : J. G. Arrowsmith (Scorer), F. Holmes, F. Polton (Wicket-keeper), W. A. Walton, J. Atherton,
B. W. Hughes, T. Brown (Umpire)
Sitting : F. J. Scandrett, G. T. Mitchell, A. E. Shaw (Captain), F. S. W. Saint (Vice-Captain), F. Pearson, C. H. Sear.

Eight

FIRST MATCH

Wigan's first full season was 1849, but the Club was formed on August 21st, 1848, and the first match was one between Married and Single on September 20th. This was played on a pitch in Brick Kiln Lane. The opening club match was against Chorley, on June 27th, 1849, and Preston were also played. The first juvenile member to be enrolled was Walter Mayhew, and another young member was John Scott, later Sir John Scott, Judicial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, and one-time judge of the High Court of Bombay. He became a Freeman of Wigan. Another young member at that time was Thomas Wall. Both gained great distinction on the cricket field. The names of those who played in the first match are worth recording. They were:—Married: John Mayhew, Isaac Thomas, W. Palmer, Hedley, H. H. Lamb, H. Woodcock, W. Marsden, T. Wall, D. Davies, Croft and Thomas. Single: Henry Lees, J. White, Rogers, S. Gaskell, C. W. Lightoller, G. Wolstenholme, J. Burrows, J. Ormandy, Pritchard, T. M. Heald, Thomas Heaton. There are some well known Wigan names in that list.

One of Wigan's most attractive fixtures for many years was that with Leyland. The Clubs met in 1850 and in both instances Leyland were successful. On the other hand Wigan defeated Bolton both at home and away in the same season, and the matches with that club have always been very popular. Birkenhead Park, too, provided strong opposition for a very long period. When Wigan first opposed that Club in 1852 the result was an easy win for Birkenhead, although Wigan had enlisted the services of two or three players from other clubs.

Wigan lost their ground in 1854 and the Club amalgamated with Ince. In 1860 a ground was laid out on the Mesnes, the site of Mesnes Park, for £26. The first groundsmen received 6/- per week, with 2/- extra on match days. Meanwhile the club played on the Pemberton ground.

The new ground was opened on May 26th, 1860. Players that day included Sir John Scott, T. Wall, H. Ackerley, T. R. Lowe, T. Fairhurst and J. Lowe. Southport, who played Wigan later that year, were dismissed for a total of 28 runs in two innings. A year later W. S. France and W. H. Ackerley appeared in the Wigan team, and L. R. Rowbottom (later Wigan Borough Coroner) played in 1862. In that year a two

wicket match was played between T. Wall and E. Scott against J. Lowe and T. Fairhurst. The latter couple won by one run—8 to 7.

ALL ENGLAND ELEVEN AT WIGAN

June, 1867, was a great month in the history of the Wigan Cricket Club. A three days' match was played between twenty-two of Wigan and District against an All-England eleven. The England team was: T. Bignall, D. Hayward, C. Coward, R. Iddison, R. Carpenter, G. Paling, F. Pryor, T. Plumb, G. Freeman, G. Atkinson and G. Howitt. Wigan and District: J. Wall, J. Fairclough, G. Holme, T. Darnton, G. Bishop, John Fairhurst, W. A. Scott, W. B. Leeming, W. Hardcastle, W. Swain, T. Wall, D. Aldred, Caleb Hilton, R. T. Johnson, J. Lowe, W. A. Ramsay, L. Blackwell, W. Acton, J. Lea, W. A. Byrom, Rev. G. O'Reilly, T. Holme. The England Eleven won by 71 and 181 to 88 and 66.

A year later another, and very strong, All-England Eleven visited Wigan, and the team was: J. Smith, W. Oscroft, A. Shaw, T. Hayward, J. Rowbottom, George Tarrant, George Parr, G. Pinder, G. Anderson, R. C. Tinley and J. C. Shaw. The twenty-two of Wigan and district were beaten by 148 and 93 to 79 and 68.

Thomas Wall and John Lowe, of Wigan, played for the county. A. E. Coates, son of the Vicar of Pemberton, was the only player to score a century on the Mesnes ground; he made 107 against Bolton on July 24th, 1869. His average was 22.3. John Lillywhite's "Cricketer's Companion" described J. Wall as the best average bat in the Club; T. Wall as the best amateur wicket keeper in the county, and H. Wall as the most promising colt in the Club.

AT PRESCOTT STREET

In 1873 notice was received by the Club to quit the Mesnes which soon afterwards was laid out as a public park, and it was not until June, 1875, that the Club was able to play any match of importance on the ground which had been acquired at Prescott Street. A small company was formed to purchase the land from the then Early of Derby and to grant a lease to the Cricket Club. It was the relinquishing of this lease by the Club

many years later in order that the land might be disposed of to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company that enabled the company owning the land to contribute £750 to the new ground at Bull Hey which had been secured on a long lease from the then Rector.

Only two centuries were made by members of the first eleven on the Prescott Street ground—104 by T. Ainscough against Warrington, and 106 not out by Leigh Barratt against St. Helens in 1897. A brilliant partnership was recorded by H. Wall and George Bradley against Kendal in 1882. It realised 188, and both players failed when within a few runs of their century. Other players about the same time who narrowly missed scoring a hundred were W. McConnell, R. L. Rennick, J. Schofield, J. Marsh, and Arthur McClure. W. J. Hedley registered a century for the second eleven in 1880. Four years earlier W. Wall made a dashing 159 on the Birkenhead ground and H. Wall made 132 against Newton. At Todmorden in July, 1878, H. Wall hit 127 not out in a match in which no fewer than 539 runs were scored in a day's cricket. H. and W. Wall carried off the batting honours for many years. The latter, stumping for Lancashire against Derbyshire in 1877, caught two and stumped two besides scoring 17 not out.

R. L. Rennick, who had been vice-captain for some years, was appointed captain in 1894. He was a brilliant batsman, scoring most of his runs on the off, and a good change bowler. Rennick played for his native county, Cheshire, against Staffordshire, and scored 72. He also played against the M.C.C. at Lord's and got 31 and 27.

G. H. Sowter, for many years honorary secretary, captained the second eleven at Prescott Street which had a remarkably successful season in 1882. W. McConnell was one of the best bowlers and had some brilliant figures.

For the last season or two at Prescott Street, Wigan had two professionals, Littlewood, stumper, and Barstow, slow left arm bowler. In one match Littlewood was responsible for the dismissal of six batsmen, three stumped and three caught.

In May, 1895, Wigan played 18 of Wigan and District. The District team was:—R. Hilton, W. Heyes and J. Hilton, Ince Wesleyans; J. T. Hill and S. Shepherd, Aspull; W. Nelson

Eleven

and C. Scotson, Abram; J. Rigby, Bridgecroft; W. Millington, Spring View; S. Hunt, P. Bullough, and R. Leigh, Golborne; R. Smith and T. Scott, Ince Methodists; J. Cox and R. Lyons, New Springs; J. Seddon, Scarisbrick Street Baptists; and H. Pember-ton. Wigan won by 224 for eight against 76, the top scorer being W. F. Goodwin with 68.

BULL HEY GROUND OPENED

Fifty years ago this year—on April 23rd, 1898—the present ground at Bull Hey was opened. A. N. Hornby brought a strong Lancashire team. It was:—A. N. Hornby, A. H. Hornby, G. F. Hornby, C. R. Hartley, Barlow, Paul, Johnny Tyldesley, Baker, Smith, Hallam, Watson and Irving. Wigan were represented by R. L. Rennick, C. Holden (Birkenhead Park), J. Halliwell, H. L. Trotman, C. R. Darlington, W. F. Goodwin, W. R. Bryham, A. Shaw, F. Hammersley, S. Ball, J. M. Gaskell, G. C. Roger, F. Taylor, Barstow and Hopkins. The two last-named were the professionals. Hopkins was a fast bowler who occasionally sent down a cleverly concealed slow ball which puzzled the batsmen. The county team won by 178 for six in response to Wigan XV.'s 121. Top scorer for Wigan was Bartstow with 25. A. N. Hornby and Tyldesley made nearly all the runs for the county side. Hornby retired after compiling 75 and Tyldesley was 78 not out. There were 1,500 spectators and the day was a memorable one in the history of the Wigan Cricket Club.

The first century made at Bull Hey went to the credit of J. C. Gibson; he scored 110 not out for the second team against St. Helens second. On the same day at St. Helens R. L. Rennick compiled 119 for the first team. Albert Ward, playing for Bolton, had the honour of registering the first century at Bull Hey in a first team match. That was only 14 days after J. C. Gibson's achievement. In 1899, T. Ainscough hit up 101 against Leyland.

ALL ROUND PERFORMANCE

Amongst the most attractive of Wigan's fixtures for many years were those against the brilliant Leyland team. In 1899 that team scored 257 for four against Wigan, Wilmot claiming 118 not out. In the next season Needham, a very fine type of professional and a good all-rounder, scored 98 for Wigan against Leigh, and took five wickets for 35 runs.

Twelve

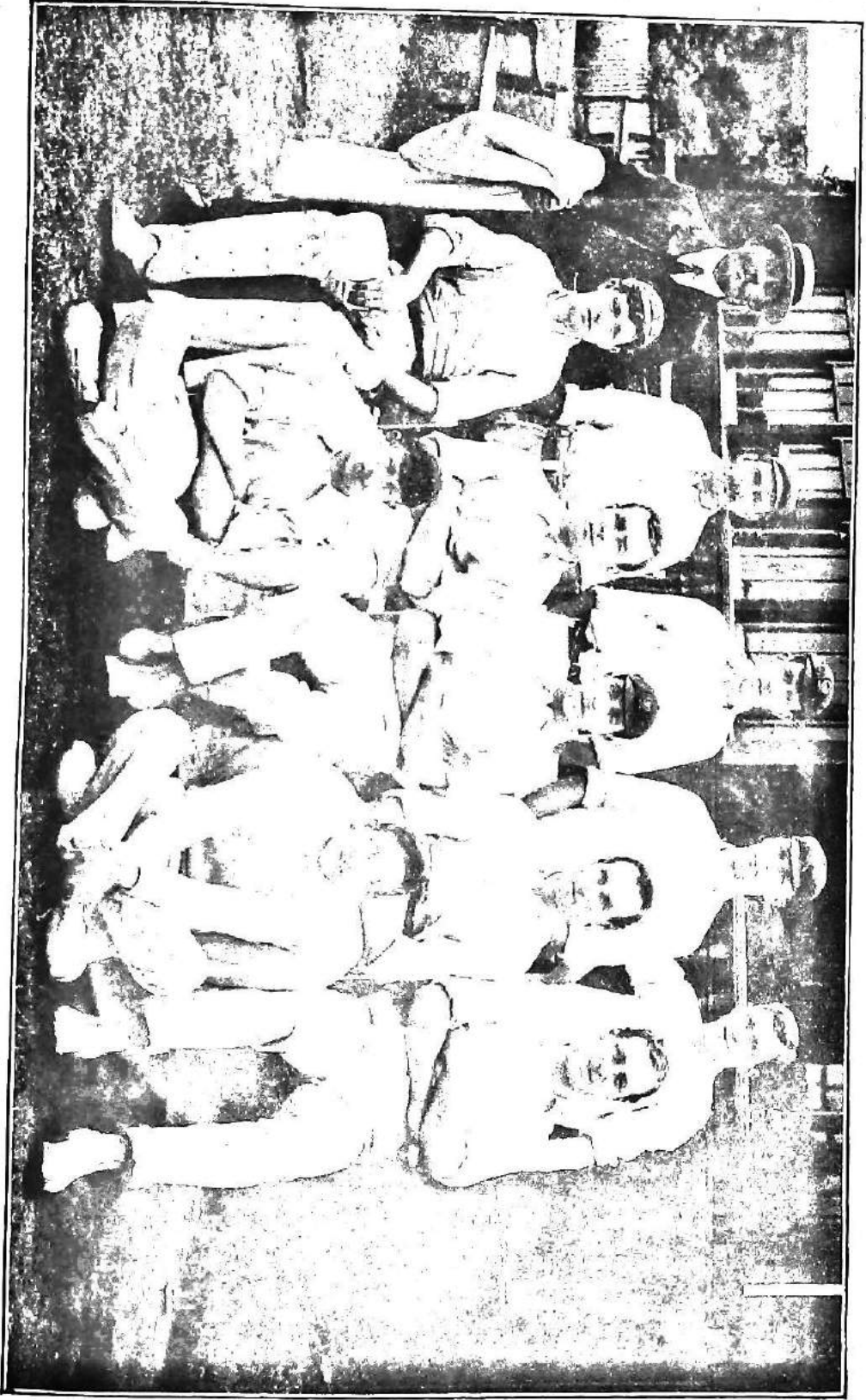
WIGAN CRICKET CLUB JUBILEE YEAR :: Opening of Bull Hey Ground, April 23rd, 1898.
 A. N. HORNBY'S LANCASHIRE XI v. 15 of WIGAN C.C.



Watson, C. R. Darlington, Paul, Tyldesley.
 R. Crompton (Umpire), Dr. Bradbury, G. H. Sowter (Chairman), R. L. Rennie (Captain), W. F. Goodwin (Vice-Captain), A. N. Hornby, G. V. Hornby, A. H. Hornby, F. Taylor, C. R. Hartley, A. Bryham, J. M. Gaskell, A. Shaw, Hallam, G. C. Roger, Hopkins, Barstow, A. Clements (Scorer), Jones (Umpire).
 Seated: H. L. Trotman, Irving, Barlow, S. Ball, F. S. Hammersley, Smith, C. Holden, J. Halliwell.

Thirteen

Fourteen



Back Row : R. Grompton (Umpire), Broughton, J. J., H. R. Ellis, Tyler, R., A. Jones,
Middle Row : Meadows, E., N. A. Selkirk (Vice-Captain), A. Ellis (Captain), S. G. Urmson, C. A. Armstrong.
Front : G. Roocroft, W. C. Mann.

In 1901 a bazaar raised over £1,000 in aid of the Club funds. Ranjitsinghi, an Indian Prince and the prince of batsmen, was to have performed the opening ceremony, but much to the disappointment of local cricketers he was unable to come.

Cecil R. Darlington captained the team in 1903; he topped the batting averages and W. F. Goodwin was the outstanding bowler. Clough was the professional and Pennington was the stumper. In the following season centuries were recorded by J. Prestt, T. Ainscough and J. J. Broughton, the last-named being the club's match professional. Needham failed by only three to gain the distinction of taking 100 wickets in a season.

In 1905, when C. R. Darlington had relinquished the position of captain, W. F. Goodwin took command, and a little later Arthur Ellis became captain. No fewer than 36 matches were played. In a second team match, L. Minett scored 104 not out. J. T. Gee, who was Mayor of Wigan from 1898 to 1900, also assisted Wigan as wicket-keeper.

A BRILLIANT BATSMAN

In 1906 the brunt of the attack fell upon Needham and Broughton, although Scaife and Selkirk bowled very well. Wigan then lost the services of Needham, who had been a very fine servant of the Club and a great sportsman. His place was taken by Ralph Tyler, a brilliant batsman and a very fine type of professional cricketer, who in his first season scored 548 runs. Broughton reached a total of 510 runs and scored a century. They were the Club's mainstay in bowling. In the second eleven W. Roocroft took 70 wickets at a very small cost. One of Tyler's best bowling performances was against Limbrick—nine for 49. Broughton took six wickets for 68 for Lincolnshire against Lancashire second at Bull Hey. A century was recorded by J. Prestt against Leigh in 1908. E. E. Unsworth played for Lancashire Second against Northumberland and Durham and scored 24 runs besides taking three wickets at a small cost. Tyler made 767 runs for Wigan that season.

Among brilliant performances in season 1909, Tyler took seven St. Helens Rec. wickets for 10 runs, and scored 100 not out against Leigh, 96 against Rusholme, and 156 not out against Broughton. J. Halliwell scored 96 not out against Leyland, and

Broughton compiled 122 for Lincolnshire against the M.C.C. He had some fine bowling feats for Wigan in the following season—six for 13 against Limbrick; seven for 11 against Bolton; and six for 16 against Manchester. Broughton captured 78 wickets at an average of 8.43. One of his best performances in 1911 was seven for 9 against St. Helens. He also scored a century at Limbrick and was proving a grand all round player. Tyler made 83 against Preston, 108 not out against Bolton, and 139 not out against Ormskirk. Requiring only 36 to complete his 1,000 for the season, Tyler failed by only 12 runs to achieve that great distinction.

Tyler again earned double talent money in 1912 by taking seven wickets for 35 runs and scoring 52 against Broughton. He scored 76 against Birkenhead. This was a season for valuable partnerships: 79 by Tyler and A. Jones; 69 by H. R. Ellis and C. A. Armstrong; 68 by B. Rudd and J. Elsworth; 66 by Armstrong and Broughton; 64 by A. Dawber and Tyler; 64 by F. S. Bryan and Armstrong; 63 by S. G. Urmson and Tyler; 63 by Elsworth and E. E. Meadows; and 62 by Urmson and Tyler. Meadows was the stumper. A remarkable performance was recorded in the second team match between Wigan and Birkenhead Park. W. Roocroft captured eight wickets for 3 runs and J. W. Brewer two for 3. There were 4 extras!

TYLER'S 1,000 RUNS IN A SEASON

G. C. Healy scored a century against Bury in season 1913. Tyler continued to be a very prolific scorer; he had 101 not out against Warrington, 104 not out against Birkenhead Park, and 92 against Lancaster. In the last mentioned innings he achieved a distinction which has fallen to comparatively few batsmen in club cricket—reaching 1,000 runs; his total was 1,017. Broughton made 111 against Ormskirk and H. P. Close got 130 for the second team against Lancaster Second in 1914.

One of Wigan's highest scores was compiled against Leyland, usually one of the club's strongest opponents. They scored 272 runs for the loss of nine wickets. Tyler's contribution was 109. The number of "Extras" was probably a record, viz., 49, a number higher than the score of the Leyland eleven, which was 43. Tyler made another century, 111 not out against Bolton and in the same match H. R. Ellis took seven wickets for 21 runs. J. J. Broughton had 101 not out against St. Helens and

109 against Bolton. C. Ainscough scored a century against Birkenhead Park. The second team went through this season without sustaining a defeat. The players chiefly concerned were: J. Healy (capt.), H. P. Close, A. A. Dawber, R. G. M. Jones, J. Laithwaite, J. Noble, N. Dowswell, H. Prestt, Jun., J. Laithwaite, Jun., E. W. Ralph, G. C. Healy, and W. Roocroft.

With the outbreak of war in August, 1914, Bull Hey was not used for cricket until 1919. A memorial tablet in the Pavilion bears the names of those members who lost their lives in the war:—Capt. Ainscough, 5th Manchester Regiment; Capt. F. S. Brown, 5th Manchester Regiment; Capt. W. E. G. Johnson, 5th Manchester Regiment; Capt. F. S. Bryan, Middlesex Regiment; Lieut. A. L. Clarke, 1st 6th Lancs. Fusiliers; Lieut. W. R. Armstrong, 78th Canadian Battn.; 2nd Lieut. J. Laithwaite, 20th Service Battn., Lancs.; 2nd Lieut. T. H. O'Donahue, 1st 9th Manchester Regiment; Sergt. J. W. Roocroft, 46th Field Ambulance R.A.M.C.

AFTER THE 1914-18 WAR

The first match after the war was against Broughton at Broughton, Wigan having rather the better of a drawn game. The team was: G. Roocroft, J. F. D. Shrewsbury, A. A. Dawber, J. J. Broughton, N. A. Selkirk, A. Jones, G. C. Healy, A. E. Robinson, R. G. M. Jones, E. E. Unsworth and E. E. Meadows. Against Flixton Shrewsbury hit up 101. J. J. Broughton, who was then assisting the club as an amateur, scored 105 against Southport and Birkdale.

C. A. Armstrong opened season 1920 with 93 against Leyland. Meadows and Shrewsbury scored 87 and 52 respectively against Broughton, and N. A. Selkirk made 85 against Wallasey. H. B. Rennick, son of a former captain, took seven wickets for 21 runs, including the "hat trick," and scored 33 in a second team match.

H. Beckwith was engaged as a professional in 1921; he scored 71 against Bury at Bull Hey, Broughton had 96 against Sefton, and C. E. Dawber 85 not out against Bury. G. Roocroft showed very consistent form with the bat. Another good performance was Percy Glover's 72 against Broughton. Fine bowling achievements in 1922 included: Beckwith seven for 14

against St. Helens; Unsworth five for 19 against Lytham; R. Hart, 10 for 15 against St. Helens; and Broughton six for 15 against Sefton. Broughton were dismissed for 14, Entwistle taking seven wickets for four runs and Unsworth three for 10. The first defeat was sustained on August 26th at Wallasey. Batting performances included Roodcroft 70, Beckwith 90, Entwistle 82 not out, and G. C. Healy 73. C. E. Dawber scored 102 not out for the second eleven.

The late Mr. Alfred Clements was scorer for the club for a great many years, and the late Mr. Roger Crompton undertook the duties of umpire also for a very long period, both doing duty on the Prescott Street ground and at Bull Hey.

The late Mr. T. Fairhurst, the late Mr. George Sowter and the late Mr. J. W. Kenyon also did a great deal of work for the Club, as did Mr. A. Clarke, chairman of the committee for many years, and Mr. Percy Glover, honorary secretary, who has rendered valuable service for many years.



Some Recollections

WALTER BREARLEY'S FAST BOWLING

Having exhausted my references to the club's doings as drawn from the records mentioned, with a few additions of my own, I will, before reviewing subsequent seasons, recall incidents of my observations of players who made an impression upon me.

First, I will mention that lion-hearted bowler of international fame, Walter Brearley (who occasionally played for Bolton against Wigan), one of the fastest bowlers I have seen. In his run before delivery he seemed determined not only to smash the wickets, but to break up the pitch and remove the batsman and wicket keeper from his sight. I have said "run" but his approach was more like a spring and his arm came round in a wide sweep. I think that few bowlers derived as much pleasure from hearing the wickets rattle and seeing them fall as Walter Brearley did when he bowled a batsman. I am sure, too, that he derived far greater satisfaction in clean bowling a man than in getting him caught. To Walter Brearley the wickets were fixed to be knocked down like skittles. I have seen at least one batsman facing Brearley stand well away from the crease, holding the bat with arms outstretched.

A LOB BOWLER

A bowler of a much different type used to "tie up" Wigan batsmen at times. He was probably the slowest bowler ever seen at Bull Hey. He was in fact a lob bowler. He played for Leigh and his name, I think, was Turner. When he was called upon batsmen probably said to themselves "I'll soon see this fellow off" and prepared to knock the first ball over the boundary. On second thoughts they usually played back and became annoyed with themselves as they repeated the stroke for there was a good leg break in the delivery and the field was well set for this type of bowling. Turner had a fair amount of success with what one man described as "toffee bowling".

A BIG HITTER

J. M. Gaskell, a son of the late Alderman John Gaskell, was a batsman who was in as great a hurry as Brearley was as a bowler. His philosophy seemed to be that every ball was sent down to

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be hit and hit hard. And when he went to the wicket he had that one set purpose. There was usually a buzz of excitement when he took his stand at the crease, for a " fireworks display " was expected. He was a powerfully built man and he felt that he could drive any ball to Mesnes Park, the Rectory Field, the railway embankment or the subscription Bowling Green. His stay was usually brief, but it was often bright.

A player in whom I had more than ordinary interest was R. L. Rennick, then Editor and part proprietor of the Wigan Examiner. Little did I imagine at that time that I would succeed him as Editor. It was his superb off play that appealed to me. I never saw his equal at Bull Hey, or at Prescott Street, where I watched several matches. His cutting was a thing of beauty. A quick movement of the wrist and the ball was speeding towards the boundary. I recall some matches, particularly those against Southport when seven fielders were placed on the off to curtail Rennick's brilliant cutting, and even then he contrived to place the ball between the fielders. He was also a good change bowler. He used to take a few strides back, turn quickly and prepare to bowl. If the batsman was not ready he turned round again, tossed the ball up once or twice and gave the batsman plenty of time to get ready.

Another member of the Club whom I watched with particular interest was George Roger, whose father was in partnership with the late Mr. R. L. Rennick when I began my service at the Wigan Examiner Office. George was a brilliant out-fielder. He often saved many runs on the boundary, where his fast running, quick returns and enthusiasm won the admiration of the spectators.

BECKWITH'S NINE WICKETS

Beckwith narrowly missed the distinction of taking all ten wickets against Sefton in 1923. He had nine for 49 runs. He also took five wickets for 16 runs against Birkenhead Park, who were dismissed for the low score of 49. Beckwith's best batting performance that season was 74 against Bury—the match ended in a tie. G. C. Healy scored 72 against Southport and Birkdale, and George Rookcroft 73 against Wallasey and 70 not out against the Rector's eleven. A. J. Birch (89) and V. Higham (78) figured in a partnership of 165 against Warrington second, and C. E. Dawber took six wickets for 14 runs against Bury second.

Bolton and six for 34 against Manchester in the return match. Against Southport and Birkdale Marsh made 75 and V. Higham 79. Canon Thicknesse, then Rector of Wigan, made 66 for Wigan Second Eleven against Broughton Second.

CRICKET IN BURLESQUE

The most comical cricket match ever seen at Bull Hey was played in 1927. It was between a Wigan Town Council Eleven and the Rotarians and was in aid of the funds of the Wigan Infirmary. When the late Alderman Jas. Walkden walked to the wicket escorted by the Mayor's equerry he wore Mayoral robes replete with cocked hat, chain of office—made, it was whispered, by a local tinsmith—and carried a bat of huge dimensions. "There is no telling," I wrote at the time, "how many runs the Alderman would have scored had not a Rotarian, who had been reading Newton's Law of Gravitation, discovered where the ball went after he played it." Describing the bat, I added: "Then it was we learned why one way traffic is necessary, and why it is sometimes essential to read the Riot Act. When the batsman took his stand at the wicket there was a total eclipse, not only of the stumps and the wicket keeper, but of the sight-board, the wall and a portion of Mesnes Park; but as the bowler was able to see Ryland's factory chimney, Park View and the sky, it was decided that the implement carried by Alderman Walkden was a bat within the meaning of the Firearms Act. Alderman Walkden, it was obvious, was the 'hope of his side'. Taking careful centre from the umpire he made a beautiful forward stroke. But what a peculiar sound came from the bat! It gave the impression that the ball had rebounded from a drum. After three careful strokes the Alderman called his partner for a run. Where was the ball? That was the question. Again the pair ran, still there was no trace of the crimson rambler. Were the Rotarians going to claim 'lost ball'? There was no 'rough' in which it could be hidden. Then the trick was discovered. The Alderman's bat contained a hollow centre, a portion of which was covered with brown paper. The ball had burst the paper and was lodging at the bottom of the bat! One of the Rotarians effected a good tackle of the batsman while a confederate picked the ball out. 'Caught' was the decision.

"We have left our reference to the Rotarians' innings to the last," my report added, "although they batted first, and must congratulate Mr. Stanley Dickinson on being the best all round player we have ever seen. When a man walks to the crease armed with a bag of golf clubs (solemnly carried by a caddy),

Twenty-five

a tennis racquet, a lacrosse racquet, a billiard cue and rest, a brush and other implements, he can certainly lay claim to be an all rounder. These things in themselves were not considered sufficient to enable the batsman to make runs rapidly. He possessed a bat, and had taken the precaution to bribe the umpires, who wore tall hats and were accommodated with a seat. The bribe, however, proved to be unsuccessful for one of the umpires had the audacity—in face of such a collection of implements—to give the batsman out stumped.”

Marsh had a very successful season with both bat and ball in season 1928. He scored 103 not out against St. Helens, 86 against Bury, 73 not out against Bolton, besides several other good scores. Paynter and F. D. Beattie made centuries for Manchester against Wigan. Marsh's best bowling feat was seven for 15 against St. Helens. A. E. Robinson had six for 31 against Leigh and E. Lowe six for 29 against Chorlton.

BRILLIANT LAST WICKET STAND

In the match against Manchester at Bull Hey in May, 1929, R. Smith and A. E. Robinson made what was a record last wicket stand for Wigan. It was 120 runs. Robinson made 64 not out and Smith 54. Wigan's total was 194 and Manchester replied with 142 for six. There was also a grand opening partnership by J. H. Ormsby 51 and H. Eckersley 81 against Birkenhead Park, and another between G. Marsh, who made 74 and A. E. Shaw, 54, against Warrington.

In season 1930 Ormsby made 70 against Southport, G. T. Mitchell 72 against St. Helens and A. E. Shaw 57 not out against Birkenhead Park. H. Hallworth scored 80 not out for the second team against Leigh second.

Season 1931 was not a good one for Wigan, and many matches were abandoned on account of rain. G. T. Mitchell had some excellent bowling performances—seven for 38, six for 34 and five for 24. Bill Hawtin took up his duties as professional. In his first home match he scored 51 and took five wicket for 34 runs. Wigan dismissed Bolton for 32, but against Manchester, Wigan scored only 26.

Hawtin, J. H. Ormsby and G. T. Mitchell recorded very fine batting performances for Wigan in 1932. Hawtin scored 85 not out against Preston, and other scores by the professional

were 76, 70 and 57. Mitchell hit a century against Bury—116 not out—and 68 against Lytham, besides having some good bowling figures: six for 11 and five for 27. Hartley's six for 19 against Bolton was another excellent performance. Ormsby scored 93 against Southport and had other useful scores. In the Veterans' match at Limbrick, which became a very enjoyable annual affair for some years, N. A. Selkirk hit up 74 for Wigan.

BIG OPENING PARTNERSHIPS

Wigan batsmen gave the opposing fielders a busy time in season 1933. There were many big opening partnerships between Hawtin and J. H. Ormsby—44 and 61 against Chorlton, 48 and 65 against Southport, 59 and 45 against Bolton, 103 not out and 40 against Lytham, and 124 and 47 against Chorlton. Hawtin also made 67 against Preston and Ormsby 55 against Warrington. Other outstanding batting feats were G. T. Mitchell, 71 against Urmston and 73 against Manchester; T. Walmsley, 103 not out against Sefton; and A. E. Shaw, 66 against Broughton and 89 not out against St. Helens. Good bowling feats were Hartley six for 15 and Hawtin four for 13 against St. Helens, although Wigan were beaten in a low scoring game, and Hawtin seven for 33 against Bolton. W. Rodan had five for 10 in the Second Eleven, for whom B. H. Fillingham made 93, the Rev. V. K. Lippiett got 87 and other good scores, and J. M. Smith, 93. Playing for the Veterans against Limbrick, G. Roodcroft contributed 97 not out.

Bill Hawtin made another century for Wigan in 1934. It was against Chorlton and the opening partnership between the professional and J. H. Ormsby was 113. Hawtin's other fine contributions were 61 not out against Manchester, 81 against Bury, 93 against Preston; Ormsby's best scores were 52 (twice) and 57; and G. T. Mitchell got 98 against Southport. In addition to his 93 against Preston, Hawtin also took six wickets for 43 runs. N. A. Selkirk, jun., made 95 for the second team against Lytham. Wigan had a very successful tour in North Wales in August, 1934. They beat Colwyn Bay and Llanrwst and drew at Bangor. A. E. Shaw, 63 not out, and Ormsby, 57, were the top scorers and Hawtin had eight for 39, five for 30 and five for 40.

This tour was followed in the years 1936, 1937, 1938, and 1939 by tours to Yorkshire, where the side gave a good account of themselves against such clubs as Scarborough, Hull, York, Driffield, Bridlington, and Whitby.

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HAWTIN'S 1,000 RUNS

Four centuries were recorded against Wigan in season 1935, one being by Jack Heaton, the Rugby Union international for St. Helens. Hawtin had another very successful season and he had the distinction of scoring well over 1,000 runs in all matches. His best was 93 against Warrington when he and J. H. Ormsby scored 160 for the opening partnership. Ormsby passed the half century four times and other good scores were L. Ashcroft, 73 not out, and A. E. Shaw, two fifties.

Again in 1936 Hawtin exceeded 1,000 runs, probably the only player to accomplish the achievement at Wigan in two successive seasons. Amongst his best scores were 78, 77 not out, 66 and 68. Against Preston, Hawtin and J. H. Ormsby put on 135 for the first wicket. Ormsby made two other half centuries and A. E. Shaw one. Bowling performances included Rodan five for 11 and Saint five for 27. D. Howgate and C. G. Rose batted very well for the second team.

Hawtin and J. H. Ormsby had several splendid first wicket partnerships in 1937, including 136 against Bury. The professional made 102 not out against Warrington and A. E. Shaw was unbeaten for 100 not out against Lytham. These three players contributed other good scores and G. S. Hepton recorded 66 and 53. The best bowling performance was Saint's eight for 16. Second team players who fared well with the bat were C. G. Rose, D. Howgate, J. M. Smith and B. H. Fillingham. The last-named scored a century.

Two centuries were scored by Hawtin in 1938—117 not out against Warrington and 126 not out against Leigh. He had other scores of 87, 77 not out and 77. F. Poppleston narrowly missed the coveted century against Chorlton, being dismissed at 93. H. Eckersley got 62 against Leigh. Bowling achievements included Hawtin five for 45, four for 32 and five for 34; A. E. Shaw four for 13, Saint six for 26 and seven for 38; F. Gregory five for 43, F. J. Scandrett five for 29, and G. H. Shaw four for 30. In second team matches B. H. Fillingham hit up 93 and J. M. Smith and F. J. Scandrett both made 83 not out.

HAWTIN'S THREE CENTURIES

Hawtin had the distinction of compiling three centuries for Wigan in 1939: 101 not out against Southport, 120 against Urmston, and 102 against Bolton. He also scored 71 against Leigh. A. E. Robinson and A. E. Shaw put on 68 for the seventh wicket against Sale and staved off defeat. The finest bowling achievement for many years was that by F. Saint, who against Bury captured nine wickets for 12 runs. F. J. Scandrett

Twenty-nine

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scored 126 not out against Leigh second and J. M. Smith 123 not out against Warrington second. Saint headed the bowling averages with 49 wickets at 9.9, and G. H. Shaw had 41 wickets at 13.2, with five for 18 v. Bolton, five for 22 v. Chorlton, and five for 21 v. Leigh. F. Gregory had five for 18 v. Warrington. Saint had six for 27 v. Bury, five for 20 v. Bolton, and five for 27 v. Southport.

Fixtures were continued despite the war. A. E. Shaw made 72 against Urmston in 1940; H. Gibson had some good bowling figures including seven for 23 against Warrington and G. H. Shaw had six for 28.

An opening partnership of 170 was made by T. Pey (79) and H. Eckersley (82) against Urmston in 1941 and T. Watkinson had some excellent bowling performances.

Holidays at Home matches were arranged in 1942, when W. Farrimond's eleven opposed A. D. Proctor's eleven. Amongst the players were Winston Place, R. Pollard and E. Achong.

In the following season the Mayor's eleven met a mixed counties team at Bull Hey and a considerable sum was raised for charities. Amongst the players were W. Place, R. Parkin, W. Farrimond, J. Lawrence, of Somerset, C. Hallows, and several well known Wigan and district players. Best bowling feats for Wigan were A. E. Robinson six for 15 and four for 14, A. E. Shaw six for 28, W. Hampson eight for 13, and D. Taylor eight for 17 and six for 19. B. H. Fillingham had an innings of 74.

Many brilliant bowling performances were recorded in 1944. A. E. Robinson had seven for 15, six for 17, five for 25; Walton took six for 17, eight for 32, eight for 47, eight for 44, five for 27 and four for 38; W. Hampson took three for 5, and Pettiford five for 19. In the Holidays at Home match many outstanding cricketers took part including E. A. Martindale, W. Place, C. Washbrook, E. Achong, W. Farrimond, E. St. Hill, N. Oldfield and G. H. Pope. Martindale made some exceptionally big hits. One pull to leg sent the ball in the direction of Pagefield Ironworks and was not found.

W. A. Walton had some very excellent bowling feats in 1945, and he received able assistance from A. E. Robinson, F. Saint and F. Pearson. Saint was the outstanding bowler in season 1946, when C. Lester had the brilliant figures of six for 7, while Pearson took six for 12. B. Hughes scored 81 against Ormskirk. W. H. Oliver 91, J. M. Smith 75 and 72, Bradburn not out 64 and D. Howgate 54 batted well for the second eleven.



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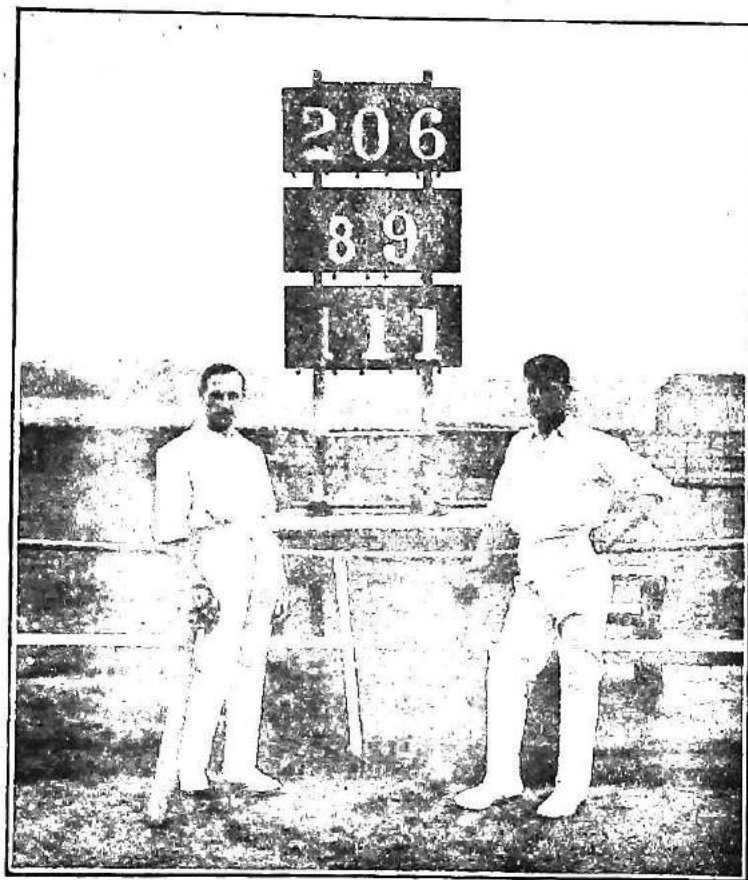
Head Office—

KING STREET, WIGAN

RECORD FIRST WICKET SCORE

206 runs for no wicket

Wigan v. Bolton, July 4th, 1914



S. G. Urison, 89 runs
(not out)

R. Tyler, 111 runs
(not out)

1914 :: THE UNDEFEATED 2nd XI

Played 17, Won 13, Drawn 4



Standing : Sharp (Umpire), H. P. Close, A. A. Dawber, R. G. M. Jones, J. Laithwaite, Senr., J. Noble, N. Dowswell,
T. Arrowsmith (Scorer).
Sitting : H. Prestt, J. Laithwaite, Junr., E. M. Elsworth (Vice-Captain), J. Healy (Captain), E. W. Ralph, G. C. Healy,
W. Roorcroft.

A tie resulted in the Wigan v. Bolton match at Bull Hey in 1945. Wigan scored 83 and Bolton were 28 for eight, but when the last over was called were 83 for eight. Saint in the last over took two wickets without conceding a run.

Throughout the war West Lancashire League elevens had the better of matches against Wigan.

Wigan played four matches v. Blackpool Services and won two against this eleven containing many well-known county players.

CLUB OFFICIALS

In 1897 and 1898, the joint secretaryship was held by Mr. T. Ellis and Mr. A. Shaw, and from 1899 to 1913 by Mr. T. Ellis and Mr. J. A. Baldwin. Mr. Ellis was secretary in 1914. From 1897 to 1907, the treasurer was Mr. G. H. Sowter, who was followed for two years by Mr. G. C. Roger, Mr. J. Healy (1910-1913), and Messrs. J. Healy and E. M. Elsworth (1914). Mr. R. L. Rennick was Captain of the First XI for four years from 1897, Mr. W. F. Goodwin from 1901-1902, and Mr. C. R. Darlington from 1903-1904. For the next seven years the Captain was Major A. Ratcliffe-Ellis, and Mr. H. R. Ellis was Captain from 1912-1914 and from 1919-1920. Vice-captains included Mr. W. F. Goodwin (1897-1900), Mr. J. Halliwell (1901-1902), Mr. W. F. Goodwin (1903-1909), and Mr. N. A. Selkirk (1910).

Captains of the second team between 1897 and 1914 were Messrs. J. H. Naylor, F. H. Taylor, S. Ball, T. Ashton, J. W. Hutchinson, J. Laithwaite, J. H. Makinson, G. C. Roger (1905-1909), and J. Healy (1911-1914). Messrs. J. H. Naylor, J. H. Makinson, J. Healy, J. Laithwaite, and E. M. Elsworth were Vice-Captains.

LINKS WITH THE PAST

There is a link with the past in the fact that E. C. Lowe, a grandson of Mr. E. C. Lowe, who played for the Club in 1862, is a member at Bull Hey.

Alfred Shaw, who laid out the Bull Hey ground, and Adam Knowles (father and uncle respectively of the present captain and Dr. G. H. Shaw) opened the Wigan second team innings against St. Helens Second in 1889 and scored 68 and 79 respectively in a partnership of 147.

J. Roocroft, father of G. E. Roocroft (Captain, 1925-7), played for the champion second eleven of 1882.

The tragic death of Bill Hawtin, Wigan's popular professional through an accident at an explosives factory during the war was deeply regretted. Hawtin had been a splendid servant of the club for many years. He was a brilliant batsman and a good bowler, and a man of great charm whom it was a great pleasure to meet both on and off the field.

Two members of the club, Sergeant F. G. Hall, Irish Guards, and Ordinary Seaman C. G. Rose, lost their lives in the 1939-45 war. In the words of John Buchan they, like the men who were killed in the first world war, "offered their all and had the gift accepted."

Few cricket clubs have had two such loyal servants for a lengthy period as the Wigan Club have had in Mr. W. Warner, umpire for a quarter of a century, and Mr. J. G. Arrowsmith, the club's scorer for the last thirty years. Their services have been recognised in a tangible form.



1948

Playing against Manchester at Old Trafford, F. Pearson scored 130 runs out of a total of 159. He hit twelve sixes and nine fours and hit M. Hilton for 26 runs in one six-ball over—two sixes, three fours and a two. Hilton later performed the hat-trick and B. J. Howard scored 108 not out for Manchester.

The Centenary Celebrations included a dance, a dinner at the Mayor's Reception Room, a cricket festival week, and the Centenary match against Lancashire County. The County side were captained by N. D. Howard and included W. Place, R. Pollard, J. T. Ikin, W. E. Phillipson, W. B. Roberts, G. A. Edrich, E. H. Edrich, A. Wharton, A. Barlow, and P. Greenwood. Wigan were represented by A. E. Shaw (Captain), F. S. W. Saint (Vice-Captain), G. T. Mitchell, F. Poppleston, G. H. Shaw and F. Pearson, and assisted by George Tribe (Australia), A. Chapman (Stockport), H. C. Cooke (Cheetham Hill), R. T. Chadwick (Cheadle Hulme), and W. Slater (Blackpool).

Rain interfered with the game, but Lancashire scored 143 for three wickets declared—G. A. Edrich 48, J. T. Ikin 52 not out—and Wigan replied with 87 for seven wickets—G. Tribe 46.

This concludes the History of Wigan Cricket Club up to May, 1948.



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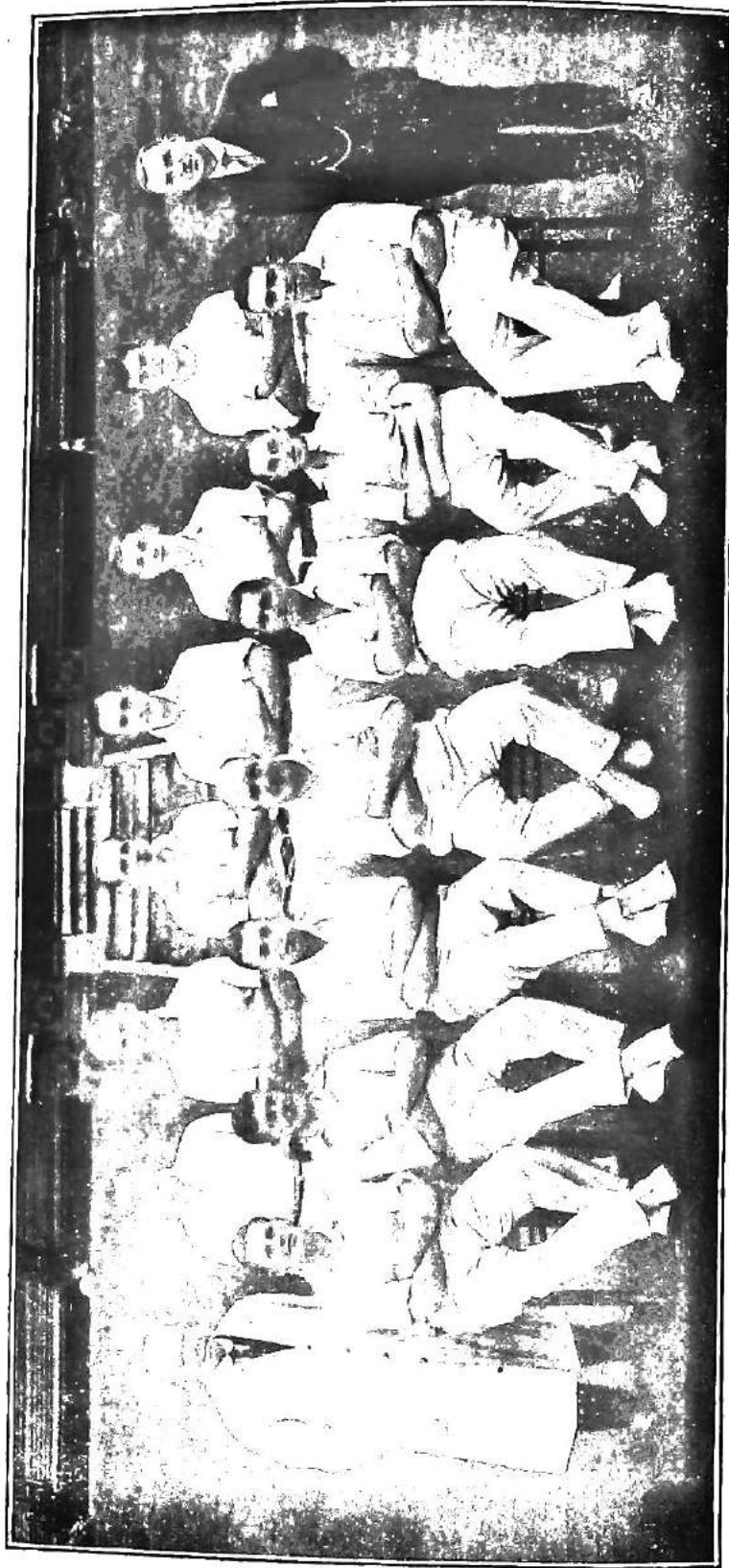
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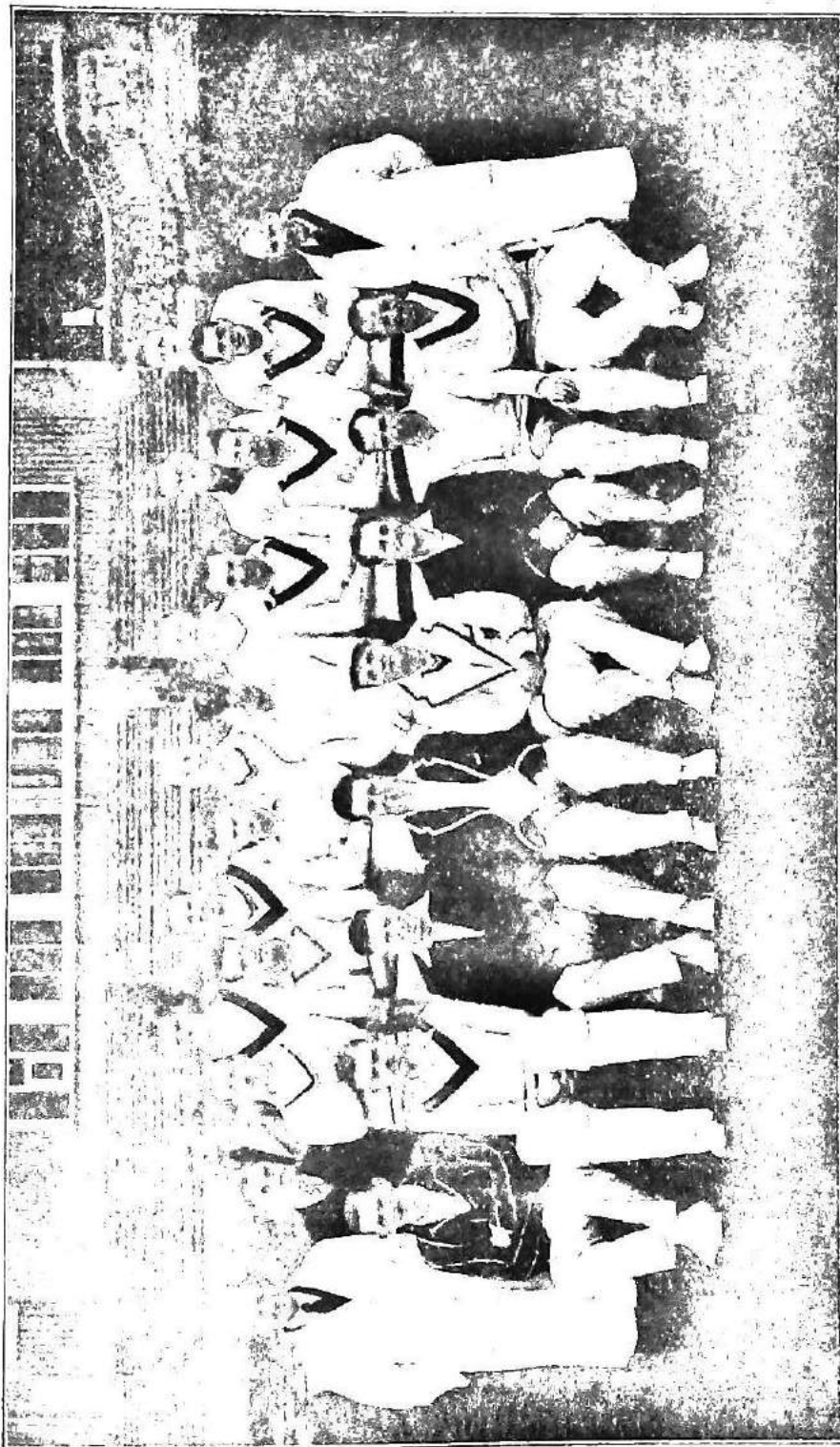
1932 :: 1st XI



Standing: W. Warner (Umpire), H. Eckersley, A. Cook, A. E. Shaw, G. T. Mitchell, F. Popleston, W. Hawt'n,
J. T. Arrowsmith (Scorer).
Sitting: J. H. Ormsby, E. Meadows (Wicket-keeper), H. B. Rennick (Vice-Captain), P. Glover (Captain), A. E. Robinson,
J. M. Smith, N. Hartley

WIGAN CRICKET CLUB CENTENARY YEAR

Lancashire C.C.C. v. Wigan C.C., at Bull Hey, April 28th, 1948



Back Row: M. Taylor (Scorer), W. E. Phillipson, W. B. Roberts, G. H. Shaw, F. Pearson, H. C. Cooke, W. Slater.
Middle Row: H. Makepeace (Umpire), J. G. Arrowsmith (Scorer), F. Poppleston, A. Barlow, P. Greenwood,
G. T. Mitchell, A. Wharton, G. A. Edrich, J. T. Ikin, T. Brown (Umpire)
Front Row: R. T. Chadwick, W. Place, R. Pollard, N. D. Howard (Captain), A. E. Shaw (Captain), G. Tribe,
A. Chapman, E. H. Edrich.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, 1919-1948

President — THE EARL OF CRAWFORD

Chairman	Chairman of Committee	Hon. Secretary	Hon. Treasurer	Captain 1st XI.	Captain 2nd XI.
Mr. W. Ball, 1919-1920 Mr. A. Ratcliffe Ellis, 1920-1945 Mr. P. Glover, 1946 to date	Mr. A. Clarke, 1919-1936 Mr. P. Glover, 1937 to date	Mr. W. H. Hawley, 1919-1920 Mr. P. Glover, 1921-1935 Mr. J. Oliver, 1936 to date	Mr. J. W. Kenyon, 1919-1927 Mr. A. G. Rose, 1928-1935 Mr. L. Ashcroft, 1936-1939 Mr. H. Haselden, 1940-1945 Mr. W. H. Oliver, 1946 to date	Mr. H. Ratcliffe Ellis, 1919-1920 Mr. C. A. Arm- strong, 1921-1924 Mr. G. E. Roodcroft, 1924-1927 Mr. P. Glover, 1928-1934 Mr. A. E. Shavy, 1935 to date	Mr. J. Laithwaite, 1919 Mr. J. Noble, 1920-1923 Mr. P. Glover, 1924-1927 Mr. R. G. M. Jones, 1928-1931 Mr. J. Oliver, 1932-1935 Mr. A. Evans, 1936-1938 Mr. C. G. Rose, 1939-1941 (No 2nd XI. during War) Mr. J. M. Smith, 1946 to date

Hon. Auditor — Mr. E. W. Johnson, 1919 to date.

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AN APPRECIATION

Mr. J. Leech—The Editor of the "Wigan Examiner"—has given voluntarily and cheerfully of his time—and this must have been considerable—in compiling this History of the Wigan Cricket Club. To him is due an expression of appreciation and thanks, not only of local cricketers of the past, present, and future generations, but also of all those citizens, who take an interest in local institutions and societies.

Let me say, on behalf of all concerned, "Thank you very much indeed, Mr. Leech, for rendering such a public-spirited service."

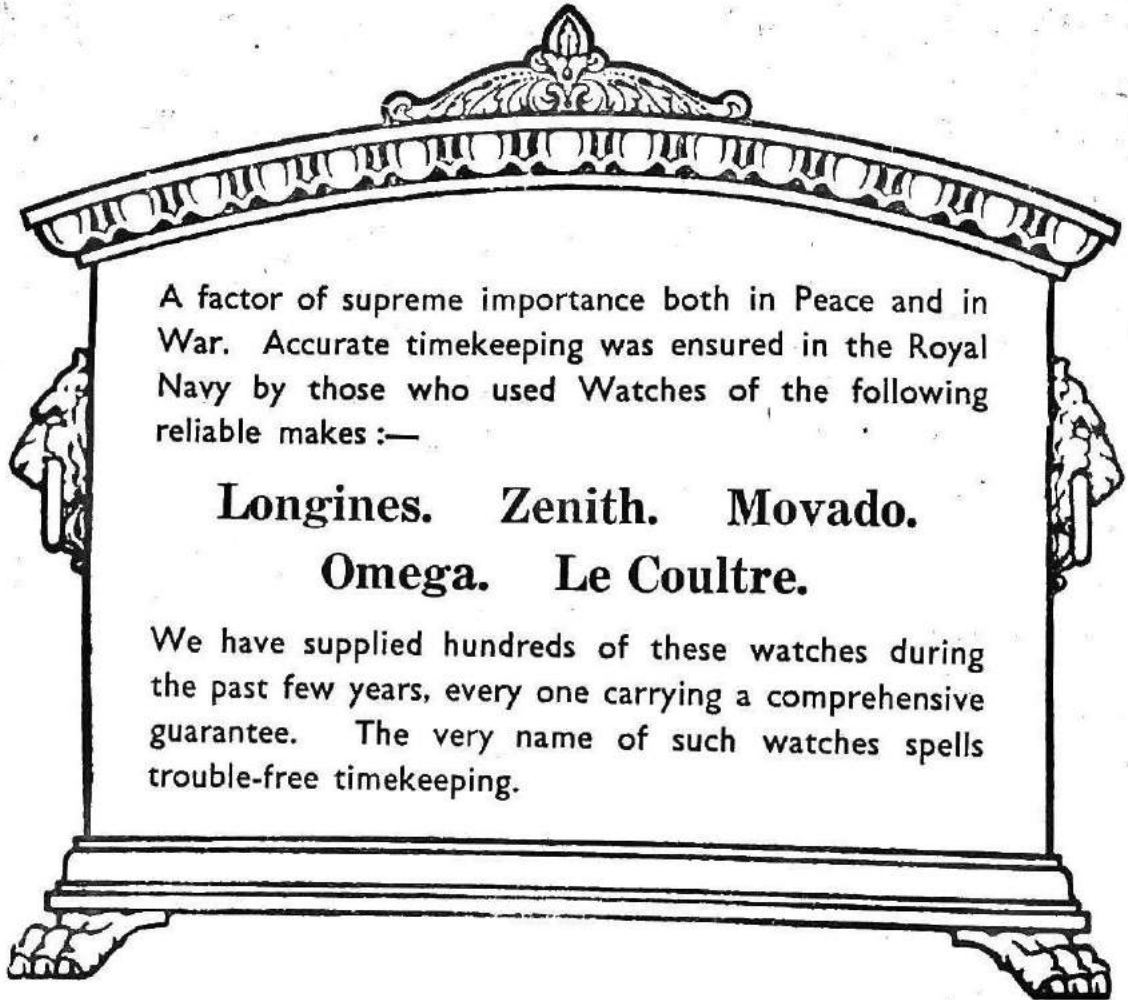
PERCY GLOVER,

Chairman, Wigan Cricket Club.

February, 1948.

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