

Lawton Smith

From: James [jamesdww@hotmail.com]
Sent: 14 November 2014 16:13
To: Lawton Smith
Subject: RE: Trent Bridge Meeting Notes
Attachments: H E WHITE.docx

Julian

As requested I have written a short piece on Harry White which is attached. I could pad it out with more statistics so let me know if you would like this.

With regard to a photo I will see if I can send you one in the next couple of days. One way or the other |I will let you know.

Regards

James

From: lawtonsmith@supanet.com
To: jamesdww@hotmail.com
Subject: Trent Bridge Meeting Notes
Date: Sat, 11 Oct 2014 18:25:14 +0100

James,

Please find attached notes from the meeting at Trent Bridge plus an updated contact list. Let me know if you have any queries.

I hope that you enjoyed meeting your half cousin in Northumberland.

Regards

Julian

Julian Lawton Smith
Home: 01865 768258
Mobile: 07740 292173

H E WHITE

Henry (Harry) Edmund White has the record of being Hertfordshire's greatest all rounder. In a career spanning the first fifteen years of the Minor County Championship up to 1909 Harry took 751 wickets and scored 5,648 runs and is now the third highest wicket taker and sixth highest run scorer in the history of Hertfordshire cricket. His record is unlikely ever to be surpassed.

Born in Stoke Poges in 1869, his cricket was entirely self taught; he did not even come from a cricketing family. He was engaged by West Herts CC when that club was formed in 1890 and performed prodigious feats for them including taking 270 wickets in 1902 and 312 in 1903. On four occasions he took all ten wickets and he did the hat-trick six times. In 1902, he scored well over 2,000 runs, including twelve centuries.

In 1904 he refused a tempting offer to coach at Eton College preferring to remain where he was. As a bowler, he mixed them up, usually fast medium, and he could move the ball both ways off the wicket. He was also a complete batsman with a particularly powerful square cut and a safe slip fielder.

His final season for Hertfordshire was possibly his finest – taking more wickets than anyone had before and heading the batting averages for good measure. One startling performance succeeded another: 103 not out v. Bedfordshire at Elstow School, 8 for 40 and 6 for 41 v. Suffolk at Watford, 57 not out 7 for 14 and 4 for 30 v. Cambridgeshire at Bishop's Stortford, 8 for 35 and 9 for 38 v. Bedfordshire at St. Albans (the only Hertfordshire player to have taken 17 wickets in a match), 51 not out v. Suffolk at Felixstowe, 4 for 46 and 6 for 39 v. Lincolnshire at Grimsby. No other Hertfordshire player has ever had a season to match it and Harry was 40 years old at the time.

The failure of West Herts to re-engage him for 1910 must rank as one of the most stupendous blunders ever committed by a cricket club. From the opening of the ground in 1890, he had produced superb wickets and completely dominated the club batting and bowling. Anxious to retain his services for the County, H.M. Harford, the captain, was prepared to pay his wages from his own pocket but MCC had heard of his ability and appointed him Head Groundsman at Lords where he remained for 26 years coping equally well with the plaque of leather-jackets and the constant stream of instructions from the MCC committee.

Lawton Smith

From: James [jamesdww@hotmail.com]
Sent: 22 September 2014 21:53
To: Lawton Smith
Subject: RE: 1909 scorecards

I apologise for taking so long to respond but more importantly I can add very little from what Bob Simons gave you. I have no scorebook for that year so I rely on his data from local papers. It adds nothing if I reiterate what Bob had told you although I can confirm the following:

1. Match 35 - It makes sense that Smith bowled 21.3 overs
2. Match 47 - Hitchin's ground in 1909 was in London Road
3. Match 47 - It is not possible for H M Harford to bat at No. 10 and make 30 not out when the 8th wicket fell with the score at 185 and only a further 17 was added to the score before Hertfordshire were all out for 202.
4. Match 73 - The 1910 edition of Wisden confirms the Hertfordshire 1st innings score of 133.

Nothing more to add.

James Wright

From: lawtonsmith@supanet.com
To: jamesdww@hotmail.com
Subject: 1909 scorecards
Date: Sat, 6 Apr 2013 15:35:06 +0100

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Lawton Smith

From: James [jamesdww@hotmail.com]
Sent: 22 September 2014 19:13
To: Lawton Smith
Subject: RE: 1909 etc

If you do biographies on people who played their last County match in 1909, I am surprised that you are not including H E White who scored 6,833 runs for Hertfordshire and took 853 wickets. No allrounder has got anywhere near this record.

James

From: jamesdww@hotmail.com
To: lawtonsmith@supanet.com
Subject: RE: 1909 etc
Date: Sun, 14 Sep 2014 19:06:52 +0000

Some words about Arthur Butcher

"The outstanding player for Tring for many years was Arthur Butcher. He typified the well-to-do amateur sportsman of the time; playing golf off a low handicap, he was an early member of Berkhamsted and West Herts Golf Clubs. His careful stodgy batting brought him many runs and earned him a place in the County team in 1884. He remained a stalwart member of the team until 1909. At Aylesbury in 1901, he scored 131 and 36 not out against Buckinghamshire and in 1907 200 not out against Cambridgeshire. Those were his best two years; in both he was second in the batting with an average of just under 40. Overall he scored 5,842 runs for the County and allowing for the variable quality of the wickets at that time, his average of 22.15 was a creditable one. He joined the County Committee in 1891, was briefly Secretary in 1896 and then continuously a Vice-President for nearly sixty years."

In comparison Dr A E Clarke who scored only 464 runs for Hertfordshire does not merit a biography.

I will look at the 1909 scorecards this week.

Kind regards

James

From: lawtonsmith@supanet.com
To: jamesdww@hotmail.com
Subject: 1909 etc
Date: Wed, 20 Aug 2014 18:21:52 +0100

Hi James,

I hope that you are keeping well.

Following the successful publication of the 1908 book, we are now pressing on with 1909. I sent you the Herts scorecards for that year in April 2013 and now need feedback on any potential changes, ideally in the next few weeks.

There are also 2 players who might warrant a biography as it was their final season – A Butcher and AE Clarke. Would you be able to produce a brief resume for them?

We have booked the annual project team meeting at Trent Bridge for Saturday 27th September. I will send an agenda nearer the time but hope that you can make it this year.

Regards

Julian

Julian Lawton Smith

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