

# From the Willoughby Society Archives

## WILLOUGHBY CRICKET CLUB

FORMED 1901

PRESIDENT: P.H. SHEAF

VICE-PRESIDENTS: Mrs. F. Lamont, D. C. Bassett, C. Dodd, P. W. Green, J. Green, R. Gurney, F. Hall, R. C. Halliday, A.R.: Hargrave, A. Hatwell, V. Hatwell, J. Howkins Snr., D. Howkins, H. Jacobs, R. Kingston, L. F. Mitchell, P. Nurser, J. Sanders, C. Waknell.

CHAIRMAN:- S. G. IVENS

HON.. SECRETARY	HON. TREASUR.	HON. MATCH SECRETARY
F. L. Mitchell,	E. C. Palmer	P. W. Green
"The Covers",	" Lyndhurst"	Westfield House",
Willoughby, Rugby	Willoughby, Rugby	Braunston, Rugby;.

### COMMITTEE

B. J. Hall (Captain), C. Pettifer (Vice-Captain), R. Anderson (Vice-Captain), N. Hallam, L. J. Kemp, F. Hallam.

### TRUSTEES

S. G. Ivens, P. T. Sheaf, P. W. Green, E. C. Palmer, F. L. Mitchell.

Hon. AUDITOR:

F. W. Hancock Fsq.

### CLUB SCORERS

Jonathan Sheaf and Robert Adams

CLUB SOLICITOR:

G. F. Parr - Hodson & Lines

Your Committee has pleasure in presenting the 13th Annual Report on the 74th year since the Club's formation, for submission to the Annual. General Meeting to be held in the Village Hall, Willoughby, on Wednesday, 17th February, 1976, at 7.30.p.m.

MEMBERSHIP- The total Club membership is 146 (including 7 Life Members)

MATCHES- 60 matches were arranged for 1975 but 9 were cancelled, 1 was abandoned and 50 were brought to a conclusion: 25 WON 15 LOST 10 DRAWN.

FIELD- The original tree-planting scheme has now been completed; within 12 months of its launching - 34- trees have been planted within the boundaries of "The Green" under the auspices of Mr. Y. Pollard, Flecknoe, who is an acknowledged authority on landscaping.

The Official tree planting took place on Sunday 30th March, 1975, at 3.00.p.m. as scheduled complete with photographs, and the Secretary has prepared a commemorative album, which will be housed in the Pavilion.

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Following on from the highly successful tree-planting. scheme the Secretary had tentatively suggested a "seating fund" for the purpose of providing seats for spectators.

After consultation between the Committee and Mr. R. C. Halliday, 8 Burma Teak Seats were selected by Wrinches of Ipswich" and transported free of charge by Halliday Transport at a cost of £40.00 each (seats normally retailed at £55.00 ea.). Mrs. G. E. Bates (widow of our former President) donated 1 on 30th March, 1975. Messrs. R. C. Halliday, K. Halliday, D. Halliday donated a further 3 and our President and Mrs. Sheaf' donated a fifth seat, a sixth and final seat of this scheme was given by Club' members following a number of raffles organised by the Taverners, and a collection bottle on the Club Bar.

The seats have been fitted with foot plates and suitably engraved nameplates are being manufactured. for the official presentation to take place during the 1976 season.

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Scheme One- increased changing facilities involving some 60 sq. feet of the present equipment storage area - job to be completed by members.

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After this visit it was decided that there was nothing on the market to touch the original matting for wear .or economy and it was decided therefore to purchase a new mat and reinforce the ends with canvas before play was commenced.

#### COMMITTEE

The Committee have held 12 meetings and 27 selection meetings, attendance has again been excellent.

## FUND RAISING

The weekly Tote has now reached its 16th year of operation and receipts are still on the increase.

Principal Fund-raising through the year centred on the Seating Fund but other very notable efforts were £50 from the Six-a-Side raffle organised by the President and £54 raised for the Dennis Amis Benefit Fund of 50% of which goes to our own Club funds.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

The Club Dances were again well supported turning in useful profits, thoughts for 1976 hinge around Disco and Live Band Dances to provide a marginally better coverage of continuous music for dancing.

ANNUAL DINNER held at the Craven Arms, Southam, when by the kind permission of Mr. R. C. Halliday we were this year able to be entertained by Fred Trueman our special guest.

An evening none of us present will ever forget, when even the traditional entertainment seemed superfluous after such a wonderful address by our guest.

The 30th January, 1976, will be recorded for ever in the Clubs history.

## BAR

The "Tavern" had its best year to date with increased sales in its 8th season.

## FIXTURES

There were 7 new Clubs in our 1975 Fixture List following a review at the end of 1974.

We did not perform particularly well against these new clubs.

3 Won and 4 Lost 1 Drawn - non-availability and some poor batting by the "selected teams accounted for a number of results we would prefer to forget - the best way of course being to play better in 1976.

## 1975 TOUR

To Long Sutton, Lincolnshire, Saturday, 28th June, 1975. A day that will be remembered for all the wrong reasons - the superb bowling of Long Sutton and the poor batting by Willoughby, on an average wicket and with some of the finest facilities ever witnessed.

To the surprise of the Committee we have been invited to visit again in 1976 and we have accepted, hoping this time to salvage some of our pride from the 1975 performance.

## 1975 Haig

A marvellous run in the "Haig" reaching the County Final stage - before being knocked out by Avoncroft (Worcestershire) in a very close match with the most exciting of finishes !

We think a special tribute should be paid to our supporters who travelled by coach and car on the 120 miles round trip to the Final and the other 4 games to follow their team.

On an administrative note - we have been informed that following official representations by Willoughby and other Clubs - Gowerton (last years winners) have been precluded from entry for 1976 on the grounds of "non-conformity the Rules.

SIX-A-SIDE; - 6th July - another marvellous day, which was reflected in the profits on the event of £60. The Tournament was won by Courtaulds, Nuneaton.

## CLUB SINGLE WICKET CHAMPIONSHIP - 4TH OCTOBER

A different format this year due to the lateness of the event - 3x 8 ball overs instead of the more normal 5x 6 ball overs.

Despite a long season a good Tournament ensued, culminating in one of the best Finals ever between Neal Hallam (Champion) and Eric Palmer (Runner-up).

#### PRESIDENTS XI - SPRING BANK HOLIDAY 1975

The second of these popular annual fixtures against the Presidents select eleven, the waiting list of Players on whom our President can call gets longer each year which proves what a fine event this has become.

#### BOXING DAY 1975

The 5th Annual Fixture won this year by Offchuroh after 3 successive wins by Willoughby. Offchuroh were 5 for 4 wkts. but eventually rallied to 78 all out Willoughby lost wickets steadily throughout and were all out for 69 (beaten by Just 9 runs).

#### LADIES TIP & RUN 1975

The ladies team had another good season; playing 9 matches, but winning only 5.

#### GENERAL

The Club have again entered the Rugby Sports Centre indoor Six-A-Side League which runs from January to April, 1976.

To commemorate the Clubs 75th Playing Season, the club is sponsoring an interclub competition in 1976 among 3 other clubs with ourselves, using an existing fixture for a designated 40 over match, the three clubs are Bilton, Fleoknoe and Staverton.

At the time of the purchase of "The Green" in January, 1974, a loan was negotiated with Warwickshire County Cricket Club Supporters Association. The Committee are proud to announce the total repayment of this Loan, along with all the outstanding Loans by members made at the same time, quite an achievement in two years.

#### TROPHY WINNERS- CRICKER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

##### FIELDING AWARD

As announced by Bill Hall - Chairman of the Taverners, not a difficult decision in 1975 due to the generally mediocre nature of our Clubs fielding.

To the player with the most catches for the season who always makes the exercise look so easy - LES KEMP.

##### JUNIOR

A newcomer to the Club this year who is always willing to give of his best in the teams interest. A budding wicketkeeper of whom We are expecting great things

##### IAN FERGUS

##### S'FJITIOR

Although not his best year from a results point of view, certainly his best year for the club. To bowl economically in the limited overs matches, to hold the batting together in times of crisis and to we of lesser ability set the example by which is founded all great cricket clubs - CYRIL PETIFER..

##### BATTING AVERAGES

###### 1920-1959 Players Challenge Trophy

Winner - K. I. Rowland - 25 innings 7 not out 718 runs Average 39.89 Highest score 94 4 ducks 68 fours 5 sixes

Runner-up C. Pettifer

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Winner - K. I. Rowland - 180.1 overs' 46 maidens 471 runs 56 wickets Average 8.41

Best Analysis 5 for 6

Runner-up R. Anderson

Single Wicket Champion t.

S. G-. Ivens Rose Bowl

Winner - Neal Hallam            6.3 runs in 4 rounds

Runner-up - Eric Palmer        71 runs in 4 rounds

Six-a-Side Winners

T. J. Bates Rose Bowl - 1197 runs for 72. wickets COORTAULDS.;' NUNEATON

Runner-up G.E.C. Rugby

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1.     Tea ladies - Mesdames Palmer Snr. Hall, Sheaf, Green, Hancock, Hallam, Mitchell, Pettifer, Priest, Anderson and. V. Hall.
2.     Bar Committee - Chairman E. C. Palmer.
3.     Barmaid - Mrs. Jean Palmar.
4.     Mr. D. Howkins - for general assistance.
5.     All the Six-a-Side sponsors.
6.     Tote Operators and Collectors.
7.     Club Scorers - Robert Adams and Jonathan Sheaf.
8.     Club Umpire - Mr. Bill Hall.
9.     Taverners Committee - Chairman V. Hall.
10.   Grounds Committee - Chairman F. L. Mitchell.
11.   Club Auditor - F.W. Hancock.
12.   Club Solicitor - Geoffrey Parr.

HON. CH.AIRMAN

HON. SECRETARY

February. 1976,

# WILLOUGHBY CRICKET CLUB

PUBLICITY SURROUNDING THE 1976 ANNUAL  
DINNER HELD AT CRAVEN ARMS, SOUTHAM.  
ON FRIDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 1976.

6 Coventry Evening Telegraph, Thursday, January 29, 1976

10 Coventry Evening Telegraph, Saturday, January 31, 1976

## Willoughby celebrate— with Fred

By JOHN LAMB

WILLOUGHBY Cricket Club, the epitome of an English village team, celebrate in style tomorrow when Freddie Trueman is the guest speaker at their annual dinner.

The club enter their 75th season this year and Trueman's visit is the highlight of their long history.

There are few families in the village (pop 400) who are not involved in some way with the club. It has a following second only to that of the church and their ground, nestling a quarter of a mile off the A45 south of Dunchurch, is a shrine of the game of cricket.

Secretary Fred Mitchell, a walking Wisden on the history and achievements of the club, is a cricket fanatic. His home is called The Covers. He says: "Everything in Willoughby revolves round the cricket club. We play three times a week and I don't take a summer holiday so we don't expect anyone else to go away during the season."

The club hired its ground until 1973, when the opportunity to buy it arose. "We were given a loan by the Warwickshire Cricket Association but the rest of the money was donated - or loaned by members."

"The response was fantastic. Someone started the ball rolling when they heard we needed £3,000 and, in the end, we couldn't stop people donating money.

"The same thing hap-

pened recently when the club wanted to landscape the ground. Someone decided they would donate a tree—now the ground is surrounded with them. The club then wanted seats to place around the ground—they're ordering them four at a time.

"This is the sort of atmosphere we have at the club," said Mitchell. "When we announced that we were going to buy the ground, one member donated his £50 life savings."

Willoughby is only a quarter-of-a-mile from the border with Northamptonshire, but Mitchell says: "Don't let anyone tell you that we're not a Warwickshire team. We are — and proud of it."

The club's history is littered with anecdotes. One involves their Sunday matches, which are a fairly recent innovation. And it was only seven years ago that all Sunday matches had to finish by 6 o'clock out of respect of the club chairman, who was a church warden and would never miss Evensong!

## Trueman hits at England

FRED TRUEMAN branded the current England cricket team as "the worst we have ever had" last night.

The former Test star was speaking at the annual dinner of Willoughby Cricket Club and he blamed England's problems on the number of overseas players in county cricket.

"At the moment this country has only two world class cricketers available — Alan Knott and Geoff Boycott—and until counties like Warwickshire trim the number of overseas players on their books the situation will remain the same."

Trueman presented the club's trophies, including player of the year awards to Ian Ferguson (junior) and Cyril Pettifer (senior).

Adrian Baugh responded to the toast to the Club, proposed by Colin Emery, of Nuncaton Courtaulds, with Willoughby captain Brian Hall proposing the toast to the guest to which Trueman responded. A review of the season was given, by secretary Fred Mitchell.

RUGBY ADVERTISER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1976

## Trueman tonks 'em

Former England Test star Fred Trueman hit out at the number of overseas players in county cricket when speaking at the annual dinner of Willoughby Cricket Club on Friday night.

One of England's most famous cricketing sons, Trueman said he believed the current national side was the "worst we have ever had."

He blamed England's problems on the influx of overseas players, and cited Warwickshire as one of the county sides at fault.

Trueman presented the club trophies, which included the junior player of the year award to Ian Ferguson and the senior award to Cyril Pettifer.

The dinner marked the 75th anniversary of the club and secretary Mr Fred Mitchell said the appearance of Fred Trueman was one of the highlights in their history. About 110 members and guests attended.

SOCIETY OF  
ARCHIVES

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Highest score 94 4 ducks 68 fours 5 sixes

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COURTAULDS - NUNEATON

Runner-up G.E.C. Rugby

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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2. Bar Committee - Chairman E. C. Palmer.
3. Barmaid - Mrs. Jean Palmer.
4. Mr. D. Howkins - for general assistance.
5. All the Six-a-Side sponsors.
6. Tote Operators and Collectors.
7. Club Scorers - Robert Adams and Jonathan Sheaf.
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