

WILLOUGHBY CRICKET CLUB

FOUNDED 1901

PRESIDENT: P. H. SHEAF

VICE-PRESIDENTS: Mrs. H. Martin, Mrs. E. Lamont, R. Baker, D. C. W. Bassett, J. Bown, J. Ellard, K. Gealy, J. Green, R. Gurney, F. Hall, A. Hargrave, A. Hatwell, V. Hatwell, J. Howkins Snr., H. Jacobs, R. Kingston, L. F. Mitchell, R. A. Martin, P. Nurser, C. Taylor.

LIFE MEMBERS: Mrs. G. E. Bates, P. W. Green, W. Hall, F. Hallam, R. C. Halliday, S. G. Ivens, C. Jarvis, F. L. Mitchell, E. C. Palmer, P. H. Sheaf, E. Shears, W. Wornell.

CHAIRMAN: S. G. IVENS

HON. SECRETARY

F. L. Mitchell,
"The Covers",
Willoughby,
Nr. Rugby.

HON. TREASURER

E. C. Palmer,
"Lyndhurst",
Willoughby,
Nr. Rugby.

HON. MATCH SECRETARY

P. W. Green,
"Westfield House",
Braunston,
Nr. Deventry.

COMMITTEE: W. Hallam (Captain), B. J. Hall (Vice-Captain), K. I. Rowland (Vice-Captain), P. Allibone, F. Hallam, B. W. Hawkins, D. E. Neville, C. Pettifer.

TRUSTEES: S. G. Ivens, F. W. Green, F. L. Mitchell, E. C. Palmer, P. H. Sheaf

HON. AUDITOR: J. E. Forster Esq.

SOLICITORS: Hodson & Lines.

Your Committee has pleasure in presenting the 18th Annual Report on the 80th Year since the Club's formation, for submission to the Annual General Meeting to be held in the Village Hall, Willoughby, on Monday, 9th February, 1981, at 19.30 Hours.

MEMBERSHIP: The total Club membership is 181

MATCHES: 63 matches were arranged - 12 were cancelled, 51 being brought to a conclusion. WON - 26 LOST - 15 DRAWN - 10

FIELD: The Presentation Seats have been refurbished - although the rather drab Summer did not include their regular usage! The Covers were stripped of their old P.V.C. sheets - which had become very brittle - and a new "Agrilux" sheeting is to be substituted. The old wooden Sightscreens finally disintegrated after sterling service and have been replaced by 2x angle iron frames and "stretched" canvas sheets - after some initial design problems a further 2x are to be manufactured. A new Roll-bar has been purchased and once fitted will legalise the Club's position in the regular use of the Dexta Tractor. In late April the 300 year old roadside Elm tree which had died some 12 months previously, was felled!

Following lengthy discussions it was decided to plant some form of windbreak on the boundary fence - after seeking the advice of Bill Pollard, Flecknoe, 250 Leylandii were planted on Sunday, 7th December, 1980, (200 green, 50 yellow) These will, in due course, be regulated to some 6' - 7' in height and will provide, it is hoped, a 90% windbreak!

Regarding the roadside hedge, it was decided to watch the demise of sections of this hedge very closely (as large sections of it were witch-Elm) and act accordingly as the time became right! The Committee are indebted to those members who have assisted with the continued planting of "The Green" during 1980.

PAVILION: On the retirement of Bill Hall as Caretaker, the Ladies Section took over

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this task on a rota basis and have done a great job! See separate write-up on the new "Pavilion Project".

EQUIPMENT: The playing equipment has again been maintained by Les Kemp and Dennis Neville - the ground equipment being serviced by Les - an engine has been purchased for fitting on to our wicket roller.

Discussions have also taken place during 1980 about the possible re-siting of the Concrete Strip laid in 1962, but a final decision has been deferred for a further 5-years.

COMMITTEE: The committee held 11 meetings and 27 selection meetings during the year, these have been well attended.

FUND-RAISING: The weekly Tote still continues to flourish after 21 years. See separate write-up on the new "Pavilion Project".

SOCIAL EVENINGS: The Club Dances were again very well attended together with many of the new 'Pavilion Project' events - see separate write up.

ANNUAL DINNER: To be held on Friday, 30th January, 1981, at the Post House, Crick, for the first time; when our guests will be Mr. Chris Alderson-Smith of Flecknoe C.C. and Mr. Stuart Long of Howkins and Harrison, Rugby.

BAR: The "Tavern" had another excellent year, but the countrywide recession had an effect on the overall takings. The Club was also successful in its application for a 10-year License which expires in April 1990.

The Club was open from 11th March to 26th December on 110 occasions.

FIXTURES: A very successful season with a list of fixtures much envied by many of our present opponents, the social evenings which now are a regular feature of our cricketing days at "The Green" are a real pleasure to all but a few of our playing members.

1980 TOUR: After certain reluctance on the part of some playing members to attend the two-day tour for whatever reason - a very successful weekend was spent by 21 persons. To be in the company of ones cricketing friends for a weekend is a very rewarding experience and to be recommended to all who hesitate! E. C. Palmer will again be Tour Manager for 1981.

CRICKETING EVENTS 1980

1980 WHITBREAD VILLAGE CHAMPIONSHIP

At last - a home draw versus Byfield on Sunday 4th May. Byfield batted first and compiled runs steadily throughout to total 153-9 from 40 overs. Willoughby did not perform very well with the bat, however, and from the relative comfort of 36-0 from 11 overs, were 75-4 and 133 all out from 36.2 overs (including 3 "run-outs")

INTER-CLUB COMPETITION

The competition was affected for the first time by the weather two games being rained off between Willoughby and Staverton and a third game although cancelled because of Boughton's inability to raise a team, would have been abandoned as it rained all of the day in question! On top of this was the competition's first "Tied Result". The ultimate winners were Willoughby for the fourth time in five years.

WILLOUGHBY YOUTH XI

Yet another poor season result wise for the Club's Colts but a creditable effort on the part of the 12 boys who represented the Club in 1980.

INDOOR CRICKET LEAGUE

The re-introduction of the "Manns" Cricket League at the Rugby Sports Centre saw the first Trophy won by a Willoughby team for some years. The League was dominated by Willoughby and GEC, Rugby, who subsequently played off a "Final" on the last evening of the Tournament, watched by just five members of the public!!

Willoughby C.C. are now to represent the District in the Warwickshire Play-off on Sunday, 1st March, 1981.

SIX-A-SIDE 1980

Another marvellous day producing 1154 runs for 71 wickets and the new format using a League system was an outstanding success.

As further improvement, invitations for 1981 will consist of only one team per Club, to allow 3 new Clubs to be admitted.

1980 = Winners: Rowland Utd. Runners-up : Braunston

CLUB SINGLE WICKET CHAMPIONSHIP

This has now become an end-of-season affair but for all that provided some thrilling cricket. The final was played off between Gavin Hough and Brian Hall; and a good match ensued with Brian scoring 26 n.o. from 3x 8 ball overs - Gavin capitulating on the 12th ball.

PRESIDENTS X1 - SPRING BANK HOLIDAY

20 overs limited first innings - Presidents X1. 83 - Willoughby 95. The Presidents X1 then declared at 169-9 Martin Nichols 4 - 31 to leave Willoughby 160 to win. In spite of two minor scares - wickets falling at 0. 15. - Dennis Neville 60, Gavin Hough 36, Phil Fox 43 n.o. and Brian Hawkins 19 n.o. Willoughby were home by 6 wickets with 2 overs to spare!

FORTIES X1

Yet another first for Willoughby - regular "Over Forties" fixtures geared to coincide with away fixtures by the Willoughby team, all fixtures therefore able to take place at "The Green". Some 23 gentlemen took part for Willoughby against invitation opposition; in 1981 individuals will be asked to bring their own X1's to Willoughby to continue this now established, entertaining and thoroughly enjoyable type of cricket.

BOXING DAY 1980

The tenth Annual Christmas Challenge match took place on a windy but otherwise magnificent morning. A 20 over match commenced at 10.30.a.m. with the Offchurch District X1 making a promising start of 23 - 0 but were all out for 65 from 20 overs. Willoughby took up the challenge and achieved 66-5 from 15 overs.

LADIES SECTION

The Ladies Section again had a very successful season on the field and socially. Weather conditions were never very conducive to evening fixtures, but our ladies performed to often very high standards.

RUGBY & DISTRICT CRICKET LEAGUE

Newbold C.C. have been instrumental in the possible formation of a Rugby & District Saturday Cricket League. A number of meetings have been held, but it would appear that there is no way of forming such a League without considerable disruption of our well established Fixture List. After a number of lengthy discussions on the matter the CLUB MEMBERS decided not to participate.

GENERAL: New Fixture Card covers were purchased and in future the annual fixtures will take the form of an insert. The position has also been explored of operating our own licensed bars at Club functions. The response to indoor practice nets was most disappointing and will not be continued.

Players seem to have coped very well with wholesale alterations to the Laws of the game introduced in 1980. In simple terms, the governing body put into words, what for years had been a commonsense approach by administrators and umpires alike!

The adoption of a new Club Tie is under consideration by the Committee.

In response to the St. Nicholas Church, Willoughby, Restoration Appeal, the Club will be selecting a fixture during 1981 as a Charity Match!

During the year a new 3-year Groundsman's contract was negotiated to run from 1981 to 1983.

OBITUARY

C. DODD - A long-standing supporter, although of recent years had been unable to visit "The Green", due to ill-health. As the former village Baker he had been the supplier of all the Club's confectionary needs until his retirement. He had been a Club Vice-President for 8 years.

LATE TONY NASH - Following a request from his Widow, the Ashes of the late Tony Nash were scattered on "The Green" this being the nearest position to the old Football field where for some years he had represented Willoughby F.C. and enjoyed "very happy days"!

NEW PAVILION PROJECT

FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE

The Club Committee have been examining, in private, for some years, the possibility of building a new Pavilion - the outcome of these examinations was the approval on 5th March, 1980, by the Rugby Council Planning Committee of a set of plans previously approved by the Club Committee.

As a result of the formal approval a General Meeting was called on Thursday, 10th April, 1980, at which the membership as a whole agreed in principle to the idea of a new Pavilion.

The Club Committee then set up a fund-raising sub-committee in order that all fund-raising would be properly co-ordinated toward a target of £10,000 by 31st March, 1981, at which point the entire scheme would be reviewed.

The Committee consisted of S. G. Ivens (Chairman), B. J. Hall (Secretary) F. Hallam, N. Hallam, B. W. Hawkins, F. L. Mitchell and P. H. Sheaf and has met on 7 occasions during the year.

PAVILION - The main reason behind replacement of our existing 28 year-old wooden structure is the roof - and the heat loss through un-insulated walls for social functions during the close season! Escalating costs mean that a new building will never be cheaper in the future than it is now and the plans are for a permanent brick and tile structure. The Lounge area envisaged is of similar size to our existing Pavilion and it is hoped that the magnificent atmosphere generated now can be maintained. The principle additions in area are for services - i.e. Kitchen, Bar, Toilets, Showers, Changing Rooms etc.

FUND-RAISING - all avenues have been or will be explored, and the interest and enthusiasm shown so far is most encouraging.

a). CENTURION CLUB - in a quite remarkable response some 100 supporters and friends of the Club have joined this excellent Lottery at £25 p.a. which could net the

Club £1,400 in a full year.

- b). VILLAGE AUCTION - in a magnificent Club effort and with the assistance of a future member of our Club - Stuart Long - Howkins & Harrison - as Auctioneer, a profit of £845 was made on takings of £1200.
- c). FOLK EVENING - in a novel form of fund-raising the F/R Committee with Mrs. J. Gibbard, organised a Folk Evening which netted over £150.
- d). THE CLUB LADIES - specifically organised two F/R events
- (i). FASHION SHOWS -
Two were organised netting £109.00
- (ii) JEWELLERY PARTY -
An evening in the Pavilion netting £23.00
- e). SPONSORED WALK - possibly the easiest of all methods of fund-raising. It was decided in May, 1980, that Saturday, 27th December, 1980, would be the ideal day, but who would have guessed that such a perfect day could possibly have dawned. - 87 Men, Women and Children (some dogs) walked and completed the 10 mile course netting an estimated £1,000 to the Fund.

On a perpetual note: the following items and events will contribute long-term - Match day raffles, scrap metal and paper, Tavern bottle - all started in 1980.

Looking to 1981 : the following events will be organised - Valentinc Dance, Coffee Evening, Fete and Sports Day, Barbecue, Bingo, Prize Squares, Jazz or Folk Evening, Brotherhood Refreshments.

The so-called "Racing Evenings" have been examined in detail, but would seem to be an expensive form of fund-raising unless a venue can be established to seat 400 to 500 gentlemen .

Overall - the Fund-raising Committee have been very encouraged with the total funds established during just 8-months of 1980.

Two members have covenanted a total of £1250 by 1985, the former Willoughby F.C. donated their total funds of £900 to the scheme. Rugby Auctioneers donated £30 following their evening social match, and a magnificent book "A - Z of Cricket" by E. W. Swanton valued at £18.00 donated by Bill Carlisle is to be a featured item at the Annual Dinner 1981.

It is hoped that looking to 1981 and beyond, the playing membership will rally-to-the-cause with more enthusiasm than has occasionally been the case during 1980.

AWARD WINNERS

SENIOR CRICKETER OF THE YEAR

The Taverners choice as recipient of the Wilebei Bowl for 1980 was a very popular decision particularly as it went to one of the senior members of the Club. Brian Hawkins has certainly made an impact on the Club since joining us years ago, but in 1980 he excelled to even his high standards and also completed a year on the Club Committee.

JUNIOR CRICKETER OF THE YEAR

A A disappointing year for junior cricketers the under 15 section became more and more depleted as the year went on, but the one shining light was the progress into the senior side of Gavin Hough. His aptitude and ability have rarely been in question, the hope is, that he matures into a full member of our Club at all

possible levels!

FIELDING AWARD

Always a difficult task especially in a mediocre fielding season such as 1980, but again the Taverners were unanimous in their selection of Martin Nichols for his application to the art of fielding during 1980.

BATTING AVERAGES - 1920 - 1959 PLAYERS CHALLENGE CUP

WINNER: D.E. Neville : 40 Innings 2 not out 1229 runs
AVERAGE: 32.34 - HS. 106 Ducks - 119 fours 6 sixes
RUNNER-UP : L. J. KEMP

BOWLING AVERAGES - 1964 VICE-PRESIDENTS CHALLENGE CUP

WINNER: P. Fox : 277.4 overs 75 maidens 656 runs
AVERAGE: 59 wickets 11.11 average
RUNNER-UP : L. J. KEMP