

## LEST WE FORGET

**W** On Monday, 3 August 1914 Germany had invaded Belgium and Great Britain went to war. Worcestershire went to Edgbaston to play Warwickshire. Although some counties cancelled their remaining matches, Worcestershire did not and fulfilled their remaining six fixtures.

Their final match against Derbyshire at New Road ended on 1 September. Despite a career-best score of 158 by M.K. Foster, the visitors won by five wickets. Of Worcestershire's eleven, G. N. Foster, Chester and John Harber (this was his debut match) were never to appear for the County again. G. N. Foster would play for Kent after the war, but by then much had changed.

Frank Chester's realistic dreams of playing for England were shattered along with his right arm at Salonika in 1915. Undaunted, he took up umpiring and attained a standard that all tried to emulate but none succeeded.



Worcestershire's wartime casualties included H. G. Bache (killed at Ypres, 1916), William Burns (above), (Contalmaison, France, 1916), Christopher Collier (Mametz, France 1916), Arthur Isaac (Contalmaison, 1916), his younger brother, John Isaac (Armentieres, 1915), Arnold Nesbitt (Ploegsteert Wood, Belgium (1914) and Cecil H. Palmer (Gallipoli, 1915).

Lest we forget.

*The editor offers his apologies for the inadvertent omission of any other Worcestershire cricketers who gave their lives for their country in the so-called war to end all wars.*

## N.B. - A.G.M.

**Members are advised that the AGM will be held, in the bar, prior to the monthly meeting on 10 April.**

**The AGM will commence at 7pm.**

It will be limited to a maximum length of 45 minutes.

After a short break, the season's final monthly meeting will commence.

**Our guests for that evening are Bob Carter and Derek Person.**

*Details inside*

## The FOSTER GRAVES

**T**he official date for the rededication of the graves will be 13 May. The date has been specifically chosen, as it marks the centenary of the death of R.E. 'Tip' Foster, the most famous of the seven brothers.

The editor has been spearheading the project to renovate the Foster graves on behalf of Malvern Civic Society, with the full support of the present Foster family.

The members of the Foster family buried in Malvern Cemetery are: The parents, Reverend Henry Foster and his wife Sophia and six of their eleven children, namely: 'Tip', Maurice and Johnnie plus three of their sisters, Maud, Mabel and Cicely.

In addition, the names of Clifford Bullock and Claude Giles, husbands of Mabel and Cicely respectively, have subsequently been revealed on the toppled headstones.

A crystal whisky glass has been produced by Stourbridge Glass Engravers to mark the centenary of 'Tip' Foster's death. The proceeds from the sale of each glass will be allocated to a fund set up to ensure the graves are maintained in excellent condition. Glasses may be obtained from the editor (address on back page).

The renovation work is being carried out by Steve Allard's masonry company of Callow End and is due to be completed by mid-April.

If the name sounds familiar, Steve used to turn out for Worcestershire Nomads.

## CHAIRMAN'S VIEW

**C**ricket has benefited enormously from the world wide media coverage of the recent Ashes series in Australia. There has hardly been a day when it has not featured strongly in newspaper headlines along with both radio and television. As a result, I would expect the ICC to use this as a convenient way of promoting all that is outstandingly good in Test Cricket.

With the South African series beginning and a stronger looking New Zealand playing India, there is a lot to admire in the way sides are rebuilding and providing a spectacle for the paying public.

The Ashes series was not only about an extremely poor performance by all of the English players, but was also about an Australian side that outplayed England in every cricket skill, brilliantly captained by Michael Clark. There were times when he seemed to be in charge of the whole country. The South Eastern bush fires and the Western Australian shark cull could have been part of his remit. Perhaps with the Prime Minister, relaxing and admiring from afar.

It was not of course that easy, cricket never is. When the breakthrough opportunities came England did not grasp them. Alistair Cook failed miserably and was let down by all around him. With five consistently failing batsmen, abject fielding, dropped catches (32) statistically now in three series, there is nowhere to hide. Swann's exit from the carnage halfway through the tour after dismissing Clark before lunch at Perth is unforgivable.

There are so many unanswered questions, however, England have surely never performed that badly before in a five match series.

England need to regroup, as Australia, New Zealand and India are in the process of doing. The back room staff at Loughborough led by the impressive Andy Flower and his team of selectors have produced a very successful team over the last six years. There is no need for wholesale panic, too many changes will result in more failure.

*Continued on page three*

*The opinions expressed in Boundary View are not necessarily those of Stourbridge Cricket Society*

**Dave Nicklin** (President)

**Committee Members:**

**Mike Tomkins** (Chairman); **Craig Smith** (Secretary); **Ken Workman** (Treasurer); **Terry Church** (Programme Secretary)

## ‘MAD JACK’ by Terry Church

Jack Flavell is one of three Worcestershire capped players to hail from Wall Heath (the others being Paul Pridgeon and Stuart Lampitt), not a bad record for a village that does not appear on many maps!

John Arthur Flavell shared his birth date, 15 May, with another Black Country Worcestershire “great”, Don Kenyon, who was Jack’s senior by five years and born down the road at Wordsley.

Jack’s 401 first-class appearances produced 1,529 wickets. He played four times for England, all against Australia. His low number of caps was due to the fact that he played in a golden age of pace bowlers, which included Fred Trueman, Brian Statham, Frank Tyson, Peter Loader, Alan Moss and all-rounder Trevor Bailey.

Known initially as “Mad Jack”, it took him several seasons before he cut both his pace and run up to become one of the outstanding new ball bowlers in county cricket. He took over 100 wickets in a season eight times and, in 1961, his season’s haul of 171 wickets (avg. 17.79) put him top of the national averages. Three hat-tricks were achieved, as well as nine wickets in an innings on three occasions, including his best return of nine for 30 against Kent at Dover in 1955. He was one of Wisden Cricketers of the Year in 1965.

Together with Len Coldwell, he was one of the best new-ball pairings in county cricket in the 1960’s, when Worcestershire won two Championship titles, finished second twice and fourth and fifth once. He had the perfect approach to his trade, with an unshakeable faith in his rock-solid belief that



no batsman deserved to survive against him for long.

He also played professional football for West Bromwich Albion and Walsall. He fulfilled the role of a rugged defender with the theory that “the winger might go past me; the ball might go past me, but never both at the same time.”

A keen left-handed golfer, Jack was a member at Enville for many years, becoming captain in 1981. He bought a garage in Heathton and, after converting it into a restaurant, was a popular host for many years – like me, many will remember the legendary Cricketer’s grill from the menu! He later moved to Barmouth, in North Wales, where he ran a hotel.

Jack’s life was like his bowling – straightforward with no frills – but he also paid attention to detail and never missed a trick on or off the field. He spoke plainly in a broad Black Country brogue and never refused a challenge. How we Wall Heath lads looked forward to the County games at Dudley, travelling on the bus to see our village hero. I have been a keen autograph hunter all my life and the first two pages in the book that I was given for a birthday present in 1950 are filled with the signatures of Worcestershire and Albion players all obtained for me by my hero, Jack.

A modern-day Flavell, master of line, length and unrelenting hostility would be an England-ever present.

On 25 February 2004, Jack Flavell, aged 74, died in his sleep at Barmouth, Gwynedd.

## EARLY DAYS OF ENVILLE CC

Enville Cricket Club is some age for a sports club. It was founded in 1850, and for some time, it appears, was considered to possess the best ground not just in the country, but in the whole world.

The paragraph below is taken from a programme produced on the occasion of the club’s centenary in 1950. The extract dates however from the mid-nineteenth century, and comes from an unbiased source:

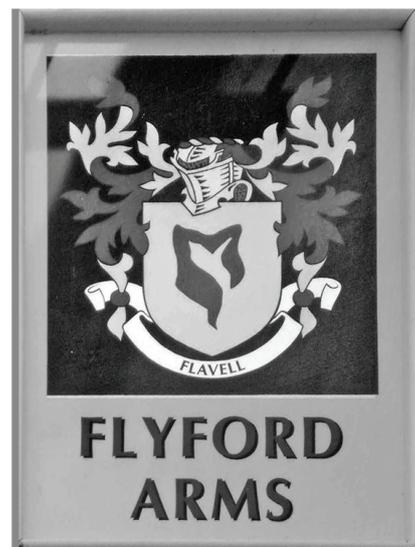
‘As it is the largest and best cricket ground in the world, a short description may not be unacceptable or out of place. It perhaps needless to state that it has been laid out at the sole expense as well as from the designs of its noble owner, who is President of the Marylebone Club and who, in addition to this official position, occupies a high place in the cricketing world as batsman, bowler, wicket-keeper and fielder. Lord’s cricket ground is seven acres in extent, the Enville ground upwards of eleven acres. Of this the space levelled for play is six acres and a half, which space throughout

its whole extent is literally as smooth as a billiard table and is, of course, only kept so by the most constant care and the combined use of the mowing machine, drawn by horses with clogged feet. Lord’s ground, however is not like the Enville ground a perfect level throughout its whole extent, but varies as much as three feet from the horizontal line. The Enville ground, therefore takes precedence of Lord’s and must be accounted the finest cricket ground in the world.’

The extract is all the more convincing for the fact that it was not written by a member of the club or even by a local – but appeared in the *Illustrated London News* on 1 August, 1857.

The paper does not say so, but it would appear that the London magazine had made mention of Enville at that particular time because of a unique three-day match which was played on 30, 31 July and ended on the publication day of the article. A United All England Eleven, comprising some of the finest county players of the day, were totally outplayed by the Earl of Stamford’s XXII. This was

## FLAVELL SIGN



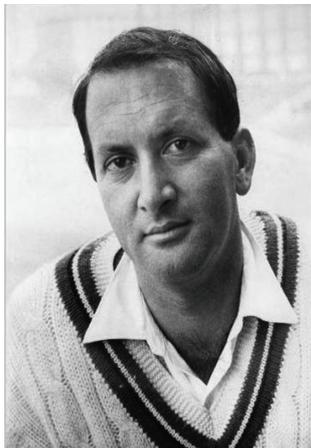
Following on from the article about the Kenyon Arms pubs sign, by a curious coincidence, the crest of the Flavell family appears on the current sign of the Flyford Arms at Flyford Flavell, Worcestershire.

Mark Ashbourne and some of his friends will be doing a sponsored walk from Worcester to Cardiff at the start of the 2014 season. The aim of the project is to help raise funds for the commissioning of the statue that will honour the life of Basil D'Oliveira, who died in 2011.

The walkers will start off from New Road, Worcester on May 1st (the day after the Derbyshire game). They plan to arrive at the SWALEC cricket ground, Cardiff around lunchtime on May 4<sup>th</sup>, when Glamorgan will be hosting Worcestershire on the opening day of the first-class match.

Their trek of more than eighty miles will include overnight stops at Much Marcle, Raglan and Newport. It will be a tough task. The fitness of the party is being assessed and improved as necessary by Ross Dewar, Worcestershire CCC's fitness guru.

Mark, who is aged 46 and registered as blind, wants to help raise funds for the Foundation to erect a statue to Basil outside the entrance of the recently-opened Premier Inn at New Road. At the beginning of 2014, donations amounting to over 12,000 pounds



have been received. Although there is a long way to go, the Foundation is confident that its initial target of £100k will be achieved by summer 2014.

A committee member of the Worcestershire CCC Heritage Group, Mark also belongs to Stourbridge Cricket Club and the entirely separate cricket society. He has been instrumental in securing grants and funding for much-needed improvements (notably the changing rooms and net facilities) at Stourbridge Cricket Club in Amblecote.

In addition to the statue project, the D'Oliveira Foundation also aims to establish a formal system to set up a regular exchange of young and keen cricketers, from all walks of life and background, between South Africa and the United Kingdom.

Although places are limited to a baker's dozen for persons wishing to do the complete walk, casual day walkers are welcome to participate – at their own risk. Also those individuals must make their own arrangements for their respective homeward journeys.

Please support this worthwhile cause by making a donation either via [www.doliveirafoundation.org.uk/events/events.php](http://www.doliveirafoundation.org.uk/events/events.php) or contact Mark on 07506 747619. donation and support will be very much appreciated.

*Chairman's View continued from page one*

The sacking of Pietersen at this moment in time may prove to be a mistake. The cost of his central contract, lost Test Match revenue, not to mention match winning performances may have a detrimental effect on cricket in this country for the foreseeable future. We do not know, of course, the severity of Pietersen's knee injury. Sending him to pastures deep in Australia did not help Cook's captaincy! especially when Prior was dropped and, therefore, not around late in the tour to offer advice.

Without doubt superstars are very rare, they can win series as well as matches, fill grounds and empty bars.

Botham's Ashes may never have happened without Mike Brearley's intervention and awareness.

Let us hope that cricket somewhere benefits from Pietersen's outstanding ability for a little while longer, wherever that may be.

I look forward to seeing you, if not during the summer, at our meetings next winter!

*... from previous page*

a prestigious occasion which supports the claim that Envile was one of the finest venues in the country.

The Earl's XXII batted first and scored 236 of which two professionals, Edgar Willsher (44) and Crispin Tinley (40) scored the most runs; Caffyn took 8/70. The England XI were dismissed for 113 – Edward Drake taking 8/70 – and after following-on, the same bowler took 5/49 with his underarm deliveries to rout the XI for 79. The Earl of Stamford's XI won the match by an innings & 44 runs.

In 1870, the I Zingari XVIII proved too strong for the All England XI. The noteworthy item about this match was the appearance of WG Grace, though he made scant contribution, just 14 & 10, twice succumbing to the bowling of Rev. Payne. The above-mentioned Drake had been ordained in the intervening thirteen years as he was named on the scorecard as Rev. ET Drake. He made 64 – top score for I Zingari – before being caught by WG off the bowling of his brother, GF Grace.

This article first appeared in the *Black Country Bugle Annual* (2003)

## SOUTH AFRICANS LEAD BY EXAMPLE

In the hullabaloo of the disastrous Ashes debacle with players and others jumping ship, three notable events, involving South African cricketers, may have passed without the full notice they each fully deserve. Firstly, the retirement was announced of Jacques Kallis, arguably South African greatest-ever all-rounder – not midway through a series, but with due notice that he would quit after the final Test against India.

Kallis played 165 Tests, averaged 55.25 with the bat, bagged 291 wickets and snapped up 196 catches. In his final Test, he typically bowled out with a farewell century against India. Unlike most all-rounders, he usually batted at second wicket down.

Secondly, after losing the first Test of the post-Kallis era to a Mitchell Johnson-inspired Australia, South Africa's captain, Graeme Smith galvanised his team to set up a best-of-three decider at Newlands.

In the second Test, South Africa thrashed the visitors with a full day to spare at Port Elizabeth. Although the chances of Australia getting 447 to win, it seemed that Rogers and Warner hadn't been told. They put on 126 for the opening wicket. After reaching 152/1, the wheels fell off as the remaining wickets literally fell like nine pins. . . . for just 64 more runs. Once again Dale Steyn (4/55) showed that pace bowlers don't have to be awkward, gangly giants. Pity Steyn got injured in the deciding encounter at Newlands.

The third incident will surely have sent out a severe warning to South Africa's opponents, two or three years hence, if not sooner.

In the Under 19's semi-final in Dubai in February 2014, the Australians were blown apart by a fast, accurate and extremely hostile bowler named Kagiso Rabada. His eight overs yielded figures of six for 25.

Eighteen-years-old, Rabada's posture and mode of delivery was reminiscent of the West Indian Franklyn Stephenson of Nottinghamshire, the last man to perform the Double.

Time will tell whether or not Rabada achieves greatness, but I have a feeling he just might.

Kevin Pietersen apart, South African cricketers tend to shun the limelight and simply get on with the job.

## MEETING NEWS

### February - Ian Davidson

Not to be confused with the Rhodesian batsman of the 1970s with a similar name, February's guest speaker was Ian Davidson, a former commercial manager of Leicestershire CCC.

Ian communicated his undoubted passion for the game, with the enthusiasm that is the zeal of those who never actually played the game at a senior level; a ball fast and straight enough to smash Ian's NHS specs into tiny specks, ended his cricket before it had even begun.

After a career in marketing, Ian Davidson landed the job at Leicestershire.

The County suffers from a number of issues, notably its proximity to both Trent Bridge and Edgbaston (not to mention Derby and Northampton), lack of lucrative sponsorship plus an ageing, declining membership. Leicestershire's income in the last financial year amounted to £2.5m, of which £2m was funded by the ECB. Sponsors are turning away from the game due to lack of exposure in the new two division structure.

Ian Davidson talked from the heart and held trenchant views, many of which were shared by the capacity audience. He stressed that counties have to become all-year businesses and provide facilities that members, sponsors and spectators expect and increasingly demand in the present day.

**The current winter season of cricket talks draws near to its conclusion, with arguably the pick of the offerings left until the last two months.**

### 20 March - Jack Birkenshaw

This evening's guest may not be aware that he was instrumental in taking the very last wicket in the ultimate first-class match to be played at the Memorial Ground. In the match against Northants in 1981, **Jack Birkenshaw** caught Neil Mallender (7) off the bowling of the devilishly dangerous Tim Curtis! More famously, Jack played for three different counties (his native Yorkshire and Leicestershire, prior to joining Worcestershire) and took a hat-trick against the Black Pears. After retiring as a player, Jack became an umpire (he stood at Test level) and a coach.

### 10 April - The AGM will be held in the bar from 7pm until 7.45pm.

**A short break will follow after which we will welcome Bob Carter and Derek Pearson at 8pm.**

**Robert George Mallaby Carter** played 177 matches for Worcestershire between 1961 and 1972. His only other first-class appearance occurred when he played for MCC in 1973. In that match he dismissed M.C. Cowdrey twice - his only wickets of the match. Bob Carter belongs to that special breed of bowlers whose career haul of wickets (523 avg. 26.22) exceeded his tally of first-class runs (324 avg. 4.62).

In comparison, the ability of **Derek Pearson** with the bat is clearly superior to that of Bob Carter. During his County career, which stretched between 1954 and 1961, Derek scored 712 runs (av. 8.57) and took 202 wickets (av. 26.47). He also played 2 matches for Combined Services. He was no-balled for throwing in 1954, 1959 and 1960.

Both of tonight's guests played Birmingham League cricket for Stourbridge.

**Many thanks to Terry Church for another season of extremely interesting and varied choice of speakers.**

### Sports Argus Cricket Annuals wanted!

1951, 1954, 1956, 1957, 1963, 1969 and 1970

Phone: Richard Evans: 01902 654354

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## BOUNDARY VIEW DEADLINES

Deadline for receipt of copy is for each *Issue* is (Last Friday of Month)

*Autumn* (August) *Winter* (November) *Spring* (February)

Preferably all articles should be typed and emailed to the address below

The editor reserves the right to edit or refuse the publication of any material submitted without further reason.

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