

FEBRUARY 2018



Stephen Patterson, 2017 beneficiary and guest at our Annual Lunch,  
with the Chairman

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### **Thoughts of Chairman Chris:**

The fears many had prior to England's departure to Australia for the Test series were unfortunately realized; a comprehensive overall defeat with just one draw. Home prepared pitches, in this case hard, dry, fast ones, were the undoing of both batsmen and bowlers. They had the 90mph bowlers, whilst ours were the "seamer" type - no joy for Anderson and Broad. Our batsmen, not used to these pitches, struggled.

It is debatable whether Stokes would have affected the overall series - to my mind definitely not. The decision by the ECB to allow him to play in New Zealand, whilst he is awaiting trial, is incomprehensible given that he was not taken to Australia whilst a decision was then awaited as to whether he would be charged. The fact that his anticipated return to the England team (T20) was then the date of his first court appearance only compounded the situation, making it even more farcical. It does not present cricket in anything like the right image. The game is bigger than the individual.

We look forward to the new season and note that for the County Championship, of the 14 matches, there are 3 in April and 4 in September. So much for "county" cricket being a "summer game".

But then T20 makes the money.

It just remains to wish Yorkshire CCC every success under Gary Ballance and Andrew Gale, with the New Zealander Kane Williamson and India's Cheteshwar Pujara returning as our overseas players. Also congratulations to Adil Rashid on receiving his benefit for this coming season.

May I remind you that the Southern Group will again be arranging a number of match day events involving Yorkshire CCC around the country. These will, as usual, be listed in the newsletters with application forms. They are always ideal occasions for members and guests to enjoy the cricket, conviviality and fellowship. Please make every effort to participate and I very much look forward to meeting many of you throughout the season.

**Chris Marshall**

**January 2018**

## Editorial

To start, some sad news. We have been informed of the death of John Harrison, who edited this Newsletter for longer than I care to imagine. In addition to his obvious love of cricket, John also enjoyed rugby, but beyond that had a wide range of interests which extended to the Arts. He will be much missed.

I have nothing to add to the Chairman's comments on the Ashes. To what extent you have been consoled by the excellent performances of the one-day squad will depend on your own tastes and preferences. However they can only have helped to avoid the players returning totally shell-shocked. Personally my own recovery was somewhat checked by the chilling news that a young Australian leg-spinner had taken 8 – yes 8 – wickets (in 9.4 overs), including our own Harry Brook first ball, in the Under 19 World Cup quarter-final. As a result, England failed to chase a target of merely 127.

In this edition I recommend for your particular consideration Paul Graham's account of Steven Patterson's comments at our Annual Lunch last November, and Martyn Moxon's Winter Report. Both are thought-provoking and they come from the heart of the club. The willingness of members of Yorkshire's staff to share their thinking (or at least some of it!) frankly with supporters is one of the many things which makes following the county such a pleasure.

Elsewhere Martyn, in tandem with Mark Arthur, has been giving his views on the future of the County Championship. There are folk at the ECB and elsewhere in the game who would happily see the end of the County Championship. Martyn Moxon and Mark Arthur are not amongst them. So when they choose to voice their views about the future, making it clear that they do so independently of the club, it is sensible to look at what they have to say closely. Criticism of the domestic structure of the game often follows an international disappointment such as the recent Ashes defeat. Sadly little credit is given to the County Championship when the national side is successful. George Dobell, in a superb recent piece, pointed out that a number of players have stepped straight into the Test side successfully, including Andrew Strauss. Where had he been prepared for this step up? Dobell concludes strongly: The Championship is part of the solution, not part of the problem. Martyn and Mark are to be applauded for addressing the issue with the health of the Championship as a competition, not just as a training ground, as their concern.

Please visit our new **Southern Group Website** hosted within the YCCC website. It can be accessed in various ways:

- Via the following link [Yorkshire Southern Group](#)
- By going to the YCCC website and typing Societies in the search area and then clicking on Southern Group
- By using the Club link on the YCCC Homepage and then the link under Supporters
- By a 'Google' search for YCCC Southern Group.

Whichever way you find us you will be able to keep up to date on our activities and access our quarterly newsletter which has details of forthcoming events and articles about Yorkshire cricket both past and present.

There is also a link to the new **Membership Form** for current and prospective members. You can now pay by FPS/BACS direct from your account – no more need to look for the cheque book – and for renewing members there is the additional option of paying by Standing Order. We would recommend all to use one of these options. For those who wish to pay by cheque this facility remains available.

So have a look at the new website, let your friends know about it and encourage them to join us. In particular I hope that a stronger on-line presence may see us win a few new members, perhaps even a greater representation among younger supporters.

Another innovation is to hold a social gathering for a t20 match (see dates for your diary). While it may well be that SG members prefer the longer forms of the game, the main reason we have not done this before is that the competition is regionally based and therefore Yorkshire's fixtures have not been in the south. They are of course also held in the evenings. A match at Worcester on a Sunday afternoon gives us the opportunity to see whether there is greater interest in this competition amongst members than we have imagined. So if you were wondering about introducing fresh faces or young members of your family to the game, this might be an opportunity.

Two new books with a focus on Yorkshire cricket are reviewed in this newsletter. We have also received news, though not yet seen a copy, of Paul Dyson's 'Who's Who of Yorkshire County Cricket Club'. Such a volume will be a very useful source, and has no doubt been a massive task for its author. It is published by Great Northern Books, and advertised on their website.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2018**

**June Hirst**

Welcome to the new season and we hope that the events planned for 2018 will be of interest. Attendances at match events last year were very disappointing and were down to single figures in most cases. We therefore look forward to seeing as many members and guests as possible during the season.

### **SATURDAY, 14 APRIL – HEADINGLEY**

We are arranging a day in one of the suites in the Carnegie Pavilion for the second day of this county championship match against Essex. Please see below for further details.

### **SATURDAY, 28 APRIL – TAUNTON**

We are planning to organise a table for lunch at the Princess Royal Pub, 25 Canon Street, Taunton TA1 1SW, during the lunch interval on this second day of the county championship match against Somerset. Further details will be in the April Newsletter.

### **SATURDAY, 5 MAY – CHELMSFORD**

Committee members and guests will be at the Queen's Head pub, 30 Lower Anchor Street, Chelmsford (CM2 0AS) during the lunch interval of this second day of the county championship match against Essex. There is limited food available at the pub, but please join them for a drink and a natter.

### **TUESDAY, 8 MAY – AGM**

The Yorkshire CCC Southern Group AGM will be held on this day at The Counting House, 50 Cornhill, London EC3V 3PD, at 7.00pm. The formal Notice, Agenda and Minutes of the 2017 AGM will be included in the April Newsletter.

### **FRIDAY, 11 MAY – THE KIA OVAL**

We are hoping to arrange a meet-up in the ground for members and guests during the first day of the county championship match against Surrey.

## **TUESDAY, 26 JUNE – SCARBOROUGH**

We will be organising a table for Southern Group members and guests, as last year, in the pavilion restaurant during the county championship match against Surrey. Further details in the April Newsletter.

## **SUNDAY, 15 JULY – NEW ROAD, WORCESTER**

Yorkshire play a t20 match against Worcester with (according to their website) a 2.30 pm start. We will be arranging lunch in a nearby pub before the match begins for anyone interested in supporting the county in this form of the game. Further details in the April Newsletter.

## **TUESDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER – TRENT BRIDGE**

This is the first day of the championship match against Notts and we are hoping to arrange a day hospitality package in one of the hospitality suites. As it is September, the match will start at 10.30 am. Further details will be in the July Newsletter.

## **SATURDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER – ANNUAL LUNCH**

The Royal Over-Seas League has changed its financial terms and conditions for 2018 which has made the venue too expensive for us. We have therefore booked this year's lunch at the Civil Service Club, Great Scotland Yard, London SW1. All details will be in the July Newsletter.

Our first event of 2018 is a visit to **Headingley** on ....

## **SATURDAY, 14 APRIL**

.... for a day at the county championship match against Essex, where we are booked into one of the hospitality suites in the Carnegie Pavilion. The day package is £37.00 per person, which includes VAT, morning coffee/tea, a 2 course lunch, a light afternoon tea, access to the facilities and outdoor balcony seating. There is a lift to the hospitality area. Ground admission is payable separately for non-Yorkshire members. Dress is smart casual; smart denim jeans and fashion trainers are acceptable, but no shorts or sportswear.

Car parking spaces are available at the rugby end of the ground; please indicate on the enclosed application form if you would like one.

Please return the enclosed application form to June Hirst, 5 Stanhope House, 38-40 Shepherds Hill, London N6 5RR, by **Wednesday, 4 April**.

To save postage costs, members with an email address will now receive their Southern Group booking confirmation ticket(s) by email. Otherwise a SG ticket will be posted in the normal way. Headingley hospitality day package tickets will be mailed as usual to everyone a few days before the 14<sup>th</sup>.

As last year, Southern Group members will be able to access the Long Room and other members' areas at Headingley throughout the season on production of their current Southern Group membership card.

**REPORT: ANNUAL LUNCH – SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER**

**Paul Graham**

The annual lunch of the Southern Group took place at the usual venue; the Royal Overseas League in St. James' Street. Toasts were proposed to: Absent Friends – those members who had died during the year, Yorkshire CCC, and (appropriately given the date) to those cricketers who had perished serving their country in war. After the meal we were introduced to our guest of honour, this year's beneficiary, Steve Patterson. 'Patto' provided a few biographical details and then invited questions from members.

Yorkshire's precipitate decline in form, culminating in their hair-breadth avoidance of relegation (ultimately achieved courtesy of Steve's second innings heroics against Warwickshire) was inevitably the subject for questioning. He attributed the disappointing showing last season principally to the regular failure of the batsmen to post a competitive score. This collective failure had been masked in previous seasons by Jonny Bairstow's heroics with the bat but, in his continued absence with Team England, chronic batting fallibilities had been cruelly exposed.

Steve did not subscribe to the theory - advanced by our cricket correspondent - that a player's form is likely to dip during his benefit year given all the consequent distractions; citing as proof his own good form late in the season when finally accorded a regular place. He indicated that he would like to continue playing for the county for several more seasons, but that this was dependent upon his being selected consistently for the first-team. After being part of back-to-back championship winning teams, Steve voiced the ambition to leave the county on his own terms, whilst conceding that not many Yorkshire players managed to achieve this!

Steve acknowledged that the transformation of Andrew Gale from team mate to head coach had perhaps been a challenge for the players who had grown up with him. Jason Gillespie had in contrast found his arrival straightforward and automatically been

accorded respect as an important member of one of the greatest of all test teams. Steve advocated the signing of an experienced overseas player who had retired from the international scene (the precedent set by Sangakkara was an attractive one) and would therefore be regularly available; not a highly promising youngster who, experience showed, was liable to be called away mid-season. He denied that problems were created in the dressing-room by the recruitment of players from outside the county. The signings of Jack Brooks and Liam Plunkett had proved that. Finally, Steve admitted that he did not greatly enjoy being the team's automatic choice as night-watchman and having to wander out to face the music in the gathering gloom. The upside was the opportunity to resume batting on the following morning in, hopefully, improved conditions. The decision whether to deploy this tactic depended solely upon the next batsman due in; Peter Hanscomb is one who always chose to bat, and back, himself (*as, rather controversially, does Jonny Bairstow! ed.*).

Mike Brown proposed a vote of thanks to Steve who was then presented by our Chairman with a SG tie and a donation to his benefit fund.

The lunch ended with a sincere vote of thanks to June Hirst who had again arranged an enjoyable and successful occasion for Southern Group members.

## **Winter 2017-2018**

## **Martyn Moxon**

The players reported back for training on 13 November 2017.

We have organised the programme slightly differently this winter. In the past the lads have trained four days a week with breaks only at Christmas and at February half-term.

This year we are training five days a week with longer days in three week blocks. We are then having the fourth week off. It has worked really well as it allows us to give the batsmen, in particular, more time to bat.

We have focussed very much so far on getting back to doing the basics well with regard to batting. As you know we haven't been at our best for three years now in Championship cricket so we are working hard to rediscover the technique and mentality to score big hundreds in red ball cricket. It is clear now that the technique and mentality required for four day cricket differs greatly from white ball cricket. The white ball hardly moves laterally now so it is much easier for batsmen to hit through the line and length as opposed to the red ball which does move laterally.

Is it a coincidence that as our one day batting has improved since 2014, our four day batting has declined? There is so much desire now to be good at T20 cricket that inevitably a player's focus shifts. There are T20 tournaments throughout the World

now that players are aspiring to play in – it is where the big money is available. Therefore it is a challenge for coaches nowadays to produce and prepare players who are capable of performing well in all three formats of our game.

Having said all that, the attitude and work ethic of the squad has been excellent. They have taken on board everything the coaches have asked of them and are committed to performing well in all formats. There is a huge desire to get back on track in the County Championship and continue our good form in one day cricket. As Yorkshire we expect to compete on all fronts.

We are travelling to Potchefstroom this year on our pre-season tour. We wanted a change of scenery from the Middle East and the facilities in South Africa are excellent. The tour runs from 7 – 21 March and we are due to play Notts in a two day and fifty over game, Leeds/Bradford MCCU in a fifty over game and amongst ourselves in a further two day game.

Everyone is looking forward to the season and we thank you all at the Southern Group for your continued support.

Best wishes

Martyn

### **Proposed Change to County Championship**

**Andrew Bosi**

In a proposal that as yet is not official Yorkshire policy, Martyn Moxon and Mark Arthur have suggested a radical reorganisation of the County Championship which could take effect from 2020.

Their proposal is that part one of the season would comprise three conferences of six teams. Each would be of equal merit, based on placings from the previous season, and teams would play each other, home and away for a total of ten games.

The top two in each conference would then go into the first division, the middle two into a second division, and the bottom two in a third division. The top six would compete for the championship over five games, with the top teams from the conference having three at home and two away. The other teams would be competing for their seeding the following season, and Martyn hopes, for significant prize money. Points from all games would count towards the final table.

The scheme has the merit of allowing all eighteen teams to take part in the County Championship again, rather than just eight. This might encourage players to stay with their home team, which would be anathema to those in the ECB who hope that some unnamed counties might go to the wall. Though some would argue the standard

would be less intense, the Test side has to learn to play against Afghanistan and Ireland as well as in India and Australia.

The scheme also lessens by one the reduction in county cricket, which would be further anathema to the ECB. However, their attitude that the County Championship is only there for practice for test players is rather undermined by the reluctance to allow Test players to participate. It will be interesting to see the extent to which their generosity in allowing players to compete for the IPL will extend to allowing those unsuccessful in that regard to play instead for Yorkshire.

From a spectator point of view, the main drawback would be the delayed publication of the second round of fixtures. Though the dates would be known well in advance, advance purchase train tickets and the best hotel deals might no longer be available by the time we knew where we were going on those dates. The scheme would also set in stone the present structure wherein no cricket is played in the warmer months, which are instead given over to the game more akin to baseball.

**Editor's Comments:** The two division championship initially served us well, but it has been seriously undermined by the desire to see the high summer months dominated by t20 cricket. In effect we are already close to a two conference championship. The counties don't change, but given the transient nature of overseas signings and the impact of international calls, the teams often do.

My first reaction to these ideas is cautiously supportive. However reformers of the Championship usually, unlike the two promoters of this proposal, don't care about it. They think its only function is to produce test players. They have hard financial facts on their side here, but are guilty of recognising the price of everything and the value of nothing. I do worry that the second round of the new conferences would soon become vulnerable to these folk, who favour a much reduced championship programme. As it stands the proposal would give us 15 matches instead of 14. Unfortunately it might be a very vulnerable 15 matches. Cutting the present championship fixture list is difficult. Removing the second round of conference based fixtures however would be easy. Then you have what some in power want: a drastically reduced fixture list, probably concluding in some sort of semi-final and final arrangements. That would be the beginning of the end of a real Championship.

I would also hope that any changes do address the greatest weakness of the current set-up. While it is hard to deny the financial importance of t20, as Andrew says, it has pushed far too much of the championship into April and September. As long as that remains the case the interests of both those who care about the Championship, and those who only care about the England team, are equally badly served. It is pointless complaining that we are failing to develop pace bowlers and quality spinners if we

continue to avoid playing first-class cricket in the months when pitches are at their hardest. Personally I would favour a return to a Friday evening t20 programme, leaving the championship to continue alongside it, but I know players prefer a discrete t20 phase of the season, which also helps to make t20 'star' signings.

Overall I shall await developments with interest, and would be delighted to receive any written thoughts from other members for the next edition. Above all, whatever you think about their ideas, it is great to find that at Yorkshire at least those in positions of influence care about cricket, not just about the cash registers.

And now some more immediate concerns:

## **THE 2018 CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Andrew Bosi**

Those who remember the days when the Association Football season ran from September to April and the cricket season from May to August, might be surprised to learn that Yorkshire's sole first class cricket match at Headingley in that latter period is the visit of Somerset three days before the end.

There are three games with guaranteed play on a Saturday, the first three Saturdays in April. The fourth day of the Somerset game is scheduled for September 1<sup>st</sup>. There are then a couple of mid-week games in September, before we finish at the only remaining first division ground without floodlights.

Worst of all though, is the bizarre decision to force everyone to have a day/night match, despite the fact that no-one can see the ball. There is no day/night Test Match this year. As an official at Yorkshire told me, the members do not want it, the players do not want it, the first-class counties do not want it. He left out the umpires. It is particularly unfortunate that Yorkshire's pink ball game is at the Rose Bowl. The last bus to Southampton leaves well before the scheduled close, and few visitors from Yorkshire will enjoy the prospect of three mornings in West End with no cricket. It is the only away fixture between early May and the first week of September. The players will not relish the journey from the M27 to Scarborough where the next game starts just 36 hours later.

Instead of three trips to London, many home based members are planning to make just one and stay down between the Chelmsford and Oval games. There should be some second XI cricket in between, and they will be hoping some of it involves Yorkshire.

The fixture list has been compressed so that there are few opportunities to see other counties, except by missing a Yorkshire game. In the only round without Yorkshire, the nearest games to the south are at Edgbaston and Bristol.

With many overseas signings still to be made, it is impossible to call who might win the championship. Yorkshire have signed Williamson, but only for four games, (*and now Pujara, ed.*) and might have Ballance back, but still look short of batting and spin bowling. Surrey looked strong on paper at the start of last season, but then Ansari retired and now Sangakkara. Notts achieved a treble but Chris Read has retired, while Hales' availability and thirst for red ball cricket is uncertain. Lancashire mixed some strong performances with relegation style efforts against Yorkshire and Middlesex. Much may depend on Hameed but if he scores too many runs he will swiftly be made unavailable. Worcestershire have a promising crop of young bowlers but one of them may be detained elsewhere and they have had an abrupt change of coach. Essex too will miss Chris Silverwood and Mags has a tough act to follow. The ECB will probably find a way to keep Hampshire in division 1 but they are likely to have to do it without Vince. Surely England cannot maintain their prejudice against Jack Leach, without whom Somerset might struggle.

The second division may be more clear cut and I expect Middlesex and Sussex to mount strong campaigns for promotion. However, Middlesex may have to contend with more England calls.

**Reviews:**

**Ned Holt**

**Two excellent new publications about two fine players and fine people.**

***A Clear Blue Sky, by Jonny Bairstow and Duncan Hamilton***

To be honest, I have low expectations of autobiographies from current cricketers, particularly those still in the first half of their careers. On the few occasions I've bought one, I'm bored before half way through, and in the end just flip through any more interesting passages, usually those relating to domestic matters if it's a Yorkshire player. Then it goes over to the second hand stall by the West Stand, which is actually often where it came from in the first place.

It was to some extent in this mood that I anticipated Jonny Bairstow's effort. Even learning that it was co-authored by the excellent Duncan Hamilton only raised my hopes a little. However I was quickly won over. I don't know how much the prose had to be brushed up by the professional writer, but the result is much better written than many comparable volumes. It avoids the obvious clichés and provides insights into the various transitions in the Bairstow career. There were reflections on how the early difficulties as a test batsman were met, and a particularly good passage on working with Bruce French on wicket-keeping skills. It is easy to forget how little keeping Jonny

had done before he suddenly had to fill in for Matt Prior in Australia, and therefore how much progress he has made.

The quality of the book however, is not just the product of Hamilton's writing. What the publishers, and perhaps the co-author were drawn to, of course, is the family background. The tragedy of January 1998 is never far away. A fussy critic of style might advise Jonny not to use the two words 'My Dad' quite so repetitively. They would be wrong. David is addressed here both as player and as father, indeed the book may well have been a cathartic exercise for his son; if so it loses nothing by that. Those with a fondness for both Yorkshire's Bairstows will find it a heart-warming read. Indeed 'both Yorkshire's Bairstows' is an error, for they are not alone. The two players are not the book's only heroes, beyond doubt Janet and Becky are among them to, and intentionally so. And it's good to see that Jonny, even now he's an international star, is as firmly rooted in Yorkshire cricket as his father was.

Incidentally Jonny was at the 2017 Cheltenham Literature Festival to promote his book, and after a briefly hesitant start, performed very well indeed. Listening to the audience dispersing afterwards, it was clear that you didn't have to be a Yorkshire supporter to have warmed to him. He was frank and even adventurous in dealing with most questions, played my enquiry about non-availability at Lord's in September 2016 with an admirably straight bat, and let one about the Ben Stokes situation go through to the keeper without playing at it at all! His visit also enabled me to get my copy of the book autographed. It won't be going to the second hand stall at Headingley.

*A Clear Blue Sky: Harper Collins, ISBN 978-0-00-823267-2*

### ***In Sunshine and in Shadow: Geoff Cope and Yorkshire Cricket, by Stephen Chalke***

The autobiographies and biographies of cricket's relative journeymen – and no offence is intended to Geoff Cope, whose bowling was far better than any off-spinner under contention for a current England place - oddly often make for more interesting reading than those of the international stars. This one is written by Stephen Chalke, and was therefore always likely to be worth acquiring. I doubt if Stephen will mind however if I state that what makes this book such a resounding success is the character of its subject.

I don't think that I have learnt so much about the cricket I follow and the club I support from any comparable account. This is partly because of the depth of Geoff's involvement as player and then as administrator, but it is also because of the quality of his observations and reflections, and indeed the quality of the man. These observations are often reproduced verbatim, and at length. It is one of the book's many virtues that the author has clearly worked closely with his subject, and is not

afraid to let his voice come through and at times to dominate. When the book moves on to Geoff's time on the administrative side, it gave me a clearer understanding of the financial rollercoaster of the last twenty years than anything I have read before. Finally, as if that isn't enough, there's even a reference to the Southern group within its pages. In addition to his other qualities, Geoff clearly has always regarded contact with supporters as a pleasure rather than a burden.

I suspect readers will find themselves reappraising many key figures in Yorkshire cricket, on and off the field. One tends to associate Geoff with the side of the 70's, and there are interesting observations on the perhaps already amply covered questions relating to that era. It is easy to forget however that he was fighting hard for a regular place in the side from 1966, and producing bowling figures to support his case. Geoff appears to have no axes to grind, but the book altered my thinking a little on Brian Close, on Fred Trueman, and on Raymond Illingworth. In the 70's side there are inevitably judgements on Geoffrey Boycott, but I also thought afresh about John Hampshire, Chris Old, Don Wilson and others. From Geoff's experience with the club more recently, I have clearer understanding of the roles of Colin Graves and Paul Caddick. And apparently Jimmy Anderson, of all people, was one of the internationals who joined a Natwest volunteer force to work on the ground at Scarborough. There's even a photograph to prove it.

I won't spoil the read by suggesting who might go up and down in your estimation, but there is one figure it is impossible not to mention, for the book has two cricketing heroes, not one. The other is Johnny Wardle. I mean no disrespect to Alan Hill's book on the man, from which much can be learnt about him as a cricketer, in saying that he remains a conundrum to me. There is the Wardle of so many personal accounts, difficult, confrontational and undermining of other players. Then there is the Wardle of this book, the skilled and patient adviser who helped a bowler rebuild his action and his career.

And a final reflection, on something I didn't know or perhaps hadn't remembered. Geoff appeared to have taken a hat-trick in his first test, only for Mike Brearley to say as the third batsman was walking away, that he wasn't sure he had caught the ball cleanly. I'd love some modern players to read that, and I'd love to hear their reactions.

*In Sunshine and in Shadow, Geoff Cope and Yorkshire Cricket, Fairfield Books,*

*ISBN 978-0-956-8511-9-2*

## Letters:

Dear Editor,

Very early this year I attended the funeral of an old family friend, Gordon 'Dixie' Dean, a son of Bradford and a well-loved figure in Harden, Airedale, where he lived in his later life. At his chapel funeral service there were moving contributions from his two daughters and six grandchildren and, at Gordon's request, a sterling rendition, in dialect, of one of his own monologues: "Yorkshire Born n' Bred". I thought many of our members would enjoy Gordon's "tongue in cheek" humour and sentiments, as the poem has a strong cricketing theme.

Gordon published a selection of his monologues as *Summat n' Nowt - An Airedale Anthology* in 2001 :ISBN 0-9541638-0-X

Kind regards

Geoff Binks

*(Yorkshire Born n'Bred follows, ed.)*

I've allus bin a Yorkshireman, Yorkshire born and bred,  
But try to be quite modest so it dun't go to my head.  
But when you know you're t'best in t'world, it's hard to keep it quiet.  
If you tell a Tyke to shut his mouth it's bound to start a riot.

So I'll get mi pint of Tetley's, and as I start to sip it,  
I'll be thinking very hard about where to race mi whippet.  
Then off to t'pigeon loft I'll go to shoo the cats away,  
Then a dustbin-lid sized Yorkshire pud to see off t'end of t'day.

Now lots of people think Yorkshire's all whippets and cloth caps,  
And fish and chips, and clogs, and tripe, and quite broad-spoken chaps.  
But we're the country's biggest county (as well as being the best).  
More acres than words in t'Bible, a cut above the rest.

If it's scenery you're after, then there are no buts and ifs,  
We've dales, and wolds, and mountains, and harbours, sea, and cliffs.

There's Ingleboro', Whernside (not forgetting Pennyghent)  
And miles of rolling countryside from Hull reet up to Dent.

Harewood House and t'Humber Bridge and Emmerdale and that,  
And Last of t'Summer Wine country, and Ilkla Moor baht' at.  
And then there's famous people – of them we're very proud.

We like to sing their praises, and sing 'em long and loud.

The Brontes, J.B. Priestley, David Hockney, Henry Moore,  
Some at' world's best authors and artists that's for sure.  
Trueman, Goughie, Boycott, three lads from t'summer game.  
Billie Whitelaw, Judi Dench – acting's brought them fame.

Of course there's lots of others, Dickie Bird, a perfect gent,  
And that lovely, perfect English Rose, our own Duchess of Kent.  
There's lots of famous Yorkshire folk that meks us feel reet proud –  
But you'll find a dozen unknown gems in any Yorkshire crowd.

I've allus been a Yorkshireman, and a Yorkshireman I'll dee,  
And when I get to t'pearly gates, St. Peter'll say to me  
'By gum lad, here you are at last, you've finally made it then,  
And just in time for t'cricket match, it starts at half past ten.

It's Yorkshire versus rest o t'world, we play it every year,  
And losers pay for all the drinks, so guess who gets t'free beer!  
Then Yorkshire'll mek 800 runs, and t'world just 27,  
and I'll be saying to mysen 'I really am in Heaven!'

But now back to reality – feet firmly on the floor,  
What is it meks a Yorkshireman? I'll tell you that for sure.  
Now your name is not important, nor whether black or white.  
***If tha's been born i' Yorkshire you're a Yorkshireman bi right.***

Whether it's Robertshaw, or Clegg, Kuminski, Joga Singh,  
or Ali Khan or Jean Macnab, you're Yorkshire, that's the thing!  
So stand up for the old White Rose wherever you may go,  
For Yorkshire's God's own country, and he really ought to know!

### **My First Yorkshire Game**

**Anthony Bradbury**

I was born at Goole in East Yorkshire during World War II. My parents and brother had no real interest in cricket and we moved to Kent in early 1947. I am certain that I saw no Yorkshire cricket in Yorkshire before that move. It was my birthplace in Yorkshire, and having Len Hutton (and not Denis Compton) as a childhood hero that made my support of Yorkshire inevitable. I think my primary school did an annual visit from our home in Herne Bay to London once a year but cricket at Lord's or The Oval was not on that agenda. But I do know that my father and I occasionally went to Canterbury to watch Kent matches, especially during the famed cricket week. Those Kent matches at Canterbury were often against Hampshire and Middlesex – and seemingly never Yorkshire.

So I am very certain that my first Yorkshire sighting – and with it – the great Len Hutton was at Canterbury in 1952. The mind does play tricks and for decades I had the clear impression that my father and I went on a Wednesday or Saturday, the first day of all championship matches, and between Tests where Len had been Captain of England. I recall anxiety (a) that Len would be playing and (b) that Yorkshire would win the toss and elect to bat – and teams that won the toss nearly always did bat first at Canterbury. Yet now that I look back into *Wisden* and find that, though the match did start on Saturday 30 August, it was Kent that batted first. As their innings of 249 took 111 overs, it is unlikely that I saw much Yorkshire batting that day. Was I even there?

Whether I was there or not, Hutton probably had a first good sight of Colin Cowdrey, aged 19, whom he took to Australia in 1954/5. Cowdrey made a watchful 85\*.

Yet I absolutely know that I saw Yorkshire bat in their only innings (for they were to win by an innings) so I must have been there on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September. My recollection tells me of more anxiety for though I obviously knew by then that Hutton was playing, why did he not open the innings? Indeed he did not enter the arena until three Yorkshire wickets had fallen. Where was he? Even the Kent supporters must have been concerned for a large number of them would probably have never seen the great man bat – and not many had a TV set and I doubt, any way, if county matches even then had a viewing. Later I found out that Hutton had fibrositis, the chronic back pain that ultimately brought his career to an end. So when he came in at Yorkshire 55/3 I was hugely relieved but my next anxiety was that he would be out cheaply. Hutton in later years often wrote that he was all too conscious of the burden of needing a good score to satisfy those who, as he was well aware, had come to see him. But there he was batting, as I have correctly recalled with Billy Sutcliffe, son of Herbert, and whom I presumed, as the only amateur in the side, was that day the Yorkshire captain. Sutcliffe was indeed already at the crease and went on to score 181, his highest first class innings.

My next recollection is that Hutton smote his first ball through mid-wicket towards the boundary where my father and I were sitting in front of the Men of Kent tent. My father, though not born in Kent, at least worked east of the Medway, a qualification to be a Man of Kent. He called on me to field the ball as it was plainly heading towards the boundary in front of us – but I hesitated – and an older boy ran in front of me and took that honour. To this day nearly 65 years on, I deeply regret not fielding that ball. Maybe it was not Hutton's first ball, but it certainly came my way.

What else do I recall? Well I am absolutely right in remembering that I saw a Hutton century in the only innings that I saw my hero play in a first class match. I must have seen some sumptuous strokes for *Wisden* tells the world that on that day Hutton hit one six and fifteen fours and that his second fifty took only 27 minutes. Of the 201 that he and Sutcliffe made together, Hutton had 120 to his name. I must have gone home in seventh heaven.

Yorkshire from 55/3 went onto make 428/8 declared in 108 overs, quite a contrast to Kent's pedestrian rate. But I can recall no more of the detail. I much doubt if I was there on the third day when Kent were spun out by Wardle (6/29) for 128. For the last two thirds of a century the only written account I have had of that match are the 13 lines in *Wisden 1953* in which an unknown writer extolled Hutton's “ *glorious innings [with] strokes and power*”.

Looking at *Wisden* now I am surprised at that Yorkshire side. There was no Trueman, no Yardley, no Brennan - the usual vice-captain and another amateur, and no Lawson (who had played for England that summer). I realise now that Surrey had already won the championship and that no one could catch Yorkshire in second place – not that being second was an achievement for Yorkshire in those days. They would endure six more seasons of Surrey finishing in front of them. The day after that match finished at Canterbury, Yorkshire were at Scarborough to play MCC and both Len Hutton and Peter May each scored two centuries in that game. No England captain would contemplate such an end of season schedule these days. I was indeed highly lucky to have seen the master craftsman.

And now, I discover, what I had long forgotten, or perhaps never even knew, that it was Hutton and not Sutcliffe who was captain in the Kent match. The wonders of computers have allowed me to choose to print off three pages from the *Yorkshire Post* of 1952. Their “*special correspondent*” - surely not E W Swanton - wrote of Hutton's “*masterly innings of speed and skill*” and that “*he moved to his century with a text book variety of immaculate cuts and on drives mingled with one or two light hearted pulls.*” After the Yorkshire declaration he even bowled “*one of his rare overs*” [probably of leg spin]. He had, as England captain, defeated India over a four Test series, and that September day had been able to play as a happy cricketer free of toil and care. I was obviously at the time even more fortunate than I had then realised.

It all must have made me an even more devoted Yorkshire supporter, and I have kept the devotion going for another seven decades.

Scorecard courtesy of cricinfo:

Kent v Yorkshire, St Lawrence Ground, Canterbury, 30 August, 1,2 September 1952

**Result:** Yorkshire won by an innings and 51 runs

Kent 1st innings

AH Phebey	c Foord	b Halliday	38
AF Woollett	c Halliday	b Wardle	25
+TG Evans		b Wardle	24
MC Cowdrey	not out		85
P Hearn	lbw	b Wardle	3
R Mayes	c Booth	b Holdsworth	20
*W Murray-Wood		b Foord	6
RR Dovey	c Holdsworth	b Halliday	28
DVP Wright	c Booth	b Foord	6
F Ridgway	c Lester	b Wardle	1
JCT Page		b Wardle	2
Extras	(lb 9, nb 2)		11
Total	(all out, 111.1 overs)		249

FoW: 1-71, 2-71, 3-106, 4-110, 5-147, 6-156, 7-212, 8-229, 9-232, 10-249.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Foord	26	6	67	2
Holdsworth	19	5	38	1
Halliday	25	13	50	2
Wardle	33.1	16	69	5
Close	8	3	14	0

#### Yorkshire 1st innings

WHH Sutcliffe	c Dovey	b Page	181
JV Wilson		b Ridgway	1
EI Lester	c Wright	b Ridgway	20
DB Close	c Evans	b Wright	2
L Hutton	c Murray-Wood	b Dovey	120
W Watson		b Dovey	26
H Halliday		b Page	31
JH Wardle		b Dovey	26
+R Booth	not out		0
Extras	(b 17, lb 4)		21
Total	(8 wickets declared, 103.5 overs)		428

DNB: CW Foord, WEN Holdsworth.

FoW: 1-4, 2-40, 3-55, 4-256, 5-292, 6-343, 7-424, 8-428.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Ridgway	24	6	71	2
Page	20.5	1	111	2
Wright	26	5	76	1
Dovey	27	2	116	3
Cowdrey	4	1	8	0
Murray-Wood	2	0	25	0

#### Kent 2nd innings

AH Phebey		b Holdsworth	2
AF Woollett	c Wilson	b Close	36
+TG Evans	c Wardle	b Close	15
MC Cowdrey		b Wardle	1
P Hearn	c Booth	b Wardle	6
R Mayes	c Sutcliffe	b Wardle	8
*W Murray-Wood		b Close	33
RR Dovey	c Booth	b Wardle	2
DVP Wright	c Lester	b Wardle	3
F Ridgway	c Lester	b Wardle	4
JCT Page	not out		13
Extras	(lb 5)		5
Total	(all out, 60.2 overs)		128

FoW: 1-10, 2-40, 3-45, 4-51, 5-73,  
6-73, 7-83, 8-93, 9-112, 10-128.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Foord	5	2	18	0
Holdsworth	4	0	6	1
Wardle	27.2	18	29	6
Close	23	7	64	3
Hutton	1	0	6	0

**FIXTURES:** Again, these are published as a help for members. Please however remember that details, particularly timing, can change, and the information should be double checked before setting out to enjoy any cricket. As usual, later rounds of cups are not included.

At the time of going to print, 2<sup>nd</sup> XI fixtures have been published, but with venues still to be announced. Therefore these have been kept for our next issue. It may be of interest however that the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI kick off with a three day friendly against Gloucestershire at Bristol, from April 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>.

Yorkshire Diamonds' matches however, seem to be largely in place, and follow below.

### 1<sup>st</sup> XI

April 7-9	Leeds/Bradford MCUU (1st class)	Headingley
13-16	Essex (CC)	Headingley
20-23	Notts (CC)	Headingley
27-30	Taunton (CC)	Taunton
May 4-7	Essex (CC)	Chelmsford
11-14	Surrey (CC)	The Oval
18	Durham (RLOC)	Chester-le-Street, 2 p.m.
20	Warwickshire (RLOC)	Headingley
23	Worcestershire (RLOC)	Headingley
25	Notts (RLOC)	Headingley
27	Leicestershire (RLOC)	Grace Road, Leicester
30	Derbyshire (RLOC)	Derby
June 5	Lancashire (RLOC)	Old Trafford
7	Northants (RLOC)	Headingley
17	India A (one day tour match)	Headingley
20-23	Hampshire (2 p.m. each day)	Ageas Bowl, Southampton
25-28	Surrey	Scarborough
July 5	Durham (t20)	Headingley
8	'Birmingham' (t20)	Edgbaston, 2.30 p.m.
11	Derbyshire (t20)	Headingley
13	Durham (t20)	Chester-le-Street
15	Worcestershire (t20)	Worcester, 2.30 p.m.
20	Lancashire (t20)	Old Trafford
22-25	Lancashire (CC)	Old Trafford
27	'Birmingham' (t20)	Headingley
28	Derbyshire (t20)	Chesterfield, 2.30 p.m.
31	Leicestershire (t20)	Headingley
August 3	Northants (t20)	Headingley
9	Lancashire (t20)	Headingley
10	Notts (t20)	Trent Bridge

16	Northants (t20)	Northampton
17	Notts (t20)	Headingley
19-22	Worcestershire (CC)	Scarborough
29-1	Somerset (CC)	Headingley
Sept 4-7	Notts (CC)	Trent Bridge
10-13	Lancashire (CC)	Headingley
18-21	Hampshire (CC)	Headingley
24-27	Worcestershire (CC)	Worcester

### Yorkshire Diamonds

July 22	Western Storm	Taunton, 2.30
27	Lancashire	Headingley, 2.30
29	Surrey	Guildford, 2.30
31	Loughborough	Away, tbc, 6.30?
August 2	Southern Vipers	York, 2.30
5	Western Storm	Scarborough, 2.30
8	Southern Vipers	Southampton, 2.30
12	Surrey	York, 2.30
15	Lancashire	Away, tbc, 6.30?
18	Loughborough	Headingley, 7 p.m.