
THE CHEESEMAN PAPERS - PART 6

DESPITE UNAVOIDABLE SETBACKS, THE PACE OF ACU DEVELOPMENT IS MAINTAINED

It was a grievous blow to the Association when the news broke of the death of its first President, Douglas R. Jardine, on the 18 June 1958, at the relatively early age of 57. This distinguished man, renowned for his austerity but, in truth, as far as the Association had been concerned, a most friendly and approachable person. He had been, for the past five years, a most active President in every sense of the word.

Right from that historic day in early October 1953, when he had invited Tom Smith to lunch with him at the University Club, Pall Mall, he had been an inspiration in every phase of Association activity and had always been ready to offer wise words of advice and guidance. He had always been instantly ready, too, to use his considerable influence, no more so than to authoritative colleagues in high positions at Lord's, in motivating them in the merit of giving due recognition and the fullest possible support to the fledgling umpires' association, founded by Tom Smith.

Mr. Jardine had been in the closest of contact with the General Secretary throughout the first five years and on many occasions Tom had recalled him saying: "the work we are doing is for the benefit of Cricket as a whole; further, that "we must do 'this' or 'that' and, as a follow-up, by "getting 'so' and 'so' interested in the cause of ACU". Tom was in no doubt whatsoever that the rapid growth and success of the

Association had been due, in large measure, to the strength and vigour of Mr. Jardine's strong personality. As Tom said at the memorial Service, held at St. Michael's Church, Cornhill, on 3 July 1958, "One thing is quite certain – that is, over the years to come, his influence will always be with us".

Soon after, Mrs. Jardine asked the General Secretary to accept future custody of a silver, autographed and engraved cigarette box that had been presented to her late husband by the members of the MCC Touring Team to Australia in appreciation of his inspiring and outstanding leadership in that famous and controversial "body-line" series of 1932/33. Mrs. Jardine said that her husband, Douglas, had treasured the box and she would like it to be a permanent reminder of his ACU Presidency. From that time onwards, it had been a pleasant custom and duty of successive General Secretaries to ensure that it was passed round for viewing at Association Annual Dinners, a tradition that Tom Smith hoped would always continue to be observed.

Towards the end of 1958, the General Secretary, Tom Smith, wrote to Mr. G.O. Allen, who, at that time, was Chairman of the England Selectors (from 1955 to 1961), Chairman of the MCC Cricket Committee and Chairman of the First-Class Umpires' Committee, asking if he might kindly consider accepting the vacant office of Association President. Mindful of the many commitments already being dealt with by this great cricketer and administrator

- like his predecessor, also a past Captain of England - Tom Smith held out little hope of his invitation being successful. In the event, to Tom's great delight, in October, Mr. Allen was swift to accept the office and the new President indicated his first intention of personal participation in future Association affairs. Already he could say that he would hope to be in attendance at the next Annual Dinner, scheduled for February, 1959 and the Annual General Meeting that was due to follow in March.

Born in Sydney, Australia, educated at Eton and a Cambridge Blue, Mr. G.O. Allen (better known to his close friends as "Gubby"), was one of the finest right-arm fast bowlers in England between the two World Wars, as well as being a courageous hard hitting batsman.

Notable highlights of his career included: Captain of Middlesex CCC, tourist to Australia and New Zealand 1932/33 and 1936/37 and the West Indies in 1947/48, the last two tours as England Captain. "Gubby" represented his country in 25 Test Matches, eleven of them as Captain. His highest Test Score was 120 v New Zealand at Lord's in 1931. He shared with Leslie E.G. Ames, a record eighth wicket partnership of 246 also at Lord's v New Zealand in 1931. His highest score was 180 in the Free Foresters' v Cambridge University fixture at Fenner's in 1948. Taking eighty-one wickets in Test Matches, "Gubby's" best bowling performance was all ten wickets for 40 v Lancashire at Lord's in 1929, eight of which were clean bowled.

He was also involved in a somewhat rare incident during a South of England v Royal Australian Air Force match at Lord's in 1945, when he picked up the ball and, on appeal, the umpire had no option but to give him out "handled the ball", notwithstanding that the match was considerably delayed following considerable barracking by the crowd of 11,000.

The sixth Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at "The Three Nuns" Hotel, Aldgate, on Saturday, 7 March, 1959. It was again a most memorable occasion when the General Secretary had the great pleasure of formally introducing the new President to the meeting and emphasised the great honour paid to the Association by Mr. Allen's acceptance of the Presidency. Tom Smith said then that he "hoped he would be with us for many years" little realising that his optimistic hope would be fully realised with "Gubby" still in Presidential office until his death, 30 years later, on 29 November 1980, when the grand old man was aged 87.

Mr. Allen, in reply, expressed his great pleasure in having the honour of holding office as Association President. He spoke of the debt of gratitude owed by the Association to his predecessor, Mr. D. R. Jardine, who, in addition to having a distinguished career as a Cricketer, had given no less a service to the Association since its formation. Mr. Allen said that he had taken office at a particularly critical moment in the affairs of umpires. The welfare of the game was in the hands of its administrators,

players, captains and, by no means least, of the umpires; each of these must play their part if the standards of the game were to be maintained. Throwing and jerking by bowlers had been under discussion for many recent months and the President said that he was hopeful of moves afoot to end this sad story.

The President welcomed all to the meeting and, in particular, to those who had travelled a long way to be present; identifying Major E.J. Claridge and his supporting contingent from the North West; those from Bedfordshire, Kent and the Hon. Secretary of the Eastbourne and District ACU.

Opening his Annual Report, the General Secretary said he was happy to confirm a further year of continued development, marked progress and much varied activity, leaving the Association in an all round healthy position. Allowing for natural wastage, personal membership was now numbering 1,200+. Mr. Smith expressed the hope that members would continue the good work of introducing new members to the Association – not only practising umpires, but also practising scorers and others interested in the Laws of the game. Even at this early stage of Association development, consideration had already been given to the future provision of Training and Examinations leading to a certificate of competence in the speciality of Scoring. Equally welcoming as recruits, would be players nearing the end of their active cricket lives, who might well think of turning to scoring or umpiring to keep in touch with the game

and perhaps give something back of the enjoyment received by them from it over former years.

The Association had continued to actively encourage the formation of local associations, where none had existed and invited their affiliations to ACU, if so desired. New Affiliations registered within the past twelve months had included Southend-on-Sea CUA, now becoming a power in Essex; Hastings and District ACU, Aberdeen and Pembroke CUAs. Congenial liaisons had continued with numerous bodies overseas and the General Secretary had taken pleasure in entertaining distinguished visitors, Mr. Owen Davies of Trinidad CUA and Mr. J.E. Amory of Barbados CUA to England.

A Northern Branch of the Association had been formed under the guidance of Major E. (Ted) Claridge after his excellent missionary work in that area. He had soon been recognised as the most talented Instructor in the North-Western Counties and had conducted well-attended courses, in co-operation with the Central Council for Physical Recreation at Lytham St. Annes, Salford and Bolton. There was no doubt that news of this had spread rapidly throughout the counties of Lancashire and northern Cheshire and was now paying dividends. An inaugural meeting, with Manchester as its centre, was arranged in December, 1958, at the Douglas Hotel, Corporation Street, Manchester, a venue within two minutes of its Victoria Station.

The first "Domestic Night" of the New Year's (1959) series of "Open" meetings was a 'talking-shop' led by A.E.D. (David) Smith, First-Class County Umpire and Chairman of the Training Committee. After calling attention to some misinformed and misguided Press comments on some recent umpires' decisions involving the MCC Touring Team to Australia, the speaker put before the members several problems relating to Law interpretation. In the course of his address, Mr. Smith assured members that the Association would certainly take up the case of any member who might be unfairly criticised and pointed out that such corrective action had already been taken in the recent past to good effect.

The first news of training activity in Scotland under the aegis of an officially appointed ACU Instructor came when Vice – President, Frank Lee, accepted invitations from the Cricket Society of Scotland to address meetings in the Liberal Club, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, 10 February 1959, and repeated the following evening at the Kenilworth Hotel, Glasgow.

It had been very encouraging to have seen a consistent improvement in the theoretical and practical work of candidates for Full membership with approximately 220 candidates presenting for written examination and 40 for Oral in the year under review. Abroad, written papers had been issued to the Canadian Cricket Association and were returned to the United Kingdom for marking by members of the Examination Board. All these initiatives were in furtherance of the

Association's predominant aim of improving standards worldwide.

During the playing season itself, it had been difficult to make arrangements for these examinations to have taken place. Nevertheless, visits had been made by members of the Board to outlying places when, co-incidentally it had suited their convenience for other purposes. Such venues had included Bath and Manchester where Oral examinations had taken place.

A first-ever Training Course for potential instructors had been held in the lecture room in the Lord's pavilion on 28 January, 1959 and was continued over the five successive Wednesday evenings. This was a positive step forward by the Training Committee to augment its bank of qualified Instructors which had become inadequate for the demands increasingly being made upon the Association to provide lectures to Clubs and outside organisations, as well as fulfilling the essential needs of the Association's own members.

Tom Smith, himself, acted as principal tutor of this course, supported by David Smith and Leslie Barnes of the Training Committee. The course was thoroughly enjoyed by the three tutors and 25 students alike. Amongst the student body at that time were Messrs. Pat O'Brien and David Whiley, both of whom were soon to become popular and influential officers of the Association in their own right. There had been almost 100% attendance throughout all sessions of the course and the standard of instruction had continuously improved. Other similar courses would eventually be convened some times in the future.

Geoffrey Staniford, Publicity Officer and Editor of "How's That"? was now producing six issues of the newsletter each year, in addition to the provision and distribution of Press Reports and releases, as appropriate. With Jim Dear continuing to deal with the printing and Bob Howkins looking after Despatch and Registration, the Newsletter continued to reach many areas of the Cricket World and was itself a prime recruiting agent.

The distribution of literature, ties and badges had also by now become a heavy and on-going task but fortunately, Bob Howkins faced his difficulties and problems with an in-born cheerfulness which overcame them all. Thanks were also due to Mr. A.E. (Woody) Woodford, who for some years past had done much painstaking writing of addresses in this department which he now had to give up.

Frank Carr, recently moved to more spacious residence at Great Tattenhams, Epsom Downs, now had more elbow room with which to spread this extra work, in addition to his current role as Secretary to the Examination Board.

With the work in producing the Association Text-Book, "Cricket Umpiring and Scoring" now completed, Vice-President Col. R.S. Rait-Kerr had kindly offered to help with the script of the proposed film production. It was of course essential to judge the most appropriate timing for this to appear and with some controversial problems (such as those currently applying to Experimental Law 26) still to be resolved and needing formal resolution by the MCC, it had been thought wise to wait a while longer in its preparation.

Concluding his Annual Report, the General Secretary said that with the approach of another playing season, Association teachings were now being carried out in practice on the field. This was the right and proper place for an umpire to show his skills and, as he never tired of repeating, must be the culmination of all Association efforts. He was constantly being told by members how comforting and encouraging it was to arrive at a match to find his appointed colleague was also an Association member, ready with a welcome and the offer of co-operation throughout the period they were to stand together. This was a most pleasing and encouraging experience as well as being the expression of the Association's ideal of building of a guild or fraternity of Cricket Umpires worldwide. In this way and with the constant maintenance of high standards, individuals best preserved their dignity and status of their office. It was essential that the two officials should have complete understanding and confidence in each other and to work in unison from the moment of their arrival at the match, showing understanding and loyalty throughout. Tom appealed to all members to carry out these principles implicitly.

In introducing his financial report, the Hon, Treasurer, Jim Dear, drew attention to the fact that for the first time, the past year's administration had included the new Council's expenses. He also drew attention to a considerable fall in the level of donations from that formerly enjoyed but explained that this was partly due to some donors who had specifically asked for their contributions to be

allocated to the fund being set aside for the purpose of making an instructional film.

In reply to a question as to what other future projects might require major expenditure, the Hon. Treasurer said that some part of the Association's funding would soon be needed for the purchase of visual aids to complement verbal instruction. The provision of additional sets of Examination papers would also constitute a heavy item of expenditure in the near future.

It had been decided by Council, that as from 1 April, 1959, an incentive would be given to Affiliated Bodies to collect and remit individual members' subscriptions. Henceforth they could take advantage of a financial concession of two shillings and sixpence in respect of any of their members who would qualify for Full Membership of the Association. This allowance would be conditional upon the payment of the joint subscription of twelve shillings and sixpence and the local association's subscription being paid to the Hon Treasurer of ACU by 1 May, annually. It was earnestly hoped that the allowance would be passed on to the individual member who qualified to Full Membership, thus enabling him to pay a joint annual subscription to his local association consisting of (1) ten shillings ACU subscription and (2) his local subscription reduced by two shillings and sixpence.

In summary, Jim Dear, was pleased to report that the Association's financial position was considered to be fairly comfortable. Much of this cause for satisfaction had undoubtedly been due to the Treasurer's

meticulous care in monitoring expenditure.

With the experience of six year's growth and development now behind it, one might have reasonably expected that subsequent events in the Association's recurring calendar would have been recorded as simple variations on the themes of what had taken place before, but surprisingly, the accounting year, 1959/60, was to become noted yet again for an evolutionary series of incidents occurring "for the first time".

One of these concerned the arrangement of weekly training classes conducted at "The Three Nuns", Aldgate, on Friday evenings throughout the summer, which, hitherto had been deliberately kept devoid of competing activity, due to Instructors being personally involved in the field themselves once the Cricket season had started. At these courses, those who had received a nod of approval at the recent course for Potential Instructors at Lord's, were now completing their practical training in charge, for the first time under the surveillance of a Senior Instructor.

The Council Meeting which followed the 1959 Annual General Meeting saw a new Secretary appointed to the Training Committee in the person of H.A. (Pat) O'Brien who was to become a considerable asset to the Association. He was a tireless and most enthusiastic worker but nevertheless had a grueling first year's work in the organisation of a record number of training classes and courses.

Certainly, the 1959/60 “close” season had been the busiest period yet that the Association had encountered. On 9 July, under the joint auspices of the Central Council for Physical Recreation and the newly formed Northern Branch of ACU, Frank Lee gave a lecture of his “Playing and Umpiring Experiences” at Manchester Technical College. This was soon to be followed by a series of ten lectures in October/November by Senior Lecturer, Ted Claridge. The autumn also saw Len Martin provide a fortnightly series of lectures at Romford, Essex and Ken McCanlis widened his former sphere of activity (Bedford) to Hertfordshire, where he lectured to prospective umpires at Barnet, Cheshunt, Hertford and St. Albans

The onset of winter saw David Smith on circuit at courses at Lowestoft, Bury St. Edmunds, Kettering, Ilford, Rushden (Northants) and Sudbury. Frank Lee was again busy instructing the RAF Cricket Umpires’ Association at the conclusion of which, 27 candidates sat the written examination. With the arrival of Spring, David Smith covered different ground at Catford, Tonbridge, Maidstone, Peterborough, Southend, Ashford, Gravesend and Folkestone. Further south, nearer to his home, Tom Smith himself, also instructed courses arranged at Chelsea for students at St. Marks’s and St. John’s Colleges, Aldershot, Guildford, Cheam and Crawley.

Through the medium of the Newsletter, Tom Smith encouraged both Associate and Full members to attend these courses when personally convenient. He stressed how surprising it was that a gentle

reminder of points discussed could be very beneficial to the individual in clarifying his mind of what, sub-consciously, might have been a previous “grey” area of his understanding. The potential ramifications of Cricket Law were vast and a volume of most of its interpretations would be so large that it would be impossible for an individual to carry around. Many important issues had to be kept in the mind and the General Secretary never ceased to wonder how new angles and approaches to the Laws and its Notes kept arising. However umpires might think that they knew most of the answers, hardly ever did one leave a meeting, gathering or discussion, without learning something new or having one’s previous level of understanding correctly re-affirmed. Occasional attendances at “refresher” classes would never be considered as time wasted.

At the request of the President, The Chairman of Council, Mr. John L. Stewart, took the Chair at the AGM on the 5 March, 1960 for the first time. This procedure was to become the custom and practice observed at all AGMs over subsequent years. In welcoming all members, Mr. Stewart made special reference to the presence of Mrs. Coysh, the first Lady member of the Association to be attending an AGM.

Mr. Ted Claridge, Chairman of the Northern Branch and its Secretary, Mr. Eric Holmes, were praised for the growth and consolidation of the Branch over such a short period of gestation. The news that arrangements were being made for Northern Branch members to visit Old Trafford on similar lines to the Headquarters annual visit to Lord’s was welcomed. For the

first time, too, through the good offices of Mr. C.G. Howard, Secretary of the Lancashire County Cricket Club, the first written examinations took place in the Branch with Old Trafford as the venue. One very sad note to record, however, was the fact that Mr. J. Collins, the first Treasurer of the Branch, had tragically died of a heart attack in the train on the return journey to Manchester from London.

In presenting his Annual Report, the General Secretary, Tom Smith, said that membership in the year had been increased by approximately 250, to an overall total of 1,500. Additionally, membership by virtue of the numbers belonging to the various Affiliated Bodies probably added another 3,000, so the Association could now claim to represent some 4,500 umpires worldwide.

A new affiliated association had been formed at Peterborough, following a course of lectures given by the Training Committee Chairman, Mr. David Smith. Although only so very recently formed, this new association had already received requests for the services of umpires in the District covering a radius of 30 miles. Additional new affiliations in the year were also those at Ipswich, Romford, Accrington, Hastings, Aberdeen, East Cornwall and Berkshire.

Two Service affiliations had also now been formalised with both the RAF and the Army Associations of Cricket Umpires. In December, the General Secretary had been invited to Aldershot to receive the very kind hospitality of Brigadiers Rimbault and White and Full member, Major George Cox. This occasion had followed the last lecture of a most happy and

successful course arranged by the Association for the Army. The resultant affiliation had been a most important step forward which had largely been brought about by the hard work and enthusiasm of Major George Cox and Col. Terry Aram

In addition to these practical sessions, much work had been done by Tom Smith in clarifying and interpreting Laws by correspondence. It was seldom that the General Secretary's postbag did not contain several letters of enquiry asking for solutions to specific problems.

Close contacts and friendly liaisons with old and new friends overseas had continued during the year. It had been a great pleasure for the General Secretary to have met members of associations overseas when they had been on leave or holiday in England. Tom Smith had particular pleasure in entertaining Mr. E. Moxham, the Chairman of the Uganda ACU at his home in Mitcham. The hope was that overseas members would continue to contact the General Secretary on their arrival. Very important groundwork had been covered by these personal contacts and Tom Smith hoped to persuade some of these personnel to come and talk at Association winter meetings.

New affiliated overseas bodies registered during the year had been those of Mashonaland, Southern Rhodesia, Antigua and Holland. Examination papers had also gone out to several countries, including Canada, West Indies and New Zealand, with written work returned to the United Kingdom for marking.

Over the year, "Open" meetings had been held in London on a regular monthly basis, with all of these very well attended. This year's Speakers had included such "box office" personalities as Mr. Kenneth Wostenholme, Brian Johnston, Major Sydney Woods (of the Club Cricket Conference), Mr. McTaggart (of the London University Sports Ground at Motspur Park) and Mr. I.F. Outrim (an overseas visitor who had been encouraged by Tom Smith to give an address on "Umpiring in Australasia and Malaysia").

The General Secretary said the Association was rightly proud of its incentive of Full membership and was determined to keep its standards high. This meant, in turn, that Association examinations must also be kept to the highest specification. Formidable work was involved in their organisation and administration, and Frank Carr, now Secretary to the Examination Board, was responsible for this. He had again done a magnificent year's work. Fortunately, for ACU, he had been in a position to devote some of his time to the Association during the day and very often was doing what amounted to a full time job. When it was remembered that control and distribution of papers and returned work had been necessary – not only for the United Kingdom but abroad as well – some idea of the size of the Examination Board Secretary's job became evident. A glutton for work, Frank Carr now managed in addition the recently purchased Association Addressograph which obviated the previous necessity for envelopes used in distributing

the Newsletter to individuals being written by hand.

During the year, examinations had been held all over the country at centres in Brighton, Warminster, Westerham, Hassle, Sheffield, Dundee, York, Edinburgh, Bristol, Maidstone, Bedford, Reading, Aldershot, Hastings, Peterborough, Folkestone, Cambridge, Bath, Stockport, Exeter, Scone, Knutsford, Wolverly, Leeds, Bedhampton, Ipswich and Pembroke, not forgetting, of course, HQ London (several times) and abroad.

Papers had been sent to New Zealand, Trinidad, Canada and British Guiana and it had been very encouraging to have seen a consistency of improvement in candidates' attempts at examinations. There had been little doubt that this had been due to the provision of Association Training Classes, coupled with the constant striving for higher standards. 126 passes had been registered overall in the year's examination attempts, with 128 failing to satisfy the examiners. 99 Oral examinations had been arranged, from which 59 resulted in passes and 40 were still found to be someway short of the high standard required. The heaviest weaknesses were shown to be in relation to questions on LBW, "No Ball", "Dead Ball", Byes and Leg-Byes – particularly "padding" - Appeals and the Laws of fair and unfair play.

Yet another “first” during this year (1960) was the production of an ACU “Handbook”, the outcome of many long hours of joint collaboration between Bob Howkins and Geoffrey Staniford in its collation, press-proofing and distribution. Its primary aim was to set out names and residential locations of all members and Association Officers as well as listing details of Local Associations and their contacts affiliated to the Parent body of ACU. The main headache in its production had always been to identify the source of funding for the heavy expense involved and this had still to be solved. Another major fault in its production was that, as new folk were being recruited to membership on a continuous daily basis, there were bound to be omissions in the print of the personnel involved, so to that extent, its use as a Directory was virtually out of date on the first day of publication – somewhat akin one supposes to the periodic circulation of local telephone directories.

Donald King, the Secretary of the Canadian Cricket Association, at this time was also the Canadian representative to the Imperial Cricket Conference which met on an annual basis at Lord’s. Advantage was taken of his periodic visits to England to converse with the ACU General Secretary, Tom Smith, with whom an arrangement was made for Donald to act as “agent” in Canada on behalf of the Association. From time to time, Donald made interesting contributions to “How’s That ?” and as a guest Speaker to an “Open” Meeting.

A short note from Jim Dear of New Malden also appeared in the

June Newsletter as he wrote: “Before a match, a player became very interested in my blazer badge and on observing the word “Nompere”, said : “ Nompere”; isn’t that French for “No Father ? How very apt.” No comment!

The Annual Dinner at Lord’s on the 13 February, 1960 (ticket price one pound, two shillings and sixpence) had a guest list worth recording: The High Commissioner and Madam Asafu-Adjaye of Ghana; Miss Netta Rheinberg, former Secretary of the Women’s Cricket Association; Vice – Presidents John Arlott and Frank Lee; Douglas Insole; Alec and Eric Bedser; Norman Preston, Editor of “Wisden”; Major Sydney Woods, Secretary of the Club Cricket Conference; Arthur Langford, Editor of “The Cricketer”; and Major Prothero-Beynon, Chairman of the Pembrokeshire Association of Cricket Umpires.

In concluding his notable speech that evening, John Arlott suggested a toast for all umpires dinners: “All good batsmen” (who always walk !) which commended itself to his hearers. In acknowledging the Toast to “The Association”, Council Member, Mr. A.E.D. (David) Smith said that the Association had never hesitated to state its views forthrightly but diplomatically. At the AGM, members would hear details of the balance sheet with some satisfaction – all the money had been put there by the members themselves! If the aims of the Association were to be fulfilled, the sum represented only one tenth of what was needed. The years 1959 and 1960 could be the most crucial in the ACU’s history; it could slip back or go ahead with leaps and

bounds. Last year had seen a marked step forward in the establishment of a Northern Branch of the Association and those who knew the independence of North Country folk would know that this was progress indeed.

By this time, the Association Umpire’s Bureau had been handling nearly 1,000 telephone calls annually. These had been answered entirely by Winnie Smith, Tom’s wife, at their home in Mitcham. The service given both to Clubs and members of ACU had been free, with the bureau run on an entirely honorary basis, although those for whom satisfactory introductions had been made, had been expected to make a donation to Association funds. Clubs enquiring for the services of umpires had been given the telephone numbers of umpires known to be free of appointments within a reasonable geographical area of the match involved. With a satisfactory introduction completed, the two parties had been expected to have reached agreement as to deciding details between them.

During the year, the General Secretary had been asked to write a regular series of articles on Umpiring in “The Cricketer” magazine. The articles had been well received generally and, more importantly, had provided valuable publicity for ACU both at home and overseas. As but one example, Mr. L.J. Youngren from Chicago, Illinois, USA reported that Tom Smith’s articles had been met with great interest there. A great compliment was also paid to Mr. Norman Preston,

the Editor of "Wisden". Mr. Smith said that "Wisden" had been traditionally regarded as the greatest Cricket book of all and, an article in this annual, he humbly thought, would be of inestimable value to the furthering of the Association's work, as well as emphasising the importance of the umpire's office. Undoubtedly, this was becoming increasingly recognised the world over and, in this, ACU had been playing a leading role.

Sales and praise of the Association Textbook "Cricket Umpiring and Scoring" had continued steadily throughout the year and for the first time Royalties had brought in useful revenue. It was the hope of Council that members would continue to recommend the book to potentially interested parties whenever the opportunity arose. Its price at this time was ten shillings per copy, either from its publishers, Phoenix House Ltd, 38, William IV Street, Strand, London, W.C. or from most good local booksellers.

At the conclusion of the formal business of the 1960 AGM, Mr. Frank Tyson very kindly showed his colour film of his most recent tour to Australasia and gave a supporting commentary.

Whilst all this heady ACU developmental activity was going on in the late 1950s, a number of exceptional performances were also taking place by teams and individual players in the English First-Class game, both at County and International levels. Under the inspired leadership of Stuart Surridge (later on, to be succeeded by Peter May) Surrey CCC enjoyed the most successful run of all time, winning seven County Championships in a row from 1952-59. The sun seemed to

shine perpetually at the Kennington Oval, with Surrey always the winners. Peter May, with his magnificent front-foot play, unleashed contact with bat and ball akin to the firing of a pistol shot, with the ball ricocheting on the pavilion fence almost before the close-in fielders had time to move.

The performances of the Surrey bowlers were also collectively generally unplayable. The opening pace attack was fearsome, with the lithe Peter Loader (of Wallington) as fast as a whippet and occasionally called for "no-balling" for his extra fast deliveries. His partner, at the alternate end, was the formidable tall, medium paced, Alec Bedser, who arrived at the Oval, immediately post World War II, having served in the RAF Police and as a survivor of HM Forces evacuated from Dunkirk. All of his anatomical features were huge – he was, indeed, a big man with a big frame, possessing big hands and a big, big heart.

He was both a 'Strike' bowler – his description: "someone whose deliveries consistently hit the stumps" and a 'Stock bowler', all in one, whose stamina was such that he could bowl long accurate spells in heat and when the going got tough. He regularly bowled in excess of 1,000 overs a summer. His stock ball, the leg-cutter, was naggingly accurate and was, on his own admission, discovered by accident but it took two years for him to perfect it from a conventional leg-break delivery. To bowl it routinely, it needed his 'shovel-sized' hands. (Don Bradman believed him to be the one bowler above all others that troubled him, losing his wicket to Alec six times in Test Matches).

Having seen both hardship and war, he was not one to get carried away with sporting success. He would say: "We've overdone it now with adulation. It's nice for kids to aspire to do such things, but not for grown men to get so worked up. Mum wouldn't speak to the Press. After I got 14 wickets at Nottingham, someone got through on the telephone. 'What do you mean he took a lot of wickets?' she said. 'He's a bowler. I thought that's what he was supposed to do' And she put the phone down".

Nor did Surrey's opponents gain respite when the first change in bowling turned to the slower spin of Eric Bedser (Alec's identical twin), Tony Lock and Jim Laker. The last named ambled gently to the wicket, delivering off-breaks which turned viciously and spat at the striker. He was well supported by the closest of fielders – Micky Stewart at bat/pad and Tony Lock (when not bowling himself at the alternate end) at the closest of short fine leg positions, from which both competed with each other in holding on to 'the impossible' catches.

However, the most remarkable performance of Jim Laker in his lifetime came in the Old Trafford Test which took place from 26th-31 July, 1956, which turned out to be one of the most dramatic matches in Ashes history. England batted first and Peter Richardson scored a maiden century, to be followed by a chanceless 113 by the Rev. David Sheppard, (who previously had been badly shaken by a first ball from Ray Lindwall).

By tea on the 2nd day (Friday) the Australians were 48 for no wickets but by the close were two down in their second innings, with eleven of the twelve wickets to fall to the off-spin of Jim Laker. However, with most of England euphoric at this time, the weather in Manchester lived up to its woeful reputation for heavy rain, with no play at all possible on the 3rd Day (Saturday). Nor did things improve on the rest-day (Sunday) when thunderstorms were the 'norm', leaving the ground close to saturation on the Monday (4th Day), with the tourists batting for only one hour without losing further wickets.

Overnight and early Tuesday morning (5th and last day) a drying wind became strong and play started only ten minutes late but the overnight batsmen, MacDonald and Craig, were still there when lunch was taken. While off the field, the sun broke through and on resumption of play, Laker's spin began to bite. Six Australian wickets were down at tea but after this final break, the previously unmoveable Colin MacDonald edged a fast spinning off-break into the large hands of Alan Oakman at short-leg - his fifth catch in the match - (having been appointed as a last minute substitute for the injured Tom Graveney by ACU President, "Gubby Allen", fulfilling his role as Chairman of the England Selectors!).

Remarkably, Jim Laker had taken all ten wickets in the Australian second innings and nineteen in the match overall, but such was his easy disposition that he jogged off the field as though nothing much had happened. All felt very sorry for Tony Lock who had given Jim Laker great

support, bowling at the alternate end, but only managed to take the one remaining wicket in 69 overs. At the start of the match he had been applauding Laker's success but towards the end one could see him just folding his arms.

Later, Jim wrote: "My celebration dinner consisted of a bottle of beer and a sandwich in a pub near Lichfield. I sat in the corner of a crowded bar while everyone talked about the Test. No one spotted me. Beyond asking me how far I had to go, the landlord said nothing!"

A point of particular interest to Umpires is that it is not generally known or appreciated that all of Laker's 19 wickets in the match were taken when he was operating at the ends where, ACU Vice-President, Frank Lee was adjudicating. This was an amazing co-incidence when one considers that Umpires are required to change ends at the start of the third innings - Both Jim (bowler) and Frank (Umpire) were simultaneously involved in 9 wickets to fall at one end and all ten at the other!

For the ten years which immediately followed the second World War, the England Cricket XI suffered at the hands of the two magnificent Australian 'quicks', Lindwall and Miller and, to a lesser extent, the South African, Cuan McCarthy. It was perfectly understandable why the England selectors were desperate to unearth a young bowler with equivalent potential to trouble opposing batsmen from "down under". Their prayers were duly answered with the discovery, in the mid-50s, of the son of a South Yorkshire miner, Fred Swards Trueman, of whom ACU Vice President, John Arlott

wrote: "The God of Cricket achieved one of his greatest triumphs of creation in Fred Trueman. Stories will be told about him as long as men talk about Cricket. No one who ever saw him will be able to forget."

There was no doubt that he was the embodiment of the fast bowler - ferocious and fiery. Fred even bristled with menace walking back to his bowling mark, black hair flopping, unbuttoned sleeve, his angled run, his beautiful side-on delivery and his expectation of securing a wicket with every ball delivered. He really enjoyed the persona of the fast bowler, hurling down bumpers and scowling at the opposing batsmen.

He was a chosen regular in the England XI from 1957, but there were those at Lord's who were suspicious of him growing up in a working-class community where people valued plain speaking.

He was now in a context which was entirely alien to his upbringing, although there was no malice in him, he spoke as a Yorkshire man would speak in Yorkshire and it didn't go down too well in a highly sensitive situation. When he was taken to Australia in 1958/59, he was greeted on the gangplank by the manager, Freddie Brown with the words: "Any trouble from you, Trueman, and you'll be on the next boat home!"

Trevor Bailey was of the opinion that: "His vintage years were from 1958-1964. On all pitches and in all conditions, he was a complete fast bowler. He had fire, aggressiveness, pace, control, a glorious action, as well as limitless confidence in his own ability".

In each of the four seasons 1959-1962, he bowled in excess of 1,000 overs, taking 623 wickets in total. He had strong legs, a strong back and was rarely troubled by injury and was described by "Wisden" as a second Harold Larwood. In 1960, in 32 matches, he took 175 wickets, the most by any fast bowler post-War. He was the first bowler in history to take 300 wickets.

In his 67 Tests, 15 bowlers shared the new ball with him, from Alec Bedser to Fred Rumsey, but the one who was his most successful partner, more than any other, was Brian Statham; 'Fiery Fred' and 'Gentleman George' were the perfect pair in the public imagination.

He was a key member of the Yorkshire XI that won seven County Championships in ten years and his proudest moment came in his last season (1968) when he captained his beloved County, Yorkshire, inflicting an innings defeat over the Australian tourists. On retirement, he enjoyed a rich after-life as a stand-up comedian, an after-dinner speaker, and an instantly recognisable voice on "Test Match Special". [Author's note: Hayward Kidson was the most experienced umpire in the history of South African Cricket standing in more First-Class fixtures, Test, Currie-Cup, Gillette-Cup and Datsun Finals in that country than any other official. In 1969, the late Syd Buller, whilst on a visit to South Africa, gave him a copy of the ACU Handbook and he became impressed by the references within of the numbers of Full members of ACU who were registered from locations overseas. He accordingly wrote

to me (as the Examination Board Secretary at that time) with a view to sitting the ACU qualifying examinations which he successfully achieved. Later, he was to be appointed Examination Officer and representative of ACU in South Africa himself and, later still, I was to propose him as a Life-Vice President of the Association. The following extracts from his autobiography: "Over and Time", hopefully will be of interest to the reader in the context of Fred. Trueman's considered reputation from one overseas enthusiast.

"To me the finest and most exciting aspect of this game (A South Africa Invitation XI v the International Cavaliers on October 1960) centred on Freddie Trueman. In 14 overs, from my end, he gave an exhibition of the finest fast bowling I have ever seen anywhere. At one stage in the second innings when he had taken two for 13 in seven overs, Tom Graveney came across and said to him; 'For God's sake, take it easy'. Fred, already back to his bowling mark, face like thunder, snarled: 'Well, what the hell must I do? Bowl bloody lobs?' What a grand character!

He was a forthright, honest man and, because of this, seemed to tread on the toes of authority with monotonous regularity. This resulted in him being dropped from many Tests and several tours where his services would have been invaluable. He formed, with Statham, one of the greatest opening attacks in the history of the game and, having stood with both of them, it was easy to realise their worth. Fast bowlers hunt in pairs and I saw ample evidence of this in post-war years.

A man's man is our Fred and what a tremendous after-dinner speaker! He was invited to speak a Wanderers Cricket Dinner and I was similarly asked to introduce Fred but I promptly declined this particular honour. There was no way that I saw myself on the same platform with Fred and thank goodness I pulled out because he was simply brilliant that night and I would have looked very poor in comparison. His speech at the Wanderers Dinner was simply marvellous and his 'run-ins' with the MCC Disciplinary Committee were absolute gems.

Fred told more and better cricket stories than any man I have ever heard except, perhaps, John Warr. The trouble is that for every genuine Trueman story there were five others attributed to him that were not true and I think this caused Fred some embarrassment at times. He denied, for instance, about the occasion when, sitting next to an Indian dignitary, he is alleged to have said: "Pass the salt, Gunga Din" - certainly, good copy perhaps, but a bit unfair to Fred.

I like Trueman immensely - he fits perfectly into my scheme of things - and the few stories I have to tell about him are genuine. Sitting across the table in Eric Rowan's home one evening, I remarked teasingly: "Bloody fast bowler you are!" Back came Fred, instantly with: "And terrible foo...ng umpire you are!". Now that's what I call 'rapport'!

Fred had 'class' written all over him as a bowler and I am wont to regard people like him as the salt of the earth. Only he had the gift of telling about the batsman who was so scared of his pace that he played him from the umpire's position at square-leg."

Another well regarded "character" of the English First-Class game over this period was the talented off-spinner, Bryan "Bomber" Wells. He had an infectious 'happy-go-lucky' disposition that apparently never found favour with the national selectors, but he was a player with outstanding ability and had "box-office" appeal well outside of his own Gloucestershire County boundary. He was a man of considerable girth who ambled in off one or two paces with a rolling gait and frequently delivered the ball irrespective of whether the striker was ready to receive it or not.

There is an amusing story of him bowling an Oxford player, Len Hemming, when "Bomber's" captain was uncertain that Hemming had been ready to play and courteously rescinded the appeal and called the striker back. Somewhat sheepishly, Hemming returned to the crease and was immediately bowled by "Bomber" a second time again before he may not have been ready to receive this second delivery. Before the fielding captain could say another word, Hemming said: "If you think that I'm staying here for him to get his bloody hat-trick, you've got another think coming!"

In the 1956 summer, only off-spinners Don Shepherd and Jim Laker took more wickets than "Bomber's" 123. As a batsman, his only shot was a great agricultural mow but when it connected with

the ball it was astonishingly spectacular. He once came in to bat when his side's score was 91 for 9 wickets and he then proceeded to make 100 runs in 35 minutes, with the ball lost four times.

For "Bomber", Cricket was essentially a people's game, whether one was selected to play for England or the County's third eleven or not. It was a game of sunshine and laughter with its conversation capturing that sense of timelessness that makes cricket such a special case. He brought so much joy into so many lives. As Michael Parkinson wrote: "There was a summer's day in his face and laughter in his soul".

However, it was neither the legendary Fred Trueman, nor "Bomber" Wells who hogged the headlines of the international Press back-pages at the close of the '50s and early '60s. This doubtful honour came to a Cape-coloured South African immigrant, Basil Lewis D'Oliviera, who later qualified to represent England and who would have preferred to be feted for his all-round outstanding ability at cricket, rather than that the colour of his skin being the cause of him being regarded as an inferior, third-class, citizen and a political cricket ball in his own country of birth, arising from the attitude of South Africa's predominantly white Government to its black residents, with the creation of its abhorrent endemic policy, known as "apartheid". This became a long-running saga which became generally known as: "THE D'OLIVIERA AFFAIR".

This split English cricket opinion and brought to a head the question of the attitude the

cricket world should take towards South Africa's vile system of "apartheid."

Basil was at his physical best as a cricketer in the late 50s, even before the world had heard of him. But for the unique wickedness of "apartheid", his talent for the game was such that he would have deserved to play Test Cricket many years earlier than his debut at 34 years of age and would have met such invincibles on equal terms as Len Hutton, Denis Compton, Alec Bedser and Brian Statham and would also have been bracketed as a world-class all-rounder of the class of Keith Miller and Garfield Sobers .

Prior to the late 1950s, Basil was only allowed to play in South African non-white Leagues which were regarded as being inferior, whereas it was played with intensity and great skill in which Basil excelled.

Few cricketers can have had a career so full of emotion and controversy. His life was perhaps the most extraordinary the game has ever seen. He was a powerfully built forcing middle-order batsman and a competent and accurate swing bowler who was unlucky enough to have been born a non-white in "apartheid" South Africa and brought up under the weight of the discrimination which that system imposed and forced him to emigrate to England to seek higher levels within the game. His destiny at home was to travel on downgraded train seats, loos and bars and low grade, non-white cricket. As his fame grew, he was not even allowed to converse with white journalists in their hotels.

He had to meet them in the car park. Outraged by this, John Arlott, ACU Vice-President, commentator and writer, who was on his first and only visit to “apartheid” South Africa, was asked to complete an immigration form declaring his race: Caucasian or Black? Arlott wrote: “Human”!

On another occasion, John Arlott also wrote: “What opportunity was there for a boy cricketer, denied organised coaching by the laws of his country; parental financial capacity to afford proper gear; the use of a grass wicket or a safe outfield; the opportunity to take part in a first-class match or to play against opponents experienced at such a level?” Basil’s earlier exposure to rough pitches made him a back-foot player, with a short back-lift (because the bounce of the ball was so unpredictable on semi-derelict grounds). Nobody of his era kept his eye on the ball longer, almost up to the moment of contact with the bat.

He had almost given up the thought of playing on better grounds when his break came as Arlott assisted him in coming to England (1959) and found him a position as a professional with Middleton CC in the Central Lancashire League. At this time, he was quiet and reserved; someone who ‘knew his place’ in white-ruled South Africa. Peter Walker, a Glamorgan player who grew up in South Africa, once heard Basil comment: “Baas, ek ken my plek” which translates as “Boss, I know my place”!

With Middleton, he learned a great deal; found he could play League Cricket and wanted something more! (In 1960, he topped the League batting ahead

of the performances of the world-renowned Garry Sobers!). On a cricket tour organised by Ron Roberts of the “Daily Telegraph”, Basil impressed Tom Graveney and by 1965 he was a fixture in the Worcestershire first XI and grew to become a confident County cricketer, though never arrogant. He was to devote 26 years with Worcestershire as a player and coach, batting as he lived: upright, firm of intention, watchful, proud but approachable.

He was not a graceful batsman such as Gower or Cowdrey but he was a whole lot harder to winkle out. In his own words: “I came into County Cricket and once again it is a different world. The game is tighter still. You have to learn to bowl a line, otherwise they work you around all over the place. It is much harder to find your runs. There are not so many bad balls. The field setting is much more exact.I’ve never had any coaching. I have just copied other people. I do it all the time. Watch, watch, watch.”. Few matched his loyalty to Cricket’s Laws and the Spirit of the Game. If he edged the ball, he walked. His aggregates of 18,882 first-class runs, at an average of 39.67, and 2,484 Test runs at 40.06, would surely have been more than doubled if he had been granted a normal career in a normal society.

His performances at County Level were so good that on naturalisation he was soon a candidate for inclusion in the England team and at the age of 34 (alleged only – he let it be known that he was probably 3-5 years older), he was brought into the final Test against Australia

(1968) at the Oval when Roger M. Prideaux was forced to withdraw through injury. This was the last big match before the England team selected to tour South Africa in the coming winter was to be announced. Basil’s innings was probably the most significant to be played in modern Test match history. England batted first and Milburn, Cowdrey and Dexter were soon all back in the pavilion. It was John Edrich who, at first, ground things out and at the close he was 130 not out with England 272 for 4, having been joined by “Dolly” who was also not out on 24.

Before leaving for the Oval the next morning, Basil phoned his wife, Naomi, who said that she hadn’t slept all night. “This is a big day for you”, she said, perhaps sensing that the performance of Basil could not only tear apart their domestic world, but also the world of sport itself. Basil’s response was characteristically phlegmatic: “Don’t worry. Just drop everything. Get the neighbours in to look after the kids and pull up a chair in front of the television. I’m going to bat all day”. He didn’t. He merely scored 158! It was an innings of exuberance, totally out of context with the normally grim warfare of Ashes battles as though some unseen spirit was guiding him.

It was unthinkable that D’Oliviera, back on form, having taken a crucial Australian wicket in England’s victory at the Oval, could be omitted from the all-rounder position in the party to tour South Africa the following winter. As if to endorse his claim,

he scored 128 for his County, Worcestershire, against Sussex on the very day that MCC's selectors – D.J. Insole, A.V. Bedser, P.B.H. May and D. Kenyon – met to name the contingent to fly to South Africa. Basil's was not in it and his exclusion plunged MCC into the biggest furore in its history. It was widely assumed that this had been done for political reasons, so as not to prejudice the tour, but the selectors still insisted that their choice had been made on grounds of cricket merit only – it was considered that there were better batsmen than him available for consideration!

It was a despicable decision based entirely upon squalid political expediency and lacking both logic and morality. And it divided the nation. Basil's friend, former England and Worcestershire batsman, Tom Graveney, said: "Not to pick him was disgusting. "Dolly" broke down in tears when he was omitted from the MCC team to tour his homeland". The omission was also savagely attacked by the Press, the public and some MCC members resigned on a matter of principle. A group of knowledgeable players also found this hard to accept and the Rev. David S. Sheppard insisted on a special meeting being convened to discuss the matter.

This was held in December, with the Rev. David S. Sheppard and Michael Brearley (later to Captain England) speaking for the following resolutions:

That the members of MCC regret their Committee's mishandling of affairs leading up to the selection of the team for the intended tour of South Africa in 1968-69.

That no further tours to or from South Africa be undertaken until credence can be given of actual progress by South Africa towards non-racial cricket.

That a Special Committee be set up to examine such proposals by the SACA towards non-racial cricket; the MCC to report on progress to the Annual General Meeting of the Club; and to the Governing Body for Cricket – the MCC Council.

The Committee's defence implied that South Africa's domestic policies were not the concern of MCC and that it was thought necessary to encourage cricket in all circumstances. Colin Cowdrey, who would have captained the tourists and was therefore involved in the selection, re-affirmed that the side was picked on merit. All three resolutions were lost at the AGM in the approximate ratio of 3:1.

However, two months earlier on the 16 September, an escape hatch had been opened when Tom Cartwright, who was chosen ahead of Basil as the touring team's major all-rounder, withdrew on "medical grounds". (Tom Cartwright, whose moral principles were in evidence throughout his life, was especially offended that he had become the unwitting cause of the D'Oliviera omission. He went to his grave without publicly admitting that his decision to miss the tour had been tactical, but the suspicion lingers, and thus Basil was now chosen as his replacement).

Basil's dream of returning to his native country as an equal member of the human race was about to be fulfilled – or was it? Reluctantly, the MCC had been

reduced to doing the decent thing.

However, 24 hours later, Mr. Johannes Balthazar Vorster, Prime Minister of South Africa, spoke at a National Party Conference in Bloemfontein, the epicentre of rabid "apartheid" policy. South Africa would not receive a team chosen for political purposes and under no circumstances would D'Oliviera be allowed into the country to play for England. A week later, MCC cancelled the tour and this virtually completed South Africa's sporting isolation for the next 25 years. This, more than trade sanctions, hastened the end of the "apartheid" era and Basil D'Oliviera had unwittingly been an important catalyst. Basil's 158 at the Oval may not have been the greatest Test century ever seen, but it is doubtful if there will ever be another which will so turn the world on its head.

Despite his understandable disappointment, Basil D'Oliviera, at this time, remained discreet and dignified throughout in the face of bullying and stresses that very few could really comprehend. A proud man, willing to leave the land of his birth, however badly it had treated him, and travel to an unknown country to achieve his dream and realise his talent, was not one to crack under pressure, but this saga would have driven most others to anger and retaliation. Not this man, however. He kept his own counsel and continued to play cricket, behaving immaculately as ever. He did not lose then, or since, any of the respect or popularity he enjoyed among the cricket public, irrespective of their views on the South Africa situation.

Generations to come will,
thankfully, never quite
comprehend why there should
have been such a furore about
picking a cricket team where the
colour of a man's skin was held to
be an important consideration
and they will, hopefully, not be
able to believe in a country
where an immigrant minority can
subjugate an indigenous
population on the pretext of race.

(Author's note: Thus, as far as Basil's personal position was involved, the "D'Oliviera affair" had now reached inevitable closure but, for years after, the whole question of South African sporting links with other countries, because of colour-bar bans being placed on individual players selected to play on rugby and "rebel" cricket tours, and even the effects of racial harmony in regard to selections made for athletes to participate in the Commonwealth and Olympic Games; all had serious long-term "knock-on" effects. It is felt inappropriate to consider these in detail now, but, from the point of view of historical orientation, it is intended to identify these and report on their occurrence in subsequent papers in this series which outline the further chronological growth and development of ACU. Paper No. 7 is to be included as an attachment to the next issue of the ESCUA Newsletter.)

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