Cricket in Bulmer

From Allan Berry's "Eighteenth Century Sudbury", we find "15th May1787. Sudbury Cricket Society began their regular weekly exercise on Bulmer Tye. Matches were played with the Lexden Cricket Club" (from a local newspaper)

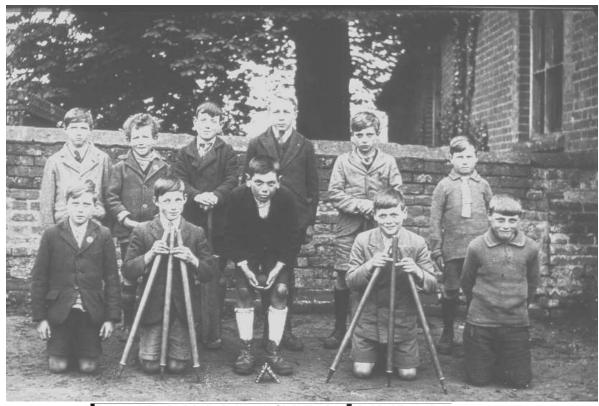
Apart from the above, the earliest mention of cricket in Bulmer comes from the 1840s, but if you are picturing lusty sons of the soil enjoying some of their precious free time making memorable innings with haymaking slogs into the long grass of the outfield, or shattering their opponent's wickets with veritable cannon balls, delivered by a muscular arm toned up by lifting two hundred weight sacks of grain around in the granary, nothing could be further from the truth.

In 1845 Caledon Alexander moved into the Auberies which was previously the country seat of a Colonel Meyrick. Basil Slaughter in Bulmer Then and Now, quotes from an article in *The Field*. Alexander having retired from the Guards devoted himself to country house cricket and was a benevolent despot to his young players. On the eve of battle he was said to address them in the following terms "Now you are in early tomorrow, so off to bed – no cigars or whiskey with sodas tonight." The late Alan Cocksedge picks up the story in his "Tales from the Dew Drop Inn, 225 years of Sudbury Cricket": - Captain Alexander engaged young professionals of great note in his team, probably the best in Essex over a five year spell. In 1848 he engaged John Wisden to play at the Auberies and the club beat both the MCC and I Zingari's XI the very best cricketing outfits of the day. Wisden, the little wonder who, in 1864, founded the famous Wisden Cricketers' Almanac, which continues today as the sport's bible, he also guested for Essex and later played for Kent, Middlesex and Sussex. Other professionals such as William Caffyn, James Challen and "Ducky" Diver Played during the five years that Alexander's team rose to reach a national pinnacle in country house cricket. During the Capt. Alexander era, professional players such as Wisden, Caffyn and Diver were also recruited to play in the All England XI run by national cricketing entrepreneur William Clarke.

The cricket ground was almost certainly beside the drive going to the Auberies from opposite the old council houses in Church Road. A pair of cottages close to the drive, (now gone) were known as "Cricket Field Cottages", pictured here c 1920



To continue with an account of what we can regard as more traditional village cricket we must turn to "Bulmer Then and Now" the Bulmer WEA publication (1979) Hazel Chinery recalled "There had been a cricket team in the 1880s but this folded up. We started up again in 1910. W S Courtnell of Griggs Farm ran a reading room for young people in one of the Brick Wall Farm Cottages. We were known as the Bulmer Reading Room Cricket Club. Our first game was against Wickham. I scored 14. I could give them some fireworks in those days. I could bowl "them out too." The team for the match was as follows: - A Hayes, Bulmer Policeman; Arthur Dixey, Coachman at The Cedars (now the Dower House); H Chinery, apprentice to wheelwright and painter; E C Hills, School attendance officer (captain); W S Courtnell, farmer; Herbert Germany, farmworker; AT Simms, army captain; P Chinery, gardener at The Cedars; S Hayes, policemans son; W Dixey; and T Brighton, relieving officer. Not many farmworkers played at this time because they had to work on Saturday afternoons. The cricket meadow is now the site of Coes Meadow.



Bulmer school cricket team? 1920's Fred Hunt 3rd.L back row, Jack Cornell holds Billy Messant stumps on RHS.

bottom L Chris Rash Top R Dereck Felton centre, holding ball

lad holding other set of stumps, is probally Ken Raymond

Picture taken outside the old Bulmer School on Church Meadow

A fascinating set of records for the cricket club have been given to the history group by the late Mrs Dorothy Cornell, whose husband Jack played for the club in the 1940s and 50s. The earliest of these is a balance sheet for 1934. Then comes an account book which starts in 1935, from when we learn that the President of the club was the Reverand A P Pannel, Bulmers vicar, the secrectary was Mr E W Bareham (owner of Bulmer Brickyard), the captain was Mr Lawrence Coe and the vice captain Mr C Felton. This book goes right through to 1953, with a break from 1939 to 1947 when cricket restarted after the war. A selection of the pages are reproduced in here.

5. a 1. 5. 11. Social Subs. & donations Punch board- pu. hr. L. leve stood G. G. Two notts netting . J. Rows Levelling & rams Pages. Iwo match Bulls. Cericket Jackle 4. 16. 0 Bitcheochi Ltd. Timber for posts 13. Gorall. Supplying tea (Sr. Paul. Gensford & Pebmarsha Bur faces action & ashen. Or Brush y Whiting Surgical binding for bato 2. 10 . 3. 6. £ 12· 13· 10· Pac. # 12.18.4 ax. £ 12.13.10 Janus Feb 12/35

This 1934 balance sheet shows, amongst other things: 2 rolls of wire netting from Glemsford Cricket Club £1. Levelling and ramming pitch by Frank Rowe £1 12s. Steam

rolling pitch paid through Mr L Coe. £1. Various purchases of cricket gear.

Then comes a bit of an oddity.

Glemsford and Pebmarsh bus fares 8 shillings. Acton and Ashen bus fares another 8 shillings.

I can't imagine that eight shillings would have covered hiring a bus on two separate occasions to take the team to, and back from a fixture. There are no other references on the balance sheet to bus hire, so what happened here? I can only guess that the bus operator would have collected fares from each of the passengers, which would include 11 players, an umpire and supporters. Then the club subsidised the players and the umpire by 4 pence each, that's 12 people x 4 pence each, which totals 4 shillings, the

exact amount indicated on the bill for each away fixture. Well that's what I think, but I could be wrong, of course!!

<u>Three early pages from the account book.</u> Notice on the 1935 expenditure page that all the postage is listed individually for each letter sent for arranging the fixtures with other clubs.

	BULMER CRICKET CLUB.
	PRESIDENT .
	SAPTAIN SAPTAIN
a .	MR L COE VICE CAPTAIN
	MR C. FEKTON. SECRETARY
	MR E.W. BAREHAM BRICKWORKS BULMER
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a meeting of the Creeks Cler was heed at the Blackburd on Feb 12 1/35 present Henn Gill, Raymond, Cornell, I Cornella Tournes Uneny, bay and the Prendent Pour A Plannell The muncles of the last meeting beet in 1934 were confirmed The balance sheet was produced showing a balance of 416 in hand and was passed The resignation of his H Clemeny as sicretary he having served for bour year war accepted with Eggel and ahearly vote of hands accessed him I was agreed that her Carry be thanked for the me of his neadow I were agreed to carry on for another year I was agreed that her Bareham he asked to be seemlary I tacley him her L. We agreed to carry an I were unamounty agree that the L. lac be capitain t that lu C. Felten be orce - captain The date of the malches were left to the Secretary to arrange I was agreed that waterer be played with Pelmarsh, Belehamp Walter arken wrigh am & Paul all of whom had written to the Secretary, and that Bures Et wil augus. Il was also enggaled that the following paishe be approached by the Lec: Gulm shorke, Walding field, action Great Cornard of Glennford I was agreed that the subscription be 2/6 out that all muchen pay this before being allowed to play in matches Il was agreed in order to same funds that a Jance beheld on Saluday Man 2 nd of the hall were free. + Am Day to heep its Practice wights for Class to be Montage, Webness as, Fred & I was apres that tackle be trought back to his Evened as machine which by 10.0

Minutes of a committee meeting held at the Cock and Blackbirds on 12th Feb 1935, (the oldest minutes in the pile of correspondence.)

Present were Messrs Gill, Raymond, Cornell, J Cornell, Pope, Chinnery, Day, and Coe and the president, the Rev A.P Pannell, who was the vicar of Bulmer and Belchamp Walter.

Business included selecting a new secretary, the fixtures to be arranged for the coming season and setting the membership fee etc.

I'm not certain where the Bulmer cricket ground was in the 1930s, but it was probably on Tye Meadow, (now called Coes Meadow) as the 1910 game was. (see above). This is where the games were played from 1947 till 1954, when the club was folded up.

<u>The account book</u>, besides giving a summary of expenses and income, lists the games played and in some cases the result. In the 1935 notice the cost of "conveyance" to games at Ashen and Acton, given as 10 shillings and (50p) 12 shillings and sixpence (65p) respectively. No mention of what the conveyance was.

Below are four more pages of the book culminating with the fixture list for 1939. There are no fixtures after 5th August. The Second World War started on 1st September 1939. Cricket

commenced again for the 1947 season.

The following pages are from 1947 onwards.

Sat. Fiptures 1947. May 9. 10 St. Waldingfield H 17. Bestingthouse A. 21. Februarth A. June 7. Edwardstone H. 21. Februardstone A. 21. Sestingthouse A. 21. Sestingthouse A. 21. Sestingthouse A. 22. Wichlambrook A. 19. Februards A. 19. Februards A. 19. Februards A. 19. Subjected A. 19. Replaced H. 26. Sudbury 2nd XI. A. 14. Sloke 9. Mapliateach H. 16. Wichlambrooke H.	Coverings May 21. Lt Walding field A. 18. Wickham It Paulo H. June S. St Walding field A. 11. Alphamotone H. 19. Baves. A. 26. W. Bargholt Axi. A. July 2. Alfhamotone A. 10. St. Walding field H. 16. Walden St. P.S. A. Sam 20. W. Bergholt. Axi. A. 24. Burs. H. 30. Maplestiad A.	Exponditure L. S. d. This of law Suffolk & Essex Alotors 3"12.6 Hire of 13 mo Mr. Helpingal 11: 10.0. The Pages Sudky 5 5:0. Two 13 also Mo Nott 6.10.0. M. Deal Hinting Pil. 18.6. Rolling Filch 2.0.0 Bus to Stakellishness 2.10.0. L. Mw 13 all September 2.3.9.0	Mul Inwither 2 14 7 - Danes June 21 6-16 9 - Danes June 14 5-6-32 Marker 22 at 5/- 5-100. Washing Sud 64 7-19 6. - Danes of Marker 3 17.0 Gay Raffiel 1-16-10 Fragit from the 1-2-22 Fracipts £ 52-6-12 Summary of off. Seaon 1947 8 3 d. Jule & Heccift 52-6-12
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Cricket got going for the 1947 season and it must have been a great relief for village life to have returned to some sort of normal after peace had been restored about a year and a half earlier. Apart from getting cricket started again, the club contributed to village life by organising other social events, to raise funds for the club.

<u>The 1947 receipts</u> (below) show that they ran a whist drive and four dances in that year. The dances were in February, March, June and August, the music for the dances was probably supplied by the Bulmer Rhythm Band. This consisted of the piano, accordions and drums of Gertie Coe and Eadie Younger (sisters) Lance Younger and Kenny Day. The results of these fund raising events was a healthy nett profit of nearly £19 once all the costs of the running the club for the season had been deducted.

Receipts £ 3. d.

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" Donce June 21 6.16. 9.

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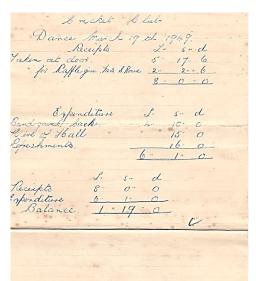
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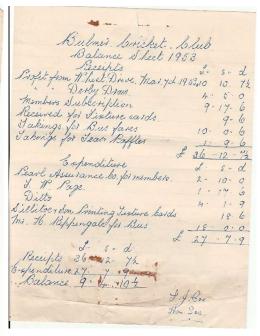
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" Summary of oil.



On this balance sheet for a dance in 1949, the band kindly gave £1 of their fee back. The takings on the door were boosted by a raffle, resulting in a profit of £1.19 shillings.

Track yet 1953 Crecket blub. Whist Drive 18 0 Refreshments 1- 15 6 This, bugar, boffer hall Program Rhisty too & Bother 10.6 1- 16-6 Hor of bhocolates Adust Haletsad Sayth Free Press from Heaves work in kelilen 50 Receipts 1. 5 d Lickely sold 55 at 2/-5 - 10-0 Yakin at door onations my hott ms. I Holden ms. I bornell 0.0 Eggs sold Kakes milk aken for raffle



The cricket club balance sheet for 1953 shows a satisfactory state of affairs, but the club only played a few games in 1954 and had closed down by 1955, mostly due to lack of players

Compared with the dance, the whist drive (above left) was a real money spinner, netting a profit of £10 10s 71/2d. The prizes were two half bottles whiskey, bottle of port etc, Mrs Weavers was paid 5 shillings for her work in the kitchen. Adverts were put in the Halstead Gazette and the (Suffolk) Free Press and several people donated cash to swell the funds. Whist Drives were very popular in all the local villages, both before and after the Second World War. There were other village organisations, the Men's Club, the W.I., The Church, the Bulmer branch of the British Legion, who all used the Village Hall for meetings and other events. The Village Hall was very well used in those years, central to the social life of the village, as in many ways it is today. Never the less, running and keeping the hall in good repair was quite costly.

Below is a letter from Earnie Lott, secretary of the Village Hall committee, to Lawrence Coe the cricket club secretary, asking the cricket club if it could possibly run a fund raising event to contribute to the hall's maintenance costs. They had spent over £100 in the past year and there as the wiring for the newfangled electric light which had just arrived in the village!

Hoping you will be able to kelp as there improvements will be beneficial to all those who use the Hall. At a recent meeting of Butmer Village Hall Ex. Committee it was proposed that I write to the Butmer Cricket Club to Jours Faithfully & Lott. ark if they will be trind enough to arrounge some form of Enterturinment the man future to roue hundr hor the Village Hell. I am writing to the various organization in the Parish to ask if they will do the we have spent over of 100 in the past year on the roof of for a new brich chimny, how we have the Electric Light Willing in hand to hope as soon as we can get the necessary funds to get the interior of the Hall redecorated (for which as estimate of over of 90 has been quoted) or the Kelihen redecorated renlarged. Cornich odlog de State to Blackric Genco sto. Season 1948 1948. H. May Leptures 4 Sat. Fightures lang the Packifte & s & d & same debt of 11 4 15 10 H. 13.13 6 13 and Chelmolord. A 13 ats take afferen H. H. A A. 10 M trined 5.0

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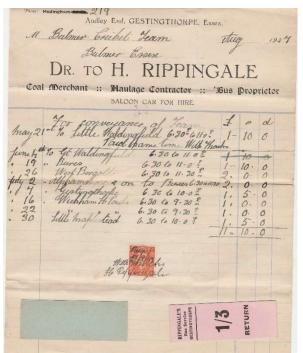
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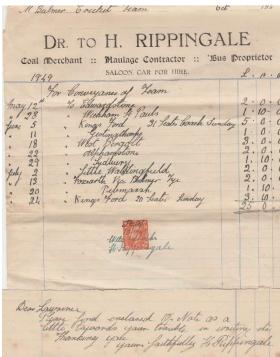
\$ J. Bar. 24/3/52 2-6.5 29 Old Dearnman & Martin fun. - A Walker. 9. Rowe. A. the wind from Roffles & Joac. 410 dopeart 10.0. 5 0 no telemarah. A H. Winch £4.14.3 £ 12.0.6. £ 12.0.6.

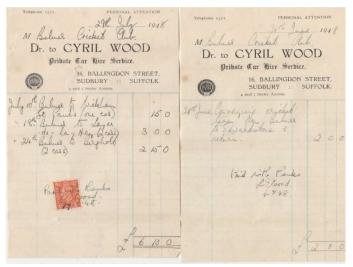
Going back a bit to look at transport, whilst there is a mention of amounts paid out for transport in the 1934, '35 '36 and '37 seasons it didn't seem to cover all away games, so presumably the

players got there under their own steam, invariably one would assume, by push bike if it was reasonably local. When cricket resumed after the war, it appears that for away games transport became the norm. Starting again in 1947, it shows that for any away games transport was almost invariably provided for the players and supporters who all had to pay their fare. Of course apart from passengers, all the club equipment had to be transported as well. This was almost always a bus, usually Rippingales from Gestingthorpe, even for games as close at hand as Gestingthorpe itself. Of course very few, if any, of the players would have been car owners. Occasionally a taxi was hired, usually from Cyril Woods, the founder of Woods Taxis, which still bears his name to this day.

The 1947 bill from H Rippingale (below) seems to be for mid-week matches, also giving the times, e.g. to Gt. Waldingfield 6.30 to 11pm. As it would have been too dark have played much past 9pm one must assume that a stop at a pub would have been part of the evening. Let's hope that the bus driver wasn't treated to too many pints! At the bottom of Rippingale's bill (below right) a nice little note from Harry Rippingale to Lawrence Coe (Bulmer C.C. secretary) "Dear Lawrence, please find enclosed ten shilling note as a little towards your trouble in writing etc"







A key to the value of the pound in the pocket of the times, is illustrated by a taxi journey to West Bergholt and back with 2 cars, which cost just £2. 15 shillings and 2 cars to Layer De La Haye and back just £3. To put this into some sort of context, in 1948 a farm workers basic wage was £4.10 shillings (£4.50p) for a 46 hour week



Bulmer to West Bergholt and back £1 10 shillings.

The club was insured by the Pearl Assurance Company for £2 10 shillings per year. The address of the Bulmer Cricket Club is given as The Blackbirds Inn Bulmer.

What was covered: One team of eleven players plus one reserve, secrectary, scorer and umpire.

Activities Playing cricket, practice or training and travelling to or from organised matches away.

Benefits
Loss of life £100
Loss of one eye £100
Loss of one limb £100

Total disablement, during disablement £2 per week.

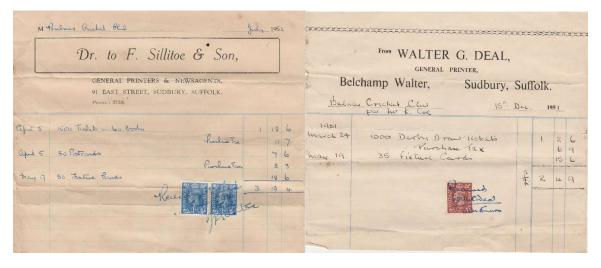
There is an interesting selection of <u>bills from local businesses</u>, showing the club's purchases over the seasons. (below) The first from <u>Cornish and LLoyds of Bury St Edmunds</u> for an electric fencer, indicates that livestock of some sort was using the meadow and it was necessary to keep them off the square, although I can't remember anything other than chickens being kept on there by farmer Spenser Coe of Brick Wall Farm and his brother Lawrence. Then there is a barometer purchased from <u>C M Ready the jeweller of the Market Hill</u> in Sudbury. This was a present to Harold Bettinson and appears to be in return for a bat which Harold had given to the club.

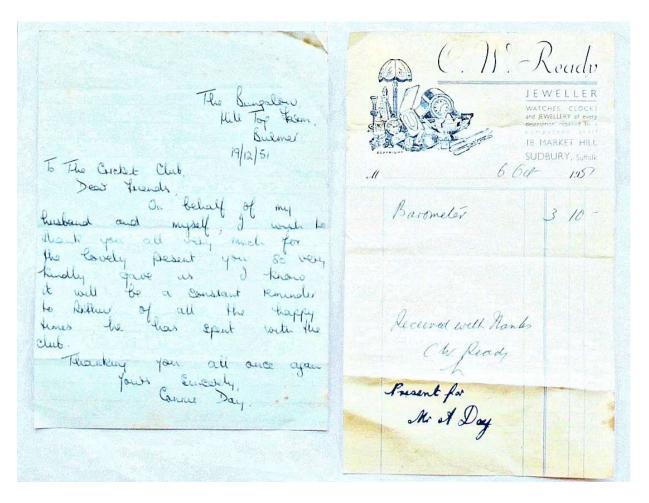
The next is for repairs to 3 pairs of cricket pads "Patched overhauled, hand sown" From E MacDowell, Saddler and Harness maker No1 Market Hill Sudbury. He also put a new handle to a bat. The next 3 bills are all from Market Hill traders FW Page, for an Autograph bat and a ball, Cramphorn for grass seed & weed killer?! EMcDowell again and Suffolk Free Press for advertising the cricket club general meeting





The 2 bills below are for printing one from <u>F Silllitoe & Son East Street Sudbury</u>, the other from <u>Walter G Deal of Belchamp Walter</u>. It's interesting to see which items attracted Purchase Tax and which are tax free. Draw tickets, raffle tickets and post cards (presumably printed with the club's details on them and used for fixing up matches with other clubs) all had tax charged whereas the fixture cards, given to club members, went tax free. Note the postage stamps signed across to make the receipts legal.





A receipt for a barometer which was given as a wedding present to club player Arthur Day and his bride Connie Roper from Little Waldingfield in1951. Beside it is Connie's thankyou letter to the club.

Tragically Connie was to die four years later in an awful fire caused by a Calor Gas boiler exploding in their cottage at Hill Top Farm Upper Houses, leaving Arthur with three young children.

<u>List of the cricket teams played in 1950</u> <u>In 1951</u>

Aphamstone Belchamp Walter

Belchamp Walter Edwardstone

Edwardstone Foxearth

Foxearth Gestingthorpe

Gestingthorpe Horse & Groom. Sudbury?

Kingsford Kingsford

Little Waldingfield Little Waldingfield

Old Gamarians Old Gamarians

Pebmarsh Pebmarsh

West Bergholt Ridgewell

Wickham St Pauls Stambourne

YMCA West Bergholt

Teams played 1952 in

Belchamp Walter

Edwardstone

Gestingthorpe

Kingsford

Little Waldingfield

Milden

Old Boys?

Old Gamarians

Pebmarsh

Stambourne

Twinstead

West Bergholt

YMCA

In 1953

Belchamp Walter

Edwardstone

Foxearth

Gestingthorpe

Little Waldingfield

Milden

Old Gamarians

Pebmarsh

Stambourne

Twinstead

Wickham St Pauls

Fewer games played this year

1954 Only 2 games played

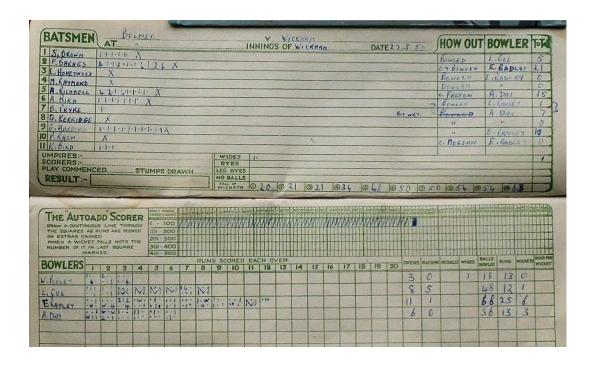
LT. WALDINGFIELD v. BULMER

Little Waldingfield: J. Andrews b A. Drury 12, D. Carter lbw b A. Drury 7, R. Spraggons b A. Drury 12, W. Byford c S. Felton b M. Raymond 0, G. Rowland c L. Coeb M. Raymond 17. D. Carter b M. Raymond 0 J. Pell c S. Felton b M. Raymond 0, J. Bowers lbw b A. Drury 5. J. Rowland b A. Drury 5. J. Rowland b A. Drury 3, K Fayers lbw b J. Cornell 0, R. Game not out 2, extras 3. total 61 (A. Drury 5 for 11 M. Raymond 4 for 22, J. Cornell 1 for 8).

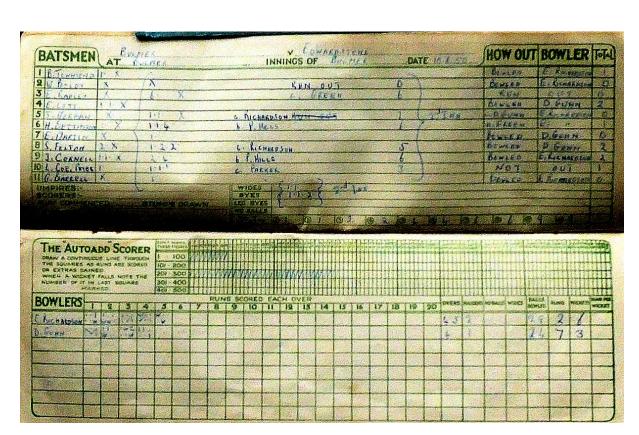
Bulmer: L. Coe run out 2.
A. Drury v W. Byford 1, M.
Raymond v W. Byford 0. S
Felton run out 2 H. Bettinson v W. Byford 6, J. Cornell
c Don Carter v J. Pell 7, A.
Day c Don Carter v J. Pell 0.
W. Pooley not out 9. G
Rowe v J. Pell 1. C
Martin run out 2, E. Lott
lbw v J. Pell 0, extras 1. total
31 (J. Pell 4 for 4, W. Byford
3 for 14).

Left. From Suffolk Free Press 17th June 1948

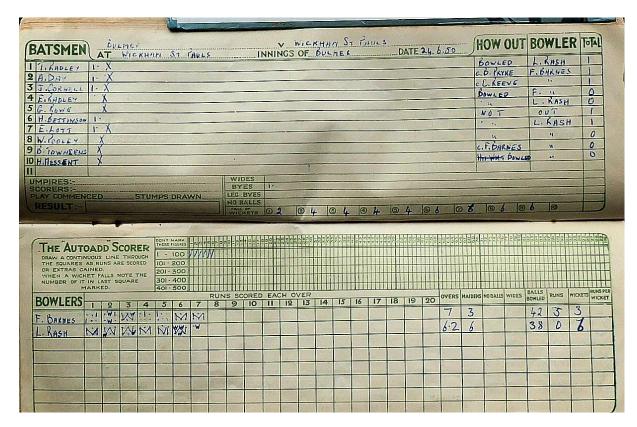
Below a selection of the scorebooks



V. Wickham St Pauls



V. Edwardstone



V. Wickham St. Pauls

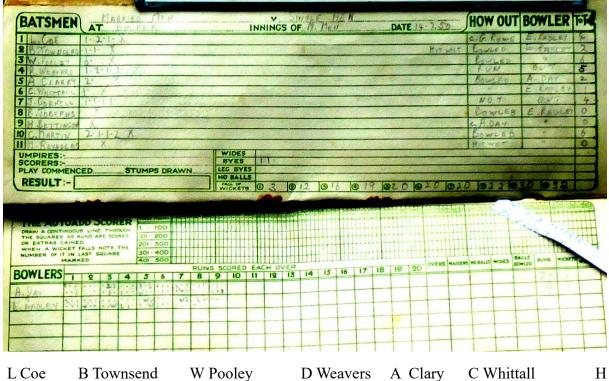
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V. Wickham St.Pauls

One match which most villages had in their fixture list was a "Married and Single", when the married men of the village took on the single men. Always a great fun occasion.

Below the score sheets from two Married v. Single men of Bulmer, which strangely appear to have been played on the Friday and Monday evenings either side of one weekend. The single men didn't exactly cover themselves in glory!

The married men scored 30. Playing for the maried men were



L Coe B Townsend W Pooley D Weavers A Clary C Whittall F Bettinson J Cornell B Joberns H Reynolds C Martin

Married v single Mon 17th July 1950



The single men scored just 5 runs!

Playing for the single men were

A Day A Nears J Morgan E Martin P Weavers E Radley

W Reynolds G Rowe K Day P Braybrooke Grant Whittall

In reply the married men scored 92

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Married men. R A Day C Martin H Reynolds W Pooley A Clarry B Townsend D Weavers R Sporne L Coe

T Hamlin A E Fowler

Married v single Fri 14/7 /50 and Mon 17/7/50

Further details of those playing.

Single men.

Arthur Day, Hill Top Farm. Worked for his father RA Day

Arthur Nears, Gestingthorpe.

John Morgan, Kitchen farm Cottage. His father worked for Mr Cardy Kitchen Farm.

Eric Martin, Bulmer Street. Worked for Mr S Nott Goldingham Hall farm.

Peter Weavers, Council Houses Ch. Rd. Schoolboy.

Edward (Ted) Radley, Laundry Cottage Ch. Rd. Worked at Whitlocks engineers Gt. Yeldham.

W Reynolds. Gestingthorpe.

Gordon Rowe, Cock & Blackbirds (landlady Lilly Rowe's son) worked at

Goldingham Hall Farm.

Ken Day, Hill Top Fm. Worked for his father RA Day.

Single men continued

P Braybrooke, Fishers Meadow (cottage in Sandy Lane, now gone) Grant Whittall, Police House Bulmer Tye, schoolboy. Son of P. C. Charlie Whittall.

Married men.

Lawrence Coe, Brickwall Farm cotts. Worked for his brother Spencer at Brickwall Farm, threshing contractor and farmer.

Bert Townsend, Finch Hill. Worked for builder John Dixey, Bulmer Tye.

W Pooley, Tin Tops Bulmer Street.

Dick Weavers, Council Houses Ch. Rd., Bricklayer and building trade foreman.

A Clary, lorry driver (We think)

Charlie Whittall, Policeman Bulmer Tye.

Jack Cornell, Airey Houses Church Road. Worked for Spenser Coe at Brickwall Farm, threshing contractor and farmer.

B Joberns, Airey Houses Church Road. Worked for Mr Reid at Jenkins Farm.

Harold Bettinson, Council Houses Ryes Lane. Worked at Jenkins Farm for farmer Reid H Reynolds, Gestingthorpe.

R A Day, Hill Top Fm. Farmer

Charlie "Pod" Martin, Bulmer Street. Worked at Goldingham Hall Farm.

R Sporne, lived in the gardeners cottage at the Auberies. Gardener at the Auberies Tom Hamlin, Council Houses on Bulmer Tye, worked for builder John Dixey, Bulmer Tye. A E Fowler,

Dates must be filled in	No. of A.B. or C	Index Mark	No. of	JOURNEY	GOODS	Maximum V at any one		
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Above. Waste not want not! The minutes of the last annual meeting of the cricket club on 2nd March1954, held in the Blackbirds Inn. Overwritten on an old commercial vehicle log book for March 1946. This was probably found by Lawrence Coe, who drove his brother Spencer's lorry for carting agricultural produce. This was the last year in which any matches were played, just two, both against Edwardstone. When the club reformed in 1962 matches were played in Smeetham Hall Lane.