

 *Newport Cricket Club* 

*'From The Ashes,
The Phoenix Rises'*



*The History of
Newport Cricket Club
1990 - Present Day*



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The History of Newport Cricket Club 1990 - Present Day



'From The Ashes, The Phoenix Rises'

Foreword

This book, is a follow up to the 'Through the Decades' book and was compiled in 2018 by Mike Knight. It charts the modern history of Newport Cricket Club, following the Club's move to Spytty Park in 1992 through to the present day.

Following the sale of the Club's Rodney Parade ground in 1990, the future of the Club was very bleak, with it's very existence threatened. This book tells the story of a group of determined Club 'legends' led by Chairman Eddie Mogford and Groundsman Mike Grace, together with Mike and Dave Knight and a loyal band of volunteers who worked tirelessly to keep the Club alive, so that it could have a future.

'From the Ashes the Phoenix Rises'

With the development of fantastic facilities at Spytty Park the Club saw First Class Cricket return to Newport with Glamorgan CCC playing Pakistan at Spytty Park in 2016. It was the first time that First Class Cricket had been played in Newport since the sale of the Rodney Parade Ground in 1990.

International recognition followed, with the Club being used by both Sri Lanka (2013) and Pakistan (2017) as their training base when playing ICC Champions Trophy matches in Cardiff.

In 2019, First Class 4 Day County Championship Cricket duly returned to Newport when Glamorgan played Gloucestershire at Spytty Park. It was the first time that County Championship Cricket had been played in Newport since 1965.

The impossible Dream - made possible!



From The Ashes The Phoenix Rises



The Mayor of Newport, Mrs Rosemary Butler, at the controls of the excavator which cut the first turf at the Spytty Playing Fields development in May 1990

The History of Newport Cricket Club 1990 - Present Day

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Chapter 15

1990

A Final Farewell - 'The Ashes Match'

**Historic Newport
ground is doomed**



● Newport cricket ground, where the bulldozers could be digging up the cricket square before long.

The decade starts in disaster! After 97 years the Club loses its spiritual home, as the Rodney Parade Cricket Ground is sold



1990's



'A new beginning at Spytty Park' (Welsh) 'A new beginning at Spytty Park'

The Death Knell for Rodney Parade
Spytty Park rises from the Ashes

(Welsh) The Death Knell for Rodney Parade
Spytty Park rises from the Ashes

1990

THE FINAL SEASON OF CRICKET
AT RODNEY PARADE

THE FINAL SEASON OF CRICKET
AT RODNEY PARADE

LAST FIRST CLASS MATCH
GLAMORGAN V YORKSHIRE
June 24th 1990

LAST FIRST CLASS MATCH
GLAMORGAN V YORKSHIRE
June 24th 1990

PLANS FOR A NEW GROUND
AT SPYTTY PARK UNVEILED
March 1st 1990

PLANS FOR A NEW GROUND
AT SPYTTY PARK UNVEILED
March 1st 1990



LAST MATCH
Newport v Cardiff 'Ashes Match'

LAST MATCH
Newport v Cardiff 'Ashes Match'

1991



1992

OPENING MATCH AT SPYTTY PARK
OPENING MATCH AT SPYTTY PARK



1998

Western League disbanded
following the formation of
County Cricket Boards

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1995

ONE OF THE BEST SEASONS IN THE CLUB'S HISTORY
Famous Grouse Western League, Classic Bat (60 over) Sunday Cup
and Welsh Sunday League Winners

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Famous Grouse Western League, Classic Bat (60 over) Sunday Cup
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1999

Newport return to Wales to play their League Cricket in a new
East Wales League (Runners Up)
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East Wales League (Runners Up)

The 'Battle To Save Rodney Parade'

1987

Don't sell us out say NAC cricketers
CRICKETERS ACCUSE N A C OF PIRACY
07/05/87 14/05/87

Cricket club fate hangs on meeting
11/01/87

Cricket pitch row goes to umpire
11/01/87 03/12/87

Covers drawn on 150 years of cricket
17/05/88 17/05/88

Newport AC fight over
17/05/88 17/05/88

Developers given outline approval for cricket land
07/05/88 07/05/88

Cricket club fight to stay at Parade
07/05/88 11/05/88

Ground sale Newport cricket bowls out in the balance cricket club
07/10/87 15/10/87

WE FIGHT
Plea for public to back protest against cricket ground sale
01/11/87 03/11/87

1988

Cricket club's fate sealed
07/05/88 15/05/88

Cricket pitch sale fight hots up
15/05/88 15/05/88

SCHOOL PLAN TURNED DOWN BY PARENTS
07/05/88 15/05/88

Council draw stumps on cricket hopes
07/05/88 15/05/88

Cricket club's fate sealed
18/05/88 18/05/88

I twist in sale of land
18/05/88 18/05/88

Sports club is caught out in new ball game
18/05/88 24/05/88

Newport innings almost over
18/05/88 24/05/88

1990

Cricket club's fate sealed
05/05/88 10/05/88

New ground plan for cricket club
05/05/88 10/05/88

It's close of play at NAC
05/05/88 10/05/88

Historic Newport ground is doomed
The battle had been raging for several years and the very existence of Newport Cricket Club was put in jeopardy ... but from adversity the Club's destiny was created.

Y frwydr i achub Rodney Parade
Bu'r frwydr yn rhuo am sawl blywyddyn ac roedd bodolaeth Clwb Criced Casnewydd yn y fanteal ... ond o adlyd crowsyd llynged y clwb.

Newspaper cuttings relating to the sale of Rodney Parade



The 'Historic' Rodney Parade Ground



A Final Farewell – The 'Ashes Match'

'The Final Countdown' at Rodney Parade

By 1990, the long hard fight to save the ground had been lost and the Rodney Parade Ground had been sold. Newport Cricket Club were in the last year of a two year period of grace, before the building of the new Maindee Primary School would start. The two year period of grace was granted by Gwent County Council to allow the Club to use the ground at Rodney Parade, giving them extra time to set up a new home.

Mike Knight captained a strong Newport 1st XI which won the Welsh Kippax Sunday League and the Gwent Macey (20 over) Cup. Although Knight topped the averages (55.00) in League cricket, 1990 was generally regarded as a disappointing Western League season - the last played at Rodney Parade. Dave Knight also had an outstanding season scoring 651 League runs (Av. 43.4). Quick bowler, Huw Rogers who joined from Chepstow topped the bowling averages with 14 wickets (Av 22.07). Ian Lewis the teams other opening bowler bowled 200.1 League overs, taking 29 wickets (Av. 26.55).

Final First Class Game at Rodney Parade

Every game on the now doomed ground was treated like a Cup Final and the ground had never looked better in all its history. A very strong Newport team were sweeping all before them, but the icing on the cake was the announcement that on June 24th 1990, the last First Class match would be played at Rodney Parade, when Glamorgan CCC would return to play Yorkshire in the Refuge Assurance 40 over Sunday League..... What a way to go!

'Viv's Back'

It was fitting that one of the 'All Time Greats' and 'Legend' of the game Viv Richards would tread the sacred turf during the last season of cricket at Rodney Parade. Playing for a very successful Glamorgan team, Viv no doubt recalled the previous time he had played on the ground, back in 1973 as a youngster, learning his trade for Lansdown playing against Newport.

With Newport's Glamorgan left arm spinner, Phil North missing out on playing on his home ground in the Glamorgan match v Derbyshire at Rodney Parade in 1988, a similar fate was bestowed on Newport's other Glamorgan player during this period, the popular wicket keeper Martin Roberts who was left out against Yorkshire in 1990.

Unfortunately, the game against Yorkshire was abandoned without a ball being bowled as rain ruined the final spectacle. 'The Gods are shedding one final tear for the ground,' quipped Club President and Newport legend, Bill Jones.

Broken Promises!

As the bulldozers moved in and the dust settled on Rodney Parade, the Cricket Club were left to pursue new pastures and after lengthy discussions with the Town Council a new site at Spytty Park was identified. Despite initial promises of a Compensation by the Athletic Club Officers, this did not materialise and the Cricket Club were left to relocate without a penny! Still to this day, the rugby dominated Athletic Club has offered no financial assistance or support to the Club!

September 16th, 1990 - The Final 'Ashes' Match at Rodney Parade

In 1990, following the enforced sale of its Rodney Parade home, the sad day had finally arrived the last match was played at Rodney Parade - ever! The final match at the famous old ground was played in Victorian costume, against old rivals Cardiff in the 'Ashes Match'. It was a fitting end to the Rodney Parade ground, as Cardiff had also been the opponents when the new pavilion was opened at the ground in 1901. Both captains, Mike Knight (Newport) and K.D Williams (Cardiff), dressed in Victorian style blazers and hats and took part in a 'ceremonial toss' before the game.

The End - A Lone Bugler Plays 'The Last Post'

At the end of the 'Ashes Match' the bails were burnt and placed in a commemorative Urn and presented to the Club's oldest (Fred Wangler) and youngest (Doug Kershaw) players. Shortly afterwards long serving NAC groundsman Fred Cox, lowered the Club flag for the last time, as a lone bugler played 'Sunset'. A fitting finale to the old Rodney Parade ground!

Alas, the massive roar of discontent by people associated with cricket around the country, regarding the controversial Sale of Rodney Parade, had not been enough. Everyone did what they could have done to save the ground, politicians, the press, club members but it was all to no avail..... the inevitable time had arrived! The long, hard fought battle was over..... the 'final curtain' had come down.

The historic Rodney Parade Cricket ground, first donated by Lord Tredegar in 1892, had survived two World Wars in its 97 years existence. The ground had staged First Class Cricket since 1935, but had now been lost to fund the onset of Professional Rugby!



NEWPORT CRICKET CLUB

Left Homeless and Penniless - No Compensation!

How the proceeds from the sale of the Cricket Ground were spent by NAC

NEWPORT ATHLETIC CLUB

Rodney Parade,
Newport, Gwent.

9th October, 1989.

Dear Member,

Your Management Committee believe that Members would be interested to learn what work has been achieved at Rodney Parade following the sale of the Cricket Field in October, 1988.

Grandstand

Southern end completely clad in colorsteel. 5,000
 New Doors and Frames at each end of Subway 9,974
 New Drainage System to take away water from the grandstand roof out of the Enclosure. 2,000
 All back windows bricked up. 1,000

Fencing

New Fencing from Grandstand to Rodney Road Turnstile 13,311
 New Fencing across the North end of the ground. 18,776
 Area behind Grandstand cleared and fenced. 3,641

Terracing

Complete New Terracing on Popular side. 1,500

Clubhouse

Complete refurbishment of Toilets and Shower area. 6,000
 Dressing room (visitors) panelled and new floor.
 Room carpeted and multi-gym installed.
 Brecon Lounge refurbished to high standard. 27,800
 Main Bar carpeted and new furniture.
 Rodney Hall, Snapping Lounge and Entrance Hall - all decorated. 7,000
 New Floor in cellar. 2,000

Equipment

New Glass Washing machine.
 New Vacuum Cleaner
 New Photocopier for office 1,000
 New Ransome Mowing machine 3,000

Machine Storage Shed

New Shed to be constructed south of Bowls Pavilion. 9,700

Groundsmans House

Bathroom extension built and Central Heating installed. 11,000

The net sum available, after Tax and all other deductions, from the sale of land was approximately £500,000 from which all the above work has been financed.

Under Contract (work to commence within a month).

Installation of new floodlights on Popular Terrace side.

Provision of 4 new Tarmacadam Tennis Courts to replace out-dated Shale courts.

Under consideration

New toilets around Rodney Parade.
 Covering for Popular side terracing
 Extensive repair to cellar roof
 Re-treading of Main Staircase. 365,000

Yours sincerely,

B.V. WILLIAMS.
 GENERAL HON. SECRETARY

After a long battle throughout the late 1980's the historic Rodney Parade Cricket Ground was sold by the Rugby dominated NAC Management Committee for a replacement Maindee Primary School. The Cricket section who were founder members of the NAC received not a penny, with the proceeds of the sale going largely to finance Newport Rugby Club.

Rodney Parade - The Last First Class Match



A view from the Power Station End

Glamorgan v Yorkshire (24th June 1990)

On June 24th 1990, the last First Class match was played at Rodney Parade, when Glamorgan played Yorkshire in the Refuge Assurance Sunday League (40 overs).

Unfortunately, the game against Yorkshire was abandoned without a ball being bowled as rain ruined the final spectacle.

*Club President and Newport CC legend,
Bill Jones quipped;*

*'The Gods are shedding one final tear
for the ground'.*



A view from the Pavilion End

The Last Game at Rodney Parade - The 'Ashes Match' Sept 16th, 1990



The Newport and Cardiff Teams



Fred Cox lowers the Club Flag



Captains Mike Knight (R) & Ken Williams



The 'Burning of the Ashes'

CARDIFF CC '13' v NEWPORT CC '13'

AT: RODNEY PARADE, NEWPORT

ON: 16th September 1990

TOSS WON BY: **NEWPORT.**

CARDIFF C.C. '13'				NEWPORT C.C. '13'			
INNINGS				INNINGS			
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
K D WILLIAMS *	St.A. Harris, B. G. Kingston	12 S. SPENCE P. Morgan		M KNIGHT *			
P F GOOD	Ct. + Bd. I. Lewis	17 13 Y. Hill Evans		D KNIGHT	Not Out	78	12 A ASHWORTH
DBP O'SULLIVAN +	St. A. Harris, B. P. North	11	1 46 1	M ROBERTS +	Bowled P. Morgan	125	13 A THOMAS
E P C MEGGITT	Ct. P. Morris, B. G. Kingston	9	2 92 2	G KINGSTON	Not Out	6	
D J R HERBERT	Bowled G. Wood	92	3 100 3	P NORTH			
A POWELL	Ct. Wood, B. P. North	0	4 140 4	P MORRIS			
R M C MEGGITT	Ct + Bd P. North	4	5 144 5	G WOOD	L.B.W R. Lewis	48	
R G LEWIS	Ct + Knight B. P. North	13	6 147 6	I LEWIS			
P MORGAN I. Courtney	Not Out	0	7 149 7	A HARRIS			
R SWALLOWS Dyke	Bowled P. North	0	8 172 8	A KNIGHT			
G HIBBERT	Bowled P. Morris	18	9 180 9	D KERSHAW			
EXTRAS		16		EXTRAS		17	
TOTAL		16	182 - 10	TOTAL		17	274 - 2

(43.1overs)

(45 overs)

Bowling	Innings		
	O	M	W
I. Lewis	7	0	44 1
A. Ashworth	10	2	41 -
P. North	12	2	28 5
G. Wood	8	1	29 1
G. Kingston	3.1	0	9 2
A. Thomas	1	0	1 -
A. Knight	1	0	13 -
P Morris	1	0	4 1

Bowling	Innings		
	O	M	W
I. Courtney	9	2	34 -
A. Powell	9	1	72 -
R. Lewis	8	1	23 1
B. Hibbert	9	0	53 -
Evans	3	0	30 -
K.D. Williams	1	0	3 -
P Morgan	6	0	53 1

* Captain + Wicket Keeper

COMMEMORATIVE FIXTURE

UMPIRES: A Brown, A Jones and J D H Riches, G T Eccles
 SCORERS: M Lewis and C Foulkes

Result: Newport won by 92 runs

NEWPORT C.C. '13'				CARDIFF C.C. '13'			
INNINGS				INNINGS			
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
M KNIGHT *				K D WILLIAMS *			
D KNIGHT	Not Out	78	12 A ASHWORTH	P F GOOD			
M ROBERTS +	Bowled P. Morgan	125	13 A THOMAS	DBP O'SULLIVAN +			
G KINGSTON	Not Out	6		E P C MEGGITT			
P NORTH				D J R HERBERT			
P MORRIS				A POWELL			
G WOOD	L.B.W R. Lewis	48		R M C MEGGITT			
I LEWIS				R G LEWIS			
A HARRIS				P MORGAN I. Courtney			
A KNIGHT				R SWALLOWS Dyke			
D KERSHAW				G HIBBERT			
EXTRAS		17		EXTRAS		16	
TOTAL		17	274 - 2	TOTAL		16	182 - 10

Today's historic match is supported by Solicitors Francis & Co. - Professional Advice/Practical Solutions.

Dave Knight scored the last run by a Newport batsman on the ground

ASW and Glanranon Cricket - A great Welsh partnership

Memories of Rodney Parade



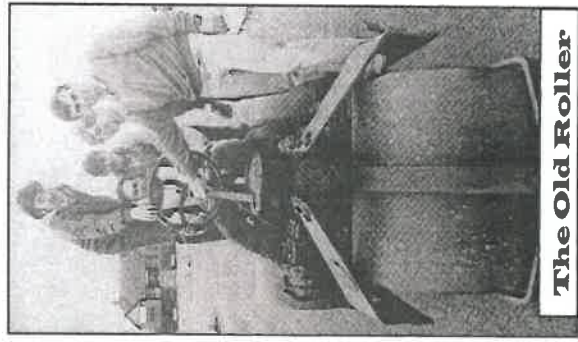
The Rodney Parade Pavilion and Old Roller (1988)

The historic Rodney Parade Cricket ground, first donated by Lord Tredegar in 1892, had survived two World Wars in its 97 years existence. The ground had staged First Class Cricket since 1935, but had now been lost to fund the onset of Professional Rugby!

REPORT ATHLETIC CLUB
CRICKET CAPTAINS

YEAR	CAPTAIN
1892	W. J. TRENKLE
1893	W. J. TRENKLE
1894	W. J. TRENKLE
1895	W. J. TRENKLE
1896	W. J. TRENKLE
1897	W. J. TRENKLE
1898	W. J. TRENKLE
1899	W. J. TRENKLE
1900	W. J. TRENKLE
1901	W. J. TRENKLE
1902	W. J. TRENKLE
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1905	W. J. TRENKLE
1906	W. J. TRENKLE
1907	W. J. TRENKLE
1908	W. J. TRENKLE
1909	W. J. TRENKLE
1910	W. J. TRENKLE
1911	W. J. TRENKLE
1912	W. J. TRENKLE
1913	W. J. TRENKLE
1914	W. J. TRENKLE
1915	W. J. TRENKLE
1916	W. J. TRENKLE
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2016	W. J. TRENKLE
2017	W. J. TRENKLE
2018	W. J. TRENKLE
2019	W. J. TRENKLE
2020	W. J. TRENKLE
2021	W. J. TRENKLE
2022	W. J. TRENKLE
2023	W. J. TRENKLE
2024	W. J. TRENKLE

The Captains Board



The Old Roller

 **RIP Rodney Parade** 



Photo taken from the TY Gantry, the night before the Glamorgan v Yorkshire match (24th June, 1990)