

Chapter 8

Cricket after the War

1919 - 1929



Newport Athletic Club (1921)



Aerial View of Rodney Parade (1929)



The 'Historic' Rodney Parade Ground



Rodney Parade – Cricket In The Twenties (1920 - 1929)

The Twenties – 'Cricket Rejuvenated After The First World War'

For 1920, fixtures upon the lines of pre-War days were arranged and L. V. Vaughan a junior Professional and left arm bowler from the Middlesex Ground staff was engaged. G. F. Relf was appointed groundsman and the ground soon showed signs of improvement. Relf continued this role until the end of the 1938 season, when he retired and Harry Jarrett was appointed as Club Pro/Groundsman.

In 1920 there was an increase of members and three teams were fielded. F. Gordon Phillips was re-elected as Captain of the 1sts, H. Berrow the 2nds and G. Hutchings the 3rds. The season was disappointing with 7 matches abandoned due to poor weather. The 1st X1 played 23, won 6, lost 7, drew 3. Average Bats were still awarded and won by 1sts F. Gordon Phillips (Av. 26.5), 2nds A. E. Hodges (Av. 20.5) and 3rds P. B. Poole (Av. 13.3). Ken Raikes topped the bowling averages with 35 wickets (Av. 9.4). No players scored a Century.

Death of Club Stalwart - Edward Bellerby

During the year of 1920, the deaths occurred of Edward Bellerby, the former Secretary and Treasurer of the club, who perhaps had more to do with the formation and success of the Club in it's early days than any other member. John Pritchard, who kept wicket for many years and was a noted cricketer of his day and one of the pioneers of the Cricket section also died. A significant factor saw the resignation of Tom Blandford as Secretary. H. Berrow was appointed in his place and served the Club with distinction until he retired in 1943.

In 1921, all three Captains were re-elected, but the 1st X1, captained by F. Gordon Phillips were still not up to their standard of pre War days, playing 21, won 4, lost 9, drew 5, with 3 abandoned. In a very dry summer, H. Berrow's 2nd X1 performed much better, only losing one match throughout the season. The 1st X1 Average Bat was won by F. Gordon Phillips (36.75 runs), who scored 115n.o v Abergavenny. A. Bavin the new Professional from Lincoln, making 126 in the return match v Abergavenny and 116 v Panteg.

A Young Wally Hammond Stars Against Newport in 1921

An exciting game took place at Gloucester, with Gloucester winning by 2 runs, largely thanks to a young professional named Wally Hammond who batted throughout the innings for his 108n.o. Hammond went on to enjoy a highly successful Cricket career with Gloucestershire and England and featured prominently in 'That Famous Match' at Rodney Parade in 1939, when he scored 302.



The Cricket Ground at Rodney Parade in 1921

Bryn Phillips was elected Captain in 1922 and the 1st X1 played 24, won 7, lost 3, drew 10, with 4 abandoned. Bavin was the Club Professional, scoring centuries against Cardiff (107), Panteg (122) and Gloucester (126). The 1st X1 Average Bat was won by J. F. Rust (Av. 37.53). Captain Bryn Phillips was one of the Club's best amateur slow bowlers and topped the Bowling taking 51 wickets (Av.11.17), with F. Gordon Phillips and K. C. Raikes giving assistance. The Junior Professional was J. Paxton of Woking, but he wasn't successful and wasn't re-engaged. Other players were T. B. Williams, still a sound bat, but unable to give sufficient time to the game. G. A Webb had a good defence and was a useful no. 3 batsman and one of the finest outfielders in South Wales., E. A. Boughton, an attractive batsman and excellent slip fielder and J. F Rust, one of the hardest hitters in the Club, he scored quickly and was a useful w/k

Thursday X1 and the Junior Section Reformed

In 1922, it was pleasing to see the resuscitation of a Thursday X1, Captained by R. C. S. Plummer for the first time since before the War. It was also noted that for the first time for many years a NAC Junior section was formed.





The 'Historic' Rodney Parade Ground



Newport Athletic Club's Fiftieth Anniversary (1875 - 1924)

Cricket Rejuvenated

In 1923, K. C. Raikes was elected Captain of the 1st team. Bavin was engaged for a third and last year as the Club Professional and a second Professional J. Heap was also engaged. The increased interest in Cricket first seen in 1922 was fully maintained. The 1st X1 played 24 matches, won 11, lost 5, drew 5 with 3 abandoned. The other Saturday teams enjoyed similar playing records. The 1st X1 Average Bat was won by J. F. Rust (Av. 38.00), with E. A Boughton (25.28) and G. A. Webb (24.21), just behind. Medium pacer K. C. Raikes headed the bowling averages again with 47 wickets (Av. 10.27). Bryn Phillips also bowled well taking 28 wickets (Av. 12.25).

Club's Fiftieth Anniversary (1875 - 1924)

1924 was the Fiftieth year in the Club's history. Club stalwart T. B. Williams was elected Captain of the 1st X1, J. E. Dunn the 2nd X1 and H. Berrow the 3rd X1. The record of the 1st X1 was played 25, won 9, lost 4, drew 4 with 8 abandoned. The Average Bat was won by N. W. Abraham (Av. 22.33). The summer was the wettest in memory, no centuries were scored and many matches abandoned,

Harold Pickthall becomes the new Club Professional

In 1924 the bowling honours were taken by left arm medium pace bowler Harold Pickthall (61 wickets, Av. 8.39) a new Professional from the Lancashire League, who replaced the other two Professionals, Bavin and Heap. The Committee had kept expenses down, as economy was being practised due to heavy expenditure in buying the Freehold of the grounds from Lord Tredegar. Pickthall finished top of the bowling averages in each of the four seasons he was employed as Club Professional, taking 320 wickets in the process.

The Cricket Ground Regains Former Glories

In 1924, the whole of the fencing around the Cricket Ground had been replaced by substantial iron fencing and the Cricket ground was in excellent condition. The pavilion had been renovated and the ground was once again one of the finest grounds in the provinces

Edward Phillips Passes Away (1924)

On 26th November, 1924, Edward Phillips, who did so much for the Club passed away aged 72, through acute pneumonia. He was the brother of Fred and father of E. S. Phillips and Leslie Phillips. Edward and Fred Phillips donated £708 in 1900 towards building the pavilion, in memory of their father Thomas Phillips. Edward Phillips was one of the pioneers of the Club and did useful work for Monmouthshire C.C.C., as Treasurer for many years.

A Stronger Fixture List

By 1925, the Club's fixture list was back to normal with return fixtures against Cardiff, Swansea, Neath, Llanelly, Clifton, Gloucester, Barry, Penarth, Abercarn, Ebbw Vale, Panteg and Abergavenny. Monmouthshire fixtures were also back to Pre-War level with almost half of the team from the Club. F. Gordon Phillips was Monmouthshire Captain and K. C. Raikes Secretary. Led by G. A. Webb the 1sts won 12 and lost 6. N. W. Abraham topped the batting averages and Pickthall (Professional) the bowling with 98 wickets (Av. 6.67)

Revival of the South Wales & Monmouthshire League

In 1926, the South Wales & Mon. League reformed. J. F. Rust's team playing the final match v Neath as a League decider. In an exciting finish, Neath won by 16 runs within ten minutes of stipulated time, to become the first South Wales & Mon. League Champions. H. R. Sidall topped the batting and Pickthall topped the bowling with 87 wickets (Av 12.0) E. A. Boughton made 111 in the win v Cardiff.

1927 was a very wet summer. The 1st X1 again Captained by J. F. Rust, had 8 games abandoned and only 7 were won. F. A. Featherby topped the batting averages, making 130 against Briton Ferry Steel. Club Professional Pickthall again headed the bowling averages with 74 wickets (Av. 10.85), but this was his last season. From mid-June a second Professional, Tom Sadler was engaged.

1928 was a fine summer and E. A. Boughton's team finished 3rd in the League. Club Professional T. Sadler was top of the bowling averages with 78 wickets (Av. 13.5). He was well supported by K. C. Raikes with 46 wickets. New Club Professional, 30 year old, Norman Smith of Durham, topped the batting averages (Av. 30.15), with a highest score of 97 v Hills Plymouth.

1929 saw more good weather and under the Captaincy of K. C. Raikes, the team finished 6th in the League. A. E. Hodges topped the batting averages (Av.27.6) including 125 v Abertillery. Club Professional Sadler again topped the bowling with 76 wickets (Av. 10.36).

Newport Cricket Club Captains (1920 - 1929)

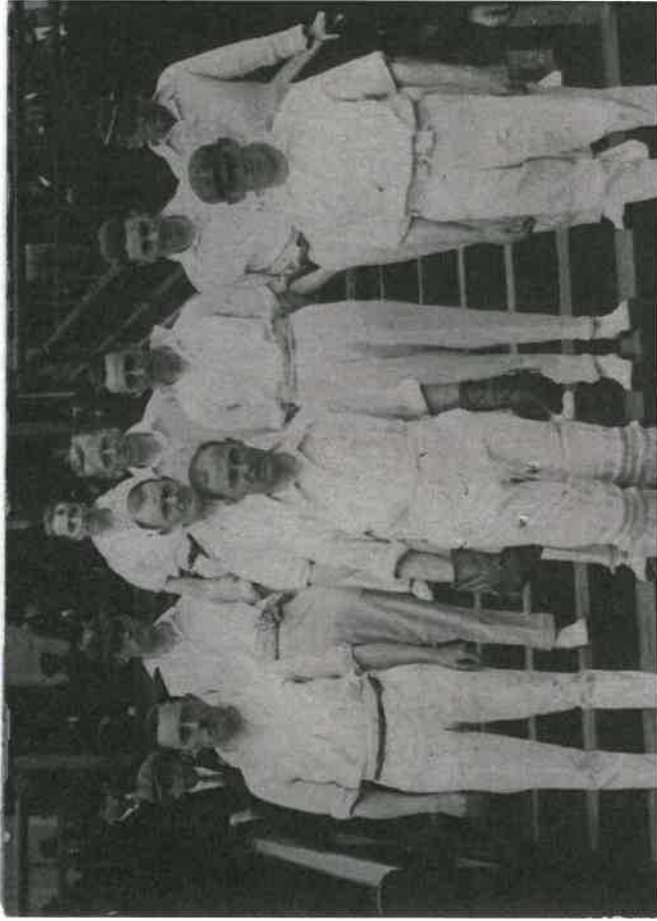
1920 F. Gordon Phillips	1921 F. Gordon Phillips
1922 Bryn Phillips	1923 K. C. Raikes
1924 T. B. Williams	1925 G. A. Webb
1926 J. F. Rust	1927 J. F. Rust
1928 E. A. Boughton	1929 K. C. Raikes



Newport Cricket Club 'Teams of the Past'



Newport Cricket Club 1st XI 1926



Back Row : A. E. Hodges, 2nd Back Row (L - R) : Not Known, K. C. Raikes, Middle Row (L - R) : E. A. Boughton, G. A. Webb, N. W. Abraham, T. B. Williams, H. Sidall. Front Row (L - R) J. F. Rust (Capt & W/K), H. Pickthall

NEATH	
A. E. Freethy	b. Pickthall
D. J. Reason	c. Boughton, b Raikes
T. Walters	b. Raikes
Dyson	b. Pickthall
G. Michael	Run Out
H. Arundale	b. Pickthall
G. Reason	c. Rust, b Raikes
L. Williams	c. Boughton, b Raikes
J. W. Jones	b. Pickthall
R. Maddocks	lbw, b. Pickthall
G. Evans	Not Out
	Extras
	TOTAL
	147

NEATH

WON

BY 16 RUNS

NEWPORT	
R. M. Phillips	c. Walters, b Arundale
A. E. Hodges	c. Arundale, b Jones
N. W. Abraham	c and b Arundale
E. A. Boughton	c. D. J. Reason, b Jones
T. B. Williams	c. G. Reason, b Jones
R. H. Sidall	lbw, b. Arundale
E. C. Dolman	b. Arundale
J. F. Rust	c. A. E. Freethy, b Jones
K. C. Raikes	Not Out
G. A. Webb	lbw, b. Arundale
Pickthall	st. D. J. Reason, b Jones
	Extras
	TOTAL
	131

Newport Cricket Club 1st XI 1926

South Wales & Monmouthshire Cricket League

Newport beaten in Inaugural League Decider

By defeating Newport by 16 runs within ten minutes of the stipulated time, at Newport on Saturday, Neath secured the honour of being the first Champions of the South Wales and Monmouthshire League. Newport's failure to win was a disappointment, and to be robbed of sharing the honours at almost the last minute was certainly unlucky for the team.

It was an exciting finish to a game which had been fraught with unique interest because much depended on the result. A victory by either team would give the winners the championship. If however, the match was drawn, and Cardiff won their game, Cardiff would become champions, whereas, if Cardiff lost or drew and Newport and Neath drew, the three clubs would finish level with 50%.

The visitors opened warily, and for over an hour runs came very slowly, and the first three wickets fell for the meagre score of 12 runs. At this stage Neath's position looked hopeless, but a splendid 61 by Dyson, who played with confidence, saved the situation.

Neath all out for 147, left Newport with two hours and ten minutes batting. Much had been expected of R. M. Phillips, who however, was neatly caught by T. Walters off H. Arundale, for one. His partner, A. E. Hodges went on and scored a useful 32, and later E. A. Boughton added an excellent 35. Newport were all out for 131.

In the Newport innings, H. Arundale took five wickets for 44, and J. W. Jones five for 49. For Newport, Harold Pickthall (their Pro), took five wickets for 52, and K. C. Raikes four for 48.

(Report taken from the Western Mail on Monday August 30th, 1926)

Neath were crowned Champions, and by beating Briton Ferry in their final match Cardiff came Runners Up, with Newport slipping to third place.