

RT MIDWEEK SPECIAL



The day Jardine was Cowbridge's No 11

By Echo Sports Reporter

THE special centenary match at Cowbridge on Friday (2.30pm) between Glamorgan and the local club celebrates a close connection which began at the county's foundation.

The link between the two clubs started when Sir J.L.E. Spearman Bart., a prominent Vale sportsman, helped found Glamorgan CCC on July 6, 1888.

Today another Cowbridge local, Hugh Morris, continues the association as Glamorgan's captain.

It is remarkable how many skippers of Glamorgan have played with Cowbridge.

In the years following World War I, two of cricket's most famous names were closely associated with Cowbridge, Maurice Turnbull an DJC Clay.

Both enjoyed their club cricket, their real platform was at County and Test level. While Turnbull was tragically killed during the war, Clay continued playing for Cowbridge and eventually became the club's president.

Today his portrait by a former player, Douglas Davies hangs in the Pavilion.

Among other famous cricketers to be associated with both clubs were Cyril Walters who played

regularly before leaving for Worcestershire and the England captaincy LEW Williams, later a prominent Cardiff solicitor.

Perhaps the highlight of the entire era, however, took place when a certain DR Jardine, then England's captain put in an appearance at a Cowbridge fixture at Pontardawe and as a reporter put it, "was prevailed upon to play for the visitors".

Undoubtedly Cowbridge's players were somewhat overcome by the guest in their midst as they could only manage a total of 67 of which Jardine hit 26 batting at no 11.

During the early 1930's first class cricket was seeking new homes. Through the Turnbull and Clay connection Cowbridge staged four County matches.

In 1931 Essex and Northants were the visitors while the following year it was Gloucestershire and Somerset's turn. Although Glamorgan remained unbeaten at the Ground a sensation which reached the front pages of most Fleet Street papers occurred.

After heavy rain and in an effort to contrive a finish Maurice Turnbull made a declaration which infringed the rules of the County Championship.

Although Turnbull and the Northants' captain were reprimanded by the MCC at Lords the Umpire Bill Reeves, who was equally at fault, claimed the rule did not apply as the game took place in a foreign County!

The 1950's saw two Cowbridge players in the County XI, Aubrey Edwards and John Davies. Indeed Davies not only captained the club for nine seasons but played for the County second XI for many years with conspicuous success. Today he is the club coach.

Another Cowbridge captain to play for the County was Howard Morgan. He skippered the side when Glamorgan's chairman Tony Lewis played after injury had forced his retirement from the first class game.

Unfortunately his debut was notable for his being run-out.

Happily the Glamorgan and Cowbridge connection is well served today. Glamorgan's leading second XI batsman, Paul Roebuck plays with the club and the first XI captain, Jeffrey Bird sits on the County's Executive Committee.

The highlight of the special centenary match though will be the battle of the brothers when Hugh Morris takes strike against brother Andrew, Cowbridge's current player of the year.

The Morris' connection is strengthened by their father Roger, a former Cowbridge wicket-keeper and captain and their late grandfather, Mr Howard Phillips who played and umpired for many seasons.

Cowbridge will select from: Jeffrey Bird (Captain) Hugh Mason, Andrew Brace, Liam Sullivan, Andrew Morris, Philip Lacey, Steve Lacey, Gerald Leeke, Paul Roebuck, Derek Cleaver, Malcolm Woollet, Mark Francis, Stephen Leeke, Bill Barritt.

...ces his brother, Andrew, Cowbridge side



...NION Cup winners Caerau who beat Gower Sports in the final at Roath Park.

Caerphilly look to

...ubbling