

*A Brief History of
Chichester Priory Park Cricket Club
150th Anniversary*

Compiled by Sue Price



INTRODUCTION

This short publication is the culmination of many hours of dedicated research by the late Bill Walton and very recently by Sue Price, covering the 150 years since the inaugural cricket match held in Priory Park on Thursday 7th August 1851.

These two individuals have been particularly diligent in tracing old manuscripts, photographs, score books and committee minutes, many of which can be inspected in the archives of the West Sussex County Records Office in Chichester.

The preparation of the final text and content is a credit to Sue's energy and commitment.

I hope you will enjoy reading this summary of our great cricket club.

Thank you Sue.

Brian J Hardy

Cricket Chairman

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wouldn't have been able to put this booklet together without the valuable work done by the late Mr. Bill Walton in the 1970's.

He wrote a manuscript about the history of Priory Park and the Cricket Club which he had, as Club historian, put into the Records Office in Chichester along with many old score books, minutes record books and photographs.

I was able extract the details I needed from his manuscript which took us up to 1950. The rest I have been able to glean from the old minutes books and from the senior Club members, especially Geoff Misseldine and Peter Thompson.

Chris Wood and Bob Riley provided the details of the paragraph on the Real Ale and Jazz Festival.

Many thanks to all who have helped.

Sue Price.

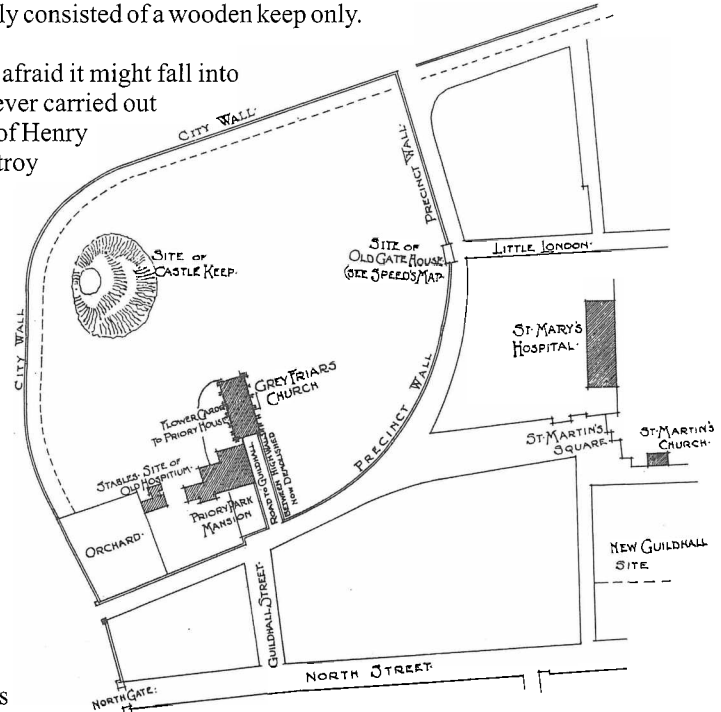
PRIORY PARK

Priory Park is bounded to the north and east by the much repaired Roman City Walls. From those times up to the arrival of William the Conqueror the ground was not bounded to the south and west and would have been indistinguishable from the rest of the community then existing. William put in charge of this part of Sussex Earl Roger of Montgomery who enclosed with walls some ten acres of this north eastern corner and at the same time demolished all the property that may have existed thereon. He is said to have built himself a house, a chapel and other buildings but no traces of these now remain. By 1080 he had constructed, on the north side of the Park, the mound and erected upon it a castle, which probably consisted of a wooden keep only.

When the French invaded England in 1216, King John was afraid it might fall into their hands and gave orders for its destruction. These orders were never carried out and it was indeed captured by the French. Early in 1217, in the reign of Henry III, it was recaptured. The King immediately sent a command to destroy the castle. This time the order was carried out.

In 1269 the Old Castle site was presented to the Friars. All that remains to remind us that Franciscans lived here for over two hundred and fifty years is the chancel, that was known as the Guildhall, some masonry to the south of the present club house, and some buried foundations, which become obvious in dry weather, south of the Guildhall.

Upon the orders of Henry VIII the Friary was dissolved in 1538. The site and all the buildings there on, except the Chapel were given to the mayor and Burgesses of Chichester, who were able to purchase the Chapel three years later. The corporation constructed the pathway from the Chapel which enters Priory Park, just south of the present entrance gates. This was enclosed with high walls to give them an entrance to use the Chapel which they intended to use for civic purposes and to lease the rest of the site for 999 years to John Knott in 1543. This lease was to pass through many hands.



General Plan of the North East Corner of Chichester 1790 - 1815

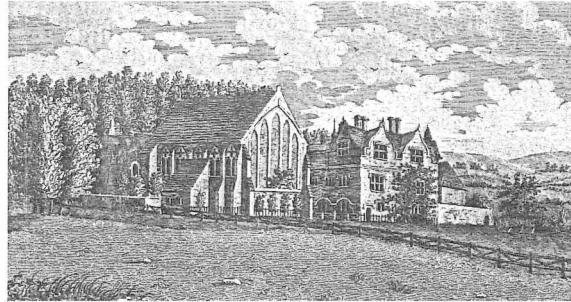
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which they intended to use for civic purposes and to lease the rest of the site for 999 years to John Knott in 1543. This lease was to pass through many hands.

In 1747 the son of William Pecre Williams was created a Baronet. He was responsible for many developments and the corporation granted him a lease for 1000 years at an annual rental of £6-3-4d.

A notary of 1791 describes the state of the buildings in Friary Park at that time, "*The remains of the Grey Friary, now converted into an excellent dwelling house and the Chapel into a Guildhall are well worth notice.*"



South-East view of the Grey Friary 1791

In February 1824 the corporation sold the freehold to the Duke of Richmond for £400, a sum they considered very generous and far exceeding the interest from a mere £6-13-4d a year. This did not include the Chapel or walled passage way leading to it.

In 1825 the Duke of Richmond leased the estate for a period of 12 years at an annual rental of £230 to Mr Joseph Baker until his death in 1835. After that time the house was unoccupied. It had deteriorated so much that when it reverted to the Duke of Richmond upon the expiry of the lease he had it demolished in 1838, leaving a few out buildings which could be useful when he grazed cattle there. Sundry excavations were carried out, cannon balls from the Civil war and items from other periods were discovered and deposited in the town museum.

In 1850 the paddock was little used and it became known that the Duke of Richmond might be willing to implement a speech he had recently made in the House of Lords: "*It is my hope that land near large towns will be set aside for manly pursuits, pastimes and*

amusements, for it is better that people should go there than to beer shops where they become sullen and discontented."

Several of the leading citizens discussed the possibility of leasing the ground as a private park. They sounded out the residents to see if they would be willing to support such a project, by paying an annual subscription of £1-1s-0d for families and 10/6 for individuals entitling them to a key which would give them access to the grounds between 9.00am and sunset. Within a week over a hundred had expressed interest. One clergyman campaigned against the project as he thought it to unsuitable use for what he considered to be consecrated ground. One resident in East Street thought the site unsuitable, particularly for Ladies as the approaches to it were infested with ill behaved children.

It was decided to go ahead and on Thursday 19th December 1850 a Priory Park Society was formed.

EARLY CRICKET IN THE AREA

Cricket has been played in the district for almost 250 years before the club was formed in 1851. Knowledge of this cricket has been obtained from the press of the period, the Goodwood papers and other documents held in the West Sussex Records Office.

It was discovered that the youngsters of the local parishes played cricket in the churchyards. 24th March 1611, Easter Sunday, local boys were brought before the Church Official for playing cricket instead of attending the "*divine service*".

The players moved away from the Churchyards for their Sunday evening cricket, but no reference is made as to where they played, although there is a piece of land adjoining Boxgrove Common which was planted with trees in the middle of the nineteenth century. When one of the Duke of Richmond's agents, Walter Forbes (himself a fine cricketer), inspected this collection of trees towards the end of the nineteenth century it was referred to as "the Cricket Field" plantation.

Playing at cricket meant taking part in matches for which rules were made as and when the need arose. From the diaries of Thomas Marchant, we learn that parishes in that part of the County were, by the beginning of the eighteenth century playing challenge matches against each other.

The parish matches of West Sussex were, by and large, unrecorded but not unnoticed. They were noticed by the landowners of the various parishes, who began to invite the more talented players to form a team with which they could challenge similar teams raised by their friends. The 1st Duke of Richmond rewarded his team with brandy after they had defeated a team from Arundel in 1702.

THE FIRST CRICKET CLUBS IN THE AREA

In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries more and more gentlemen were taking an active interest in playing cricket. An increasing number of matches are reported in the press. Colonel Charles Lennox, when he was president of the Hambledon Club, raised a team from residents of Sussex living west of Arundel to play the team of Hambledon on Windmill Down in September 1791. Hambledon won by 11 runs.

The first club to be formed in the district was a Goodwood club in 1813. This was followed by a Chichester club, probably formed in 1830 to play in Kingley Vale. Even after the formation of these clubs residents continued to raise sides to play particular matches. Some thirty matches played on a variety of grounds have been traced. The press at the time referred to them as Chichester club matches.

By 1844, both the Goodwood and the Chichester Clubs had ceased to exist. For those able to travel there was still plenty of cricket in West Sussex.

In their issue of April 20th 1850, the Hampshire Telegraph were delighted to announce:

“At length actual measures are being taken to establish a cricket club in Chichester. It has long been a subject of regret that the Capital of a County, so celebrated for cricket as Sussex is, should have taken so little part in this noble and thoroughly English pastime. This, however, is no longer likely to be the case, several of the most influential inhabitants of the city and neighbourhood having taken the matter in hand with an earnestness that can leave no doubt of their ultimate success. The chief obstacle has been the difficulty of obtaining a ground; this has been, however effectively surmounted, an excellent ground in the occupation of Mr. Purchase of the Stoke Inn having been obtained and every exertion is being made by the Committee to bring it into first rate order by the commencement of the season (probably about the second week in May). We heartily wish the Committee every success in their spirited undertaking as we feel convinced that it will materially add, not only to the amusement, but to the health of the inhabitants. A meeting for the framing of rules is to be held at the above Inn when we doubt not, that many new members will be enrolled.”

The first match was held on Monday 6th May 1850. Because of developments on another part of the city little cricket was played on the ground in 1851. We do not know where the ground was situated but presume it now forms part of the Prebendal School playing fields, or the Avenue de Chartres and the car park.

PRIORY PARK CRICKET CLUB

On Thursday 19th December 1850 a Priory Park Society was formed. The main object of the Society was to provide for the members, walks, a cricket ground, a bowling green and facilities for other outdoor recreation. There was a proviso, no games shall be played, nor on any pretext whatsoever shall anything be sold in the park, on Sundays. To keep the atmosphere clean and unpolluted, smoking was strictly controlled.

Work began at once upon the adaptation of the ground to the needs of the Society. The lodge, still existent, was built for the custodian who would be responsible for the maintenance of the ground. The only remaining out building from the 1806 mansion, which may have been stables, was altered to provide a refreshment room on the ground floor and dressing rooms on the upper floor. The veranda, which still covers the entrance, was added. A small veranda with seats, was added to the eastern end of the Guildhall. Paths were made for walks and seats placed in many places. Shrubs and trees were planted. Members were encouraged to supply and plant a tree or shrub so that they could derive satisfaction from observing the growth of their handiwork.



Chichester Priory Park in 1851 at the birth of the Club

At their meeting on 8th April 1851 the Corporation gave permission to the Society to remove the walls bounding the passage way to Priory Road and for a payment of 1/- year, granted them a right of way over it.

The paddock, which is still the cricket ground was allocated for this purpose. It was probable that little effort was made to prepare a cricket square. There was no need to prepare special cricket squares at this period.

By 1854 James Smith, the custodian, was congratulated upon the excellent work he did in maintaining the ground of which the club was very proud. The Society Treasurer, Mr. Sewell, provided him with a horse and a servant so that he could keep the ground well rolled. The club had a much better season losing just two of the nine matches played. The headlines in the press were however reserved for a rising young Lillywhite.

After the legalisation of over arm bowling in 1864 the need for the preparation of cricket pitches became apparent. The Priory Park Society made a cricket square fit to take fast over arm bowling in the summer of 1869.

A bowling green was made, which is still used for this purpose. The Hampshire Telegraph of March 1851 reported that an archery ground had been made. It is doubtful if this was used to any great extent, as when the committee decided in 1854 that it could only be used before 10 o'clock in the morning, it reportedly fell into disuse.

The Priory Park was opened on Thursday, May 15th 1851, shops being closed at 4pm to enable assistants to use the entrance tickets freely distributed by the Subscribers to marvel at the latest addition the amenities of the City. In the evening many hundreds paraded the terraces and walks and complimented the Committee upon the great benefit this had bestowed on the City.

On Wednesday, May 21st, fifty members of the Society met in the refreshment room to form a Cricketing section electing the Mayor, James Eaton Jr. President, W. Thomas Newham. a house surgeon at the Infirmary, Secretary and W.H. Mason Treasurer.

The first match started at 10am on the morning of Thursday August 7th 1851 when Arundel scored 34, Priory Park scored 99, the game being left drawn at 7pm when Arundel were 55 for 6 wickets in their second innings.

THE CHICHESTER CONNECTION

BIRTH OF TEST CRICKET

The following is extracted from an article published in the local press on the eve of the Centenary Test in March 1977.

No one would expect to see Chichester mentioned in the context of tomorrow's Centenary Test match in Melbourne. However without the Chichester Connection, it is reasonable to argue, there would have been no tour of Australia in 1876/77, and the first chapter in the history of Test cricket would have been delayed by two years.

For it fell to members of the city's Priory Park club, including Charles Stride and Arthur Hobgen, to provide the bulk of the money for James Lillywhite's Australian expedition. It was at the end of this tour that Lillywhite agreed to his side playing what later became recognised as the first Test match, at Melbourne on March 15th 1877.

The report of a speech has been discovered in which Mr. Walter Stride, then Mayor of Chichester, told of a deed that was executed between his father, Charles Stride, Arthur Hobgen, another member of the Hobgen family and Lillywhite, for financing the tour.

Lillywhite, therefore, needed no urging to return to Melbourne after the New Zealand leg of the tour, to face Australia in an evensided contest. He was looking to the extra status to boost gate receipts, which was vital if those who advanced the money for the tour were not to be substantially out of pocket.

The 10,000 spectators who turned out for the second day of that first Test did much to ease the captain's worries. By the end of the second Test, played by public demand, he had £1,700 to keep him warm on the homeward journey.

On leaving the ship in Southampton, Lillywhite made straight for Charles Stride's office in Chichester and put a bag containing the £1,700 on his desk.

Happy, then, was the cricket captain who made his way home to Westerton, near Goodwood. His team's debt had been cleared, a new dimension had been give to cricket contests and there were stories to be told over tankards of strong ale.

Lillywhite was born in 1842 and gained a place in the Sussex team by the age of 20. He was a player of limited ability, but his organising and promotional skills took him to a place of prominence within the English game.

He was secretary to the United South of England XI from 1872, one of the bands of professional cricketers who toured the country in the 19th century, "spreading the gospel".

No one better suited to leading the Englishmen in Australia in 1876. He had the good sense to heed the mistakes of a previous tour under W.G.Grace, when the good doctor has his professionals travelling secondclass. It was firstclass all the way under Lillywhite, with free passes on the Australian railways and a payment to each man of £150.

Lillywhite was always a popular figure in Chichester, never more so than when he kept the Wheatsheaf Hotel in North Street.

Before that historic tour, Lillywhite had insisted that his team should show their appreciation of the sponsors by playing a match at Priory Park. So it was that the England team assembled in Chichester on Sunday, 17th September 1876.

The match had been fixed for the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of that week, with the team moving on to Southampton at the end of the match to be ready to sail aboard the S S Poonah on the Thursday.

The match was billed as James Lillywhite's All England XII against Eighteen of Chichester and District, with proceeds going into the tour kitty. Admission was one shilling a day, or two shillings for the whole match.

The scorebook containing the details of the match is lodged with the West Sussex Records Office in Chichester. It shows All England as having made 146 and 140 and Chichester and District 70 and 38 for 14 wickets.

THE HOBGEN FAMILY

The Hobgen family were very keen on the game of cricket, seven of the family played for the Chichester Priory Park Club notably Thomas Cecil and Arthur a right arm bowler and opening bat for Sussex against Gloucestershire in the first match at the present county headquarters at Hove in 1872.

Arthur helped promote Lillywhite's tour of Australia in the winter of 1876 by advancing the sum of £2000 to finance the England team, but was unable to travel himself owing to the onset of ill health. Thomas Cecil known as "Long Tom" was reputed to be the tallest man in Chichester.

CRICKET IN THE 1900's

The white pavilion....These dressing rooms which were surmounted by a grandstand were completed on 12th December 1907 at a cost of £320. The Society had little money and hoped to raise funds by charging spectators for seats in the grandstand.

During the Great War of 1914-1918 the Priory Park Society retained some staff. Neither the cricket nor football club played. It is unlikely that the tennis courts were maintained, as the clubs who used them were not reformed after the war, although clubs were formed elsewhere in the city. The bowling green was used and maintained as was the rest of the Park



Grey Friars Church 1907, showing the seating for cricket in Priory Park

In 1917 the Society had to make an appeal for funds to enable them to carry on. £207-10s-0d was raised. They approached the Richmond Estates agent for a reduction in the £100 annual rental until conditions in the world were more normal. They discovered that the Duke of Richmond had been considering for some time the presentation of the Park to the citizens as a War Memorial. At a meeting in May 1918 the City Council agreed that if this ground was transferred to them, they would maintain it in good condition. The Society agreed to surrender the remaining 9 years of their 21 year lease, upon the condition that the rights they had given to the sports clubs who used the ground were preserved. The documents transferring Priory Park were signed on 30th September 1918.

A red granite tablet was erected in the wall near the Guildhall great entrance in January 1919. The City Council took over from the Society all their assets and accepted their liabilities. They agreed to continue the employment of the custodian at 30/-per week, with free use of the lodge, and his assistant at 16/-per week plus 6d per hour for any work he did on Sundays.

The club ran during the War Years 1939-1945 but with a lack of players and opponents there were times when games were few. Games were held up or abandoned because of air raids. A number of matches were played against Service sides from local bases. The refreshment room had been relinquished and was no longer available to the club, so they began to use the Fleece in East Street as their headquarters in April 1940.

The matches that were organised in Priory Park during the war, raised £700 for various comfort funds and nearly £300 for the Sussex County Cricket Club.

The club was certainly achieving its objectives in keeping the game alive in West Sussex and laid the foundations for a successful expansion after the cessation of hostilities.

In the post War years the club acknowledged the hard work put in by George Lait who had been Secretary since 1923 and also Mrs Longlands for their valuable work in particular during the recent war. George Lait was presented with a silver cigarette box that was represented to the club by his widow after his death at the age of 75 in 1954.

Up to 1946 Sussex County Cricket Club had a week of cricket in Priory Park during June each year. The matches included a 3 day game against another County and a 3 day game against a University side. Famous players to play in the Park include Denis Compton and Bill Edrich.

The 1st XI had a full list of fixtures on Saturday afternoons all starting at 2.30pm. The 2nd XI also had a full list but preferred to start at 2.15pm. The Council agreed that they could practice on three days a week as they had before the war. For away matches a bus was hired from Southdown Motor Company. Subscriptions were fixed at 15/-for 1st XI players, 10/-for 2nd XI players and 5/-for players under 18. Members paid 1/-for tea and 1/-towards transport costs for away matches.

The committee decided that a cricket week should be arranged for the first week in August instead of the second week as before the war. This still stands today.

In 1947, the committee was disturbed to find that the City Council would not allow practice in the park. Approaches were made to other grounds for help and eventually net facilities were allowed at the Police Sports Ground.



Chichester Priory Park 1st XI 1947

A. Middleton, Rev. E. Bradbrooke, C. Dowling, R. Longlands, A. Piper, E. Stevens

T.K.M. Vaughan, S.C. Doree

A. Scales, S. Blythman, S.V. Doree (Capt), R.W. Boon, S. Vinson

Another problem was accommodation for scorers and the location of a scoreboard. In 1937, as the tent in which the scorers sat was becoming very decrepit and they were receiving complaints from spectators that they had difficulty in reading the small figures on the number plates. The club made the best use they could of the equipment they had during the war, borrowing a set of larger number plates for the important matches they staged.

When a bequest was left to the club in 1954 it was decided to use the whole of the £150 on a new scoreboard. Problems with plans that the City Council passed came when the County Council did not pass them as they were not considered suitable for Priory Park. It was March 1958 before the City Council produced plans of a shelter to be located at ground level in the southeastern corner of the park. This would be a shelter when no cricket was being played. A scoreboard front could be fitted to the building to convert it into a scoreboard for cricket matches. The completed shelter was vandalised before it was ever used in May 1959, and was repaired and used for the first time in July 1959.

This shelter was hardly used as it was never very comfortable scoring in the building as it faced the west and the afternoon sun. The scorers preferred to have the front lashed to the white pavilion and record the scores in books while seated in deck chairs or from seats in the white pavilion behind it.

The Chichester Gala Day started in July 1955. The Park agreed to give up a Saturday booking so that it could take place in Priory Park. Conditions were agreed upon to preserve the cricket square and surrounding ground from damage.

A letter was received from the Town Clerk in October 1955 stating that the Corporation would allow three Sunday matches in Priory Park in 1956. Such permission had to be obtained by the club to play on Sundays in the Park.



Chichester Priory Park 1st XI 1956

*H.E. Avery, E. Stevens, S.V. Doree, A. Holder, J. Lock, C. Dowling
F. Pearce, W. Wadsworth, R. Longlands (Capt), G. Randell, R. Fielder*

Fixtures were played regularly on Thursdays until 1957, when it was reported that it was with great difficulty that sides were put out for Thursday matches, several guest players were being used to make up a full side. It was resolved that Thursday fixtures should cease to be arranged.

Colts cricket was in evidence in The 1950's, matches being arranged for the school summer holidays. 6 matches were organised for 1957 for boys over 14 years of age.

From the Chairman's (H.R.Underhill) report of 1957:

“The batting averages were headed by H.E. Avery with 54.2. Seven players exceeded 300 runs this season. The only century scorer was C. Whelan and for this was awarded the Club Cup. The most successful bowler was our hard working Captain R. Longlands who took 46 wickets at a cost of 16.8 runs each. With the help of other members, F. Haill was again responsible for organising six successful Colt's matches and it is felt that these efforts are well worth while for the future of the Club.”

It was reported in November 1958 that the Corporation's charge for using the showers in the pavilion was now 10/-per match, therefore it was agreed to increase to 2/-the match fee. This would also help towards the transport costs.

The Club used the Unicorn Hotel for meetings and the annual dinner until it was sold in 1959. The club approached the City Club to see if it could use there premises. This was agreed upon for all meetings and after match refreshments.

From a Committee meeting 10th August 1959, *“a complaint was received from the Ladies Tea Committee regarding mice in the Tea Room!”*

“This year also saw the retirement of Mrs Longlands who had provided teas for many years and had given great service to the Club”

Cricket week continued in the Park and in the 1950's lunches were supplied at the Unicorn Hotel. After the sale of the hotel, these were held in various places until the alterations to the club room were completed in 1968. Three matches had to be abandoned in 1958 due to appalling weather!

In 1960, the membership totalled 112 members of whom there were 31 playing members, the rest being Vice-presidents and dormant players.

The subscriptions in 1960 were £1-1s-0d for adults and 10s-6d for those under 21 years old. These were increased in 1966 to £2-2s-0d and 15s-0d.

From the Chairman's (T.K.M. Vaughan) report of 1960:

"Mr F. Haill ran the Colt's XI during the school holidays. Although only one match of the six played was won there were several promising performances notably from Drakes, Smith, Barnes and Head. It is hoped that they and others playing will eventually join the Club."

1962 saw the retirement of Miss E. Ivery who had been the 1st XI scorer for the last 10 years.

In 1963 there were discussions with Sussex County Cricket club to organise a cricket evening, youth coaching and talks. An evening was arranged and all schools and clubs in the area were invited to attend. It was reported that about 50 boys and 100 adults had attended.

Mr M. Petter was the recipient of the Club Cup in 1964 for his "wonderful season with the bat".

In 1965, Sunday games played in the Park were only allowed to be played between 11.30 am and 6pm. The matches couldn't start until the church bells stopped ringing for morning service and had to stop when they started ringing for evensong.

Park regulations were strict in the rule of no dogs or cycles being allowed inside the Park grounds.

From the Chairman's (Bill Walton) report for 1966:

"In awarding Peter Wilmer the Club Cup this year, the Committee are very aware of the 100% effort that Peter puts into every department of the game, irrespective of the line he is asked to bowl or bat, or the conditions of the game. His application is a tremendous example to all, whether young or old."

In 1966 there was discussion with the Hockey club about alterations to the club room so that it could be used more and would include a bar. All the necessary licences and approvals were obtained and the work carried out mainly by members. In 1968 the separate Chichester Cricket and Hockey Clubs joined forces to form one Club, and with their combined resources and management expertise developed the Clubhouse and playing facilities. The first Club bar was officially opened in 1968. It was a small section, only 8 feet by 8 feet and only had a licence for beer and gentlemen only. This is the first time in the Clubs history that a licence had been granted.

The cricket club joined the Sussex Cricket Knock Out competition in 1967 and were finalists that year.

1968 saw the amalgamation of the 'Nomads' with Priory Park. It was hoped that it would make more members available for Sunday games so that teams could be selected with regard to the strength of the opposition. The Sunday side prospered over the next few years and at the A.G.M. in 1973 the name 'Nomads' was dropped from the side and they became the Priory Park Sunday XI.

Captains of the Sunday side in the early days include D. Ames, Peter Thompson, John Saunders, Eddie Stark, Jeremy Sharp, Tony Watson, Brian Hardy and Bob Newport.

From the Chairman's (Maurice Hall) report 1969:

"The highlight of the season was undoubtedly the winning of the Sussex Cricket Clubs Knockout Cup when we defeated Eastbourne C.C. at the Saffrons by 10 runs. Special mention must be made of the first wicket stand of 97 by Chris Baldwin(43) and Andrew Barnes(62). Peter Wilmer bowled throughout the Eastbourne innings and finished with match winning figures of 4 wickets for 44 runs in 20 overs. Andrew Barnes had the most successful season with the bat that the Club has known for many years, scoring 960 runs for an average of 53.3. He is awarded the Club Cup."

In 1971 the Cricket Club became a founder member of the Sussex Cricket League, comprising twelve of the best Club teams in Sussex, which after tentative beginnings has become the arena for some of the highest standard of amateur cricket in the county. There is a League for both 1st and 2nd XI's.

The Colts Under 17's were coached by current Sussex players Les Lenham and Mike Griffiths during the Easter Holiday in 1971 which was followed by a team participating in a Festival week in July and later 2 matches against Middleton. Best individual performance of 62 not out by Robin Pine.

The main social event of the 1971 season was the highly successful opening of the new Bat and Bully Bar in the clubhouse. The bar and furnishings being given to the Club by Geoff Misseldine. It now had a full licence and ladies were allowed to use the bar as well as the gentlemen.

County matches were once again to be played in Priory Park after a lapse since 1946. There was a 2nd XI match between Sussex and Glamorgan on September 1st and 2nd 1972.

Taken from 1st XI report in 1972:

"Andrew Barnes once again the leading run scorer and several of his innings must have ranked as the best in Sussex club cricket during the summer. He scored two fine centuries both in league matches and finished with an average of 39.05. Peter Willmer bowled well and tried

as hard as ever."

"Our thanks go to Bertie Ruffell who was as loyal as ever and travelled with us to ever game. His umpiring is respected all over. We were fortunate to have the services of Colin Kemp in the scoreboard for most of the season. He was a most loyal supporter."

In 1973 the Subscription were £3.00 for adults and match fees were 40p.

Between 1973 and 1975 great efforts were made by the Committee to design and build a magnificent two storey pavilion in the south east corner of Priory Park, and a gentleman, Air Vice Marshall RamseyRae headed this project for the Club. Unfortunately the County Council turned this down. This was a sad moment in the Clubs progress as a senior Club.

Notes from the Chairman's report 1974 (Geoff Misseldine)

"The 1974 cricket season has been a very happy one; mainly because members and their Ladies have put more into the Club by way of voluntary effort; and in return the Club and its members have reaped their reward. When you think back, even three or four years ago, the club was £800 in the red, poor bar facilities, the Sunday side, a reduced fixture list, and coupled with the "A" side on Saturdays often fielding only nine or ten men. Today, we can proudly say we have a healthy bank balance (with over £1,000 on deposit), this year eighteen ladies helped with teas, lunches, cricket week etc., and made well over £100 for the club; bar sales doubled over last year, with a decent bar and carpet; to entice everyone to stay in the evenings. Cricket teams: there is now competition for places, and the standard of cricket is high. We owe a lot to our Club Captain Nigel Smith for his tremendous efforts on and off the field and to our loyal umpires Bertie Ruffell and Tom Hooker.

Looking ahead though we must not be complacent now we have our house in order, we must progress with further amenities. With this in mind we must set our sights on real objectives; I would suggest we should think of the following as but a few of many desirable additions in the way of amenities. We need:

- 1. To look after the pitch*
- 2. We need covers*
- 3. May be sight screens*
- 4. Better kitchen amenities*
- 5. Look deeper into the possibilities of improving the white pavilion. "*

Top of the batting averages for 1974 was R. Longmore for the 1st XI, B. Hardy for the 'A' XI and N. Stuart Taylor for the Sunday XI. Bowling was A. Wadey for the 1st XI, P. Frampton for the 'A' XI and D. Finn for the Sunday XI.



Chichester Priory Park XI v M.C.C. 1975

H. Ruffell (Ump), P. Frampton, A. Barnes, R. Pine, N. Stuart-Taylor, D. Wilson,

S. Miles, E Lugg (Scorer)

N. Winnie, B. Hardy, R. Briance (Capt), N. Smith, P. Willmer

1975 brought discussions between Bishop Otter College and the cricket club about forming a Priory Park 3rd XI to play at Bishop Otter College during May to July. Indoor nets commenced at Seaford College before the start of the outdoor nets, in January 1976.

Plans for the refurbishment of the white pavilion were designed and put forward for management. Committee minutes in 1977 noted that there had been no progress with the white pavilion which appears to be a long on going saga. Instead, money was spent on the redecoration and refurbishment of the club house.

The Committee were unhappy about the state of the square after the famous drought of 1976 and professional advice was needed on its care. In 1978 major pitch renovations were needed and help from the head groundsman at Hove was sought.

Also Richard Briance retired from 1st XI captain after having captained sides at various clubs for 20 years. He considered that his time at Chichester had been amongst his happiest.

Taken from the Annual report of 1978:

"Andrew Barnes headed the batting averages with 32.7 and Duncan Clough the bowling with an average of 14.93. Nigel Smith was singled out as being as valuable as ever with his leg spin and googlies taking the most wickets.

This season the Priory Park Colts showed a lot of promise. They played 8 matches with 5 wins, 1 tie and 2 defeats. They finished 2nd in their group in the Sussex Colts festival. Tim Hillier, as well as keeping wicket brilliantly, was by far the best batsman with an average of 38. Kevin McDonald, this years captain was the best all rounder with 16 wickets and 121 runs. David Briance, vice captain, who this year began to bowl leg spin, was the second highest wicket taker."

The end of the 1978 season brought the retirement of the Chairman, Geoff Missledine, after many years of service to the club. Excerpts from his report follows:

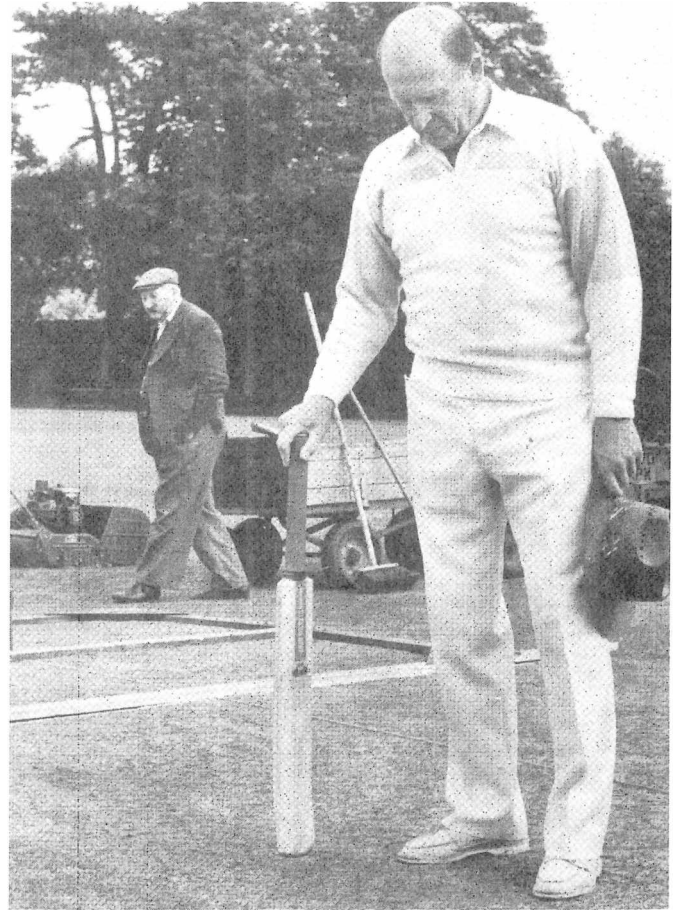
"Over the last decade many changes have occurred within the Club:

After 120 years a small Bar was installed in 1968 having at last obtained a licence and later a proper Bar the Bat and Bully replaced the smaller one thus ensuring a good income and a great deal of social fun.

Gradually the Sunday team became stronger after Peter Thompson's efforts to keep it together and this resulted in the Saturday/Sunday players having continuity and administration was simplified.

In addition, of course, the Cricket Club amalgamated with the Hockey Club and this ensured all the year round use of the Clubhouse with mutual benefits.

The 2nd XI at this time was short of players but this improved with better facilities and Club organisation. Later, in recent



Chichester Priory Park Club President, Richard Briance August 1987

years a 3rd XI was started and now we have three thriving XI's on Saturdays with full fixture lists and two sides in the Premier Sussex League.

The overall corporate identity of the Club was improved by having newly designed Club caps, ties pullovers and a Club flag.

Tony Watson sorted out the membership list and we are now well organised.

Nigel Smith and Brian Hardy in particular have been a tower of strength with their enthusiasm and hard work on Committees.

Richard Briance has brought a more professional approach to the playing side and as a result more players are thinking through the game.

Richard, in particular, has created a first class Colts Section in 1978 and many matches have been arranged for 1979.

I feel that this decade has been an era in which the Club has been generally built up and strengthened and I would suggest that the three main tasks of the new Committee are to improve the playing side by fielding better sides, improving the wicket and ground and providing better Pavilion facilities hopefully adjacent to the playing area. “

During the late 1979, the newly elected Club President, Richard Briance, and Chairman at the time, Tony Watson, met to discuss how the playing fortunes of the Cricket section might be improved with the view in due course of time, to winning the Sussex County League. It was agreed to tackle the problem in two ways. The President through his contacts within the MCC, would try to recruit some top class overseas players and at the same time, the Chairman would initiate the founding of a Junior Cricket Section.

1979 saw the start of regular Cricket tours starting with visits to Kettering. The Club benefits from good indoor net facilities at the Arun Leisure Centre, and the Council have provided a new permanent practice wicket together with an allweather mat and new nets. A slip cradle was also purchased. The Council also refurbished the inside of the Pavilion dressing rooms.

1980 Kettering Tour Priory Park had three fathers and sons playing, the Briances, the Hilliers, and the Alders!!!

Peter Kirsten played for the 1st XI this year and then returned to South Africa to play for his Country.

1981 saw the election of Tom Hooker as a Life Member for his exceptional services to the Club over the last 60 years.



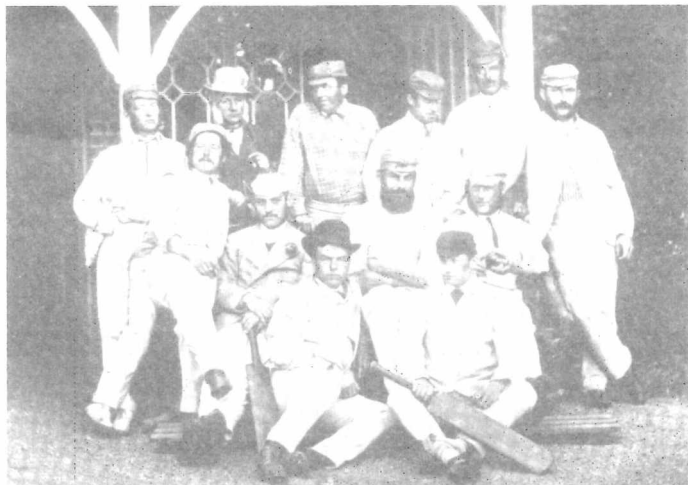
Chichester Priory Park 1st XI 1981

*N. Hillier, D. Briance, N. Shrubbs, D. Fimm, G. Ritchie (Aus), P. Frampton, M. Alder,
J. Saunders, J. Phillips, N. Smith (Capt), R. Briance, B. Hardy*

This season saw the first Australian player to play for the Club all season. Greg Ritchie topped the batting averages for the 1st XI League appearances and also for all Club matches for the season. He later went on to represent his native Australia in test matches.

Considerable progress has been made towards the completing the extension of the Clubhouse and raising the necessary funds to meet the improvement costs.

1982 saw two fine achievements by the Club. The first is the Clubhouse extension of which the Club can be justifiably proud. The other achievement is the winning for the first time in the Club history, of the League Championship by the 2nd XI captained by Adrian Price. David Briance was nominated as the most outstanding Sussex Under 19 player of the season.



Chichester Priory Park 1871 outside the Clubhouse

*E. Pooley, John Lillywhite, G. Griffiths, T. Humphery, F. Silcock, James Lillywhite,
H. Charlwood, G.F. Grace, W.G. Grace, J. Southerton,
H. Jupp, R. Humphrey*



Chichester Priory Park 1982 outside the Clubhouse

*P. Frampton, R. Briance, P. Thompson, C. Matthews, R. Miles,
A. Price, J. Saunders, R. Pine,
A. Murray, K. Walton*

1983 saw an increase in general use of the new Club facilities. Members being increasingly inclined to bring their friends and families along to join the social functions.

On the cricket front, Jamie Philips had one of his best seasons of recent years. Other notable contributions during the season were made by Duncan Clough an impeccable hundred, David Benham some fine all round performances, Peter Stedman some sparkling batting with the 3rd XI and Nigel Smith with a magnificent nine wickets in one innings. Kevin Walton (Zimbabwe) and Chris Mathews (later to play for Australia) played for the Club this year, both putting in good averages.

Chairman's (Tony Watson) notes from 1984:

"History may record a steady improvement in the fortunes of our Club during the past few years, but nothing can equal the events of 1984, which culminated in a superb victory at Worthing and made us the outright winners of the Sussex League Championships for the first time. Our congratulations go to Jamie Philips and the 1st XI for 'bringing home the bacon' and doing so, in such fine style. Other playing successes during the season included winning the Apps Cup and the Hants/Sussex Evening League. Australia once again played a big part in our season; this year in the formidable playing form of Dave Willis and Rob Gartrell."

Unfortunately the 1985 season will be remembered as one of the wettest for many years. Pride of place must go to Doc Price and his players for once again winning the 2nd XI League Championship.

From Chairman's (Tony Watson) report 1986:

"The Sussex Cricket Association handbook for 1986 contained a short report on the Sussex League in which our Club was mentioned as being one that seemed to play the game the right way. I believe, in this age of often questionable standards of umpiring and sportsmanship, we can be justly proud of such a compliment. May we always be guilty of administering our Club and playing our great game "the right way"."

Chairman's (Geoff Missledine) notes from 1987:

"In 1987 the Club had some 50 Colts being guided by Tony Watson. Many have good potential for the future. Our finest example being Jamie Hall who started in the Colts at 12 years of age and has not only graduated at an early age to opening for the 1st XI but has recently completed a contract to play for Sussex County CC during 1988."

"The ground has had a lot of money spent on it in strenuous efforts to improve the square. Loam and other preparations have been applied with advice from county groundsmen. Also purchased were covers for the pitch and two sets of double sight screens."



Chichester Priory Park Club Photo April 1988

*J. Wills, P. Grover, D. Baily, J. Pratt, G. Watson, D. Finn, M. Alder, J. Hall, T. Anscomber, P. Hillier, J. McLoughlin, N. Smith, J. McKenzie, T. Hooker, C. Reading
P. Terry, B. Hardy, A. Price, J. Saunders, T. Hillier, R. Briance, D. Briance, A. Ratcliffe, P. Willmer, N. Hillier, D. Seath*

The 1980's brought us Jeremy Pratt who not only played cricket and scored for us but produced magnificent pages of statistics and averages each season. He also made sure that all the old score books were kept for inclusion into the West Sussex Records Office along with those deposited by the late Bill Walton.

From Cricket Manager's (Richard Briance) Report 1990:

"Sussex Cup Winners; League Runners Up; Last 16 of the National Knockout..... Our overall performance should make the Cricket Manager happy and satisfied. I am very proud and delighted with the results but still feel there is a lot of work to be done. I feel we are not far away from being one of the top sides in the country. I don't want Chichester to be an ordinary Club. I want us to achieve national status of being a top Club."

From the 1st XI report by Captain David Briance:

"The highlight of the season was our Sussex League Cup victory over Eastbourne at the County Ground, Hove, one of the most exciting matches of the season. The performances in the Sussex Cup also extended themselves to the Cockspur Cup where we won our Regional Group before being knocked out by Ealing. The County call up to Jamie Hall and John North, which we were all proud of, meant some new faces in the regular line up. It was nice to see Phil Grange and Alex Greenlees make the grade. Thanks to Neil Budden and Peter Ford who did most of the bowling."

1992 brought 1st XI League Championship win, winning of the Southern League's Evening Echo Trophy at the first attempt, arrival of a new set of covers and a bumper year for the Colts.

Junior Cricket Report 1992 (Tony Watson):

"Of the ten Sussex and District competitions entered, 4 were won and excellent performances produced in the remainder. The teams ranged from Under 11 to Under 16. The U/16s won the District League, KO Cup and Indoor sixaside tournament and the U/14s retained the Sussex Junior Festival Championship. During these competitions no fewer than four centuries were scored (a club record): one at U/16 (Leigh Webb), two at U/14 (Peter Stapleton and Andrew Major) and one at U/13 (Geoffrey Price). Outstanding bowling performances came from Guy Seddon, Russell Evan, Andrew Major, Geoffrey Price and Mark Trinder."

Topping the 1st XI batting averages was Paul Hillier, closely followed by Tim Hillier, Neil Budden taking the honours for bowling.



Chichester Priory Park 1st XI 1992

*G. Alder (Ump), D. Oliver, P. Terry, D. Willis, G. Watson, R. Harding, J. Edwards, J. O'Driscoll (Scorer)
P. Hillier, T. Hillier, D. Briance (Capt), R. Briance, N. Budden, M. Alder, J. North*

1993 saw the 1st XI winning the League Championship for the second consecutive year, and the 2nd XI runners up in their League. The real achievement for the Club was the tremendous run in the National Knockout Cup. We were well supported by the other sections of the Club and by the city public as we entertained the cream of English amateur club cricket Finchampstead, St Fagan's, Fives and Heronians and losing by 18 runs to Old Hill. The ground itself was a credit to the hardworking groundsman Mick Page.

The following year saw a season produce wins for 1st and 2nd XI in the League as well as trophies for the Under 16, Under 12 and Under 11 in Sussex Junior Festival. The 3rd XI narrowly missed honours finishing runnerup in their League.



Chichester Priory Park 2nd XI League winners 1994

N. Barrett (Ump), M. Alder, G. Watson, A. Greenless, A. Barnes, G. Bennison, D. Baily, P. Thompson (Scorer),

D. Benham, R. Murray, N. Hillier, S. Forsyth, R. Sykes

In 1994 discussions with Bishop Luffa School concerning the installation of indoor nets within their new sports hall are under way. Ready access to an indoor facility in Chichester, throughout the year, for our Colts and Senior members would be a tremendous asset.



Chichester Priory Park 3rd XI Cup Winners 1995

*S. Wall, G. Soorma, S. Grant, J. Pratt, M. Moore, R. Holder,
M. Lee-Smith, P. Littlejohn, J. Bullard (Capt), J. Williams, A. Price*

In 1995, the 3rd XI captained by John Bullard, won the Championship League Cup by beating Horsham by 6 runs at Worthing.

The net facilities in the Park are in a sad state. Discussions with the Council and the contractor who laid the surface are under way. After 12 years of making the teas for our cricketers, Edna Redman retires at the end of the season.

The year of 1997 started with regular indoor nets at Bishop Luffa School and then outside to the new net complex in the Park. Both the 1st and 2nd XI's won their County Cup Competitions and the 3rd XI were League winners. This season saw the arrival of the new 4th XI. The Colts had a good season, with good individual performances from Paul Denton (500 runs and 12 wickets) and Andrew Perry (498 runs and 35 wickets). This summer will be remembered for the worst cricket week weather in anybody's lifetime.

Notes from the Chairman (Brian Hardy) and from the 3rd XI Captain (Andy Barnes) reports of 1998.

"Poor availability of players across the Club meant that we only managed to play a handful of 4th XI matches. Sunday fixtures have also suffered and many were cancelled for lack of players. The 3rd XI statistics show that 48 players were used, results varied from 'nailbiting' finishes to sound thrashings both in our favour and against, 6 different captains, Dave Lee and Phil Littlejohn supplied the stability and the name Lee appears in abundance in various guises: Dave the Bat, John the Gloves, Sparky the Fielder and Martin the Bowler...."



Chichester Priory Park 1st XI 1998

N. Hillier (Manager), A. Bennett, P. Hillier, M. Alder, J. Carpenter, C. Wall, G. Price
N. Dyer, T. Hillier, J. North (Capt), R. Holder, J. Edwards

Taken from the Cricket Manager's (Andrew Barnes) report of 1999:

"Closer links between the Youth Section and the Seniors is needed. Closer liaison at nets and at weekends meant that when the opportunity arose (there were many!!!), we were slotting 14year olds into the 2nd XI; 12year olds and sometimes younger into the 3rd XI, whilst club games took on a "family" look!! The unavailability of members has forced us to use over 30 players in the 2nds and a staggering 40 in the 3rds.

Many questions were asked as to the merits of the new format of the longer game. We wish to play in the best league, so whether we agree with the "all day" game or not, Chichester Priory Park must always have the ambition to perform at the highest level.

3rd XI: What a super job done by the club's barrister in waiting! Matt Moore, to fulfil fixtures was often on the phone at 11am Saturday mornings trying to scrape together a side. Matt received the Club Cup for all his efforts this season.

The target of running a regular Sunday XI was not met. The demise of Sunday cricket generally across the whole country is a problem. "

There appears to be little prospect of reviving the 4th XI in the immediate future.

2000 brought the 2nd XI promotion to Division One. These notes from Simon Forsyth the captain:

"League champions and undefeated for the second XI in the 2000 season, a fair result for the commitment and performance from 22 Chichester players. Boycs (Paul Hillier) this year showed why he is going to be such a loss to the club, both on and off the pitch. I would be very surprised if his joint averages are beaten in any league this year. 7.64 with the ball and 45.71 with the bat. Amongst these figures are two match winning performances, 109 away to Crowborough and 7 for 12 in the final game at Steyning. He will be missed as he leaves us for Australia. Everyone contributed this year, the main reason we won the league."

New plans for the white pavilion are again in the process of being examined by the Councils with hopes that this time we will be able to renovate and extend the pavilion to cater for the needs of the Club in the 21st century.

Richard Briance has retired from the Presidency of the Cricket Club this year. Since joining the Club in 1972, he has brought about many changes to the playing side with his vision of trying to attract overseas players to Chichester and bring about, with training and the right attitude to play, a semi professional Club.

Nigel Smith, a long time member of the Club, from a young Colt, has been elected as President of the Cricket Club at the A. G. M. in December 2000.

CRICKET WEEK

Over a hundred years ago occasional two-day matches were played in Priory Park. Wood Green St John's Wood, Clapton Granville and Uppinham provided the opposition. It was not until 1921 that a full week of cricket provided for what is now our Cricket Week.

In the second week of August of that year, after the city had recovered from the Goodwood week, which made a much greater impact than it does today, Bognor, Ryde, L.I. Waters XI from Southsea, Winchmore Hill and Eastergate were entertained. Winchmore Hill were joined by Thames Ditton, Croydon, Sussex Club and Ground and a team raised by the rector of Singleton, in the following year, 1922.

In succeeding years at least one of the previous years visitors reappeared. Only the M.C.C. of our pre-war opponents play in Cricket week now.

After the war the week was brought forward to start on the old and proper August Bank Holiday Monday. The Deanery, Mill Hill, M.C.C., Optimists (Bristol), Carmarthenshire Wanderers, and an R.A.F.XI were our visitors in 1947 to restart a tradition which still continues. The Northants Bedouins have provided great entertainment since 1964. 1979 brought the M.C.C. alternating years with Yorkshire Romany.

Catering for the cricket week varied, and until 1959 when it was sold the club used the Unicorn Hotel and after that the City Club until our own club house was renovated for use as a refreshment place.

Between 1989-91 Alan Davis was Chairman of the Club although not a cricketer himself, ably assisted by Adrian Price on the cricket administration side. Alan, linked with Adrian, Geoff Misseldine and Peter Thompson started the hospitality marquee for lunches and enclosure area adjacent to the field of play, giving a good view of play throughout the day, for corporate entertaining. Outside caterers were used initially and then Margaret Hillier and Sue Price provided the

CRICKET WEEK 1980

| MONDAY AUGUST 4 th | TUESDAY AUGUST 5 th | WEDNESDAY AUGUST 6 th | THURSDAY AUGUST 7 th | FRIDAY AUGUST 8 th |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| RADLETT 2 PM START | NORTHANTS BEDOUNS 11:30 AM START | ROMANY 11:30 AM START | PETERS XI 12:00 START | STEVE WRIGHT'S XI 11:30 AM START |
| SPONSOR: DALGETTY WORLD TRAVEL | SPONSOR: THE CLUB PRESIDENT | SPONSOR: IDS LTD WHITEHEADS (SHEFFIELD ASSOCIATES) | SPONSOR: GERART (THE ASSOCIATES) (SHEFFIELD ASSOCIATES) | SPONSOR: LITTLE THANEHAM HOTEL |
| SUE'S SUCCULENT SUPPER | BEDOUNS TOUR DINNER AT THE SHIP HOTEL WITH "AFTERS" AT CLUBHOUSE FRAMPS DINNER | YORKSHIRE PUD (FROM "A BUCKLE UP") | SOMETHING HOT, SPICY, AND SAUCY FROM LIZ | PLENTIFUL PLATTERS FROM "RATTERS" "THE PRESIDENT'S MUSIC" |
| DAILY "MAN OF THE MATCH" AWARDS | BIG DRAWS (AND RAFFLES) TOO! | SIX-A-SIDE CHALLENGE TROPHY | BOWLS CLUB V. CRICKETERS CHALLENGE MATCH! | |
| DELIGHTFUL LUNCHES, TEAS & SUPPERS | | | | |
| LATE BAR EXTENSIONS - EVENING ENTERTAINMENTS COME ALONG AND JOIN THE FUN! | | | | |

CHICHESTER COLTS

Priory Park has had colts sides in the Club for many years, In the 1950's, they were ably looked after by Mr F. Haill, Mr D Ames and then by Maurice Hall in the late sixties and seventies before being taken under the wing of Tony Watson who did a magnificent job with the Junior Cricket section until his retirement in 1997 after 20 years. The current Junior Cricket Manager is Chris Hooker with help from Mark Trimmer.

Paul Bailey, who captained the Club Colts and was awarded the George Cox Bat by the Sussex Junior Cricket Festival for the most outstanding young player of 1982.



Chichester Priory Park Under 16 XI Sussex Junior Festival Champions 1988

*A. Watson (Manager), N. Smith, D. Gray, P. Saxton, B. Rogerson, I. Rahman, S. Browning, D. Oliver (Scorer),
J. Herman, M. Baker, P. Terry (Capt), D. Seath, A. Jull, R. Newman*

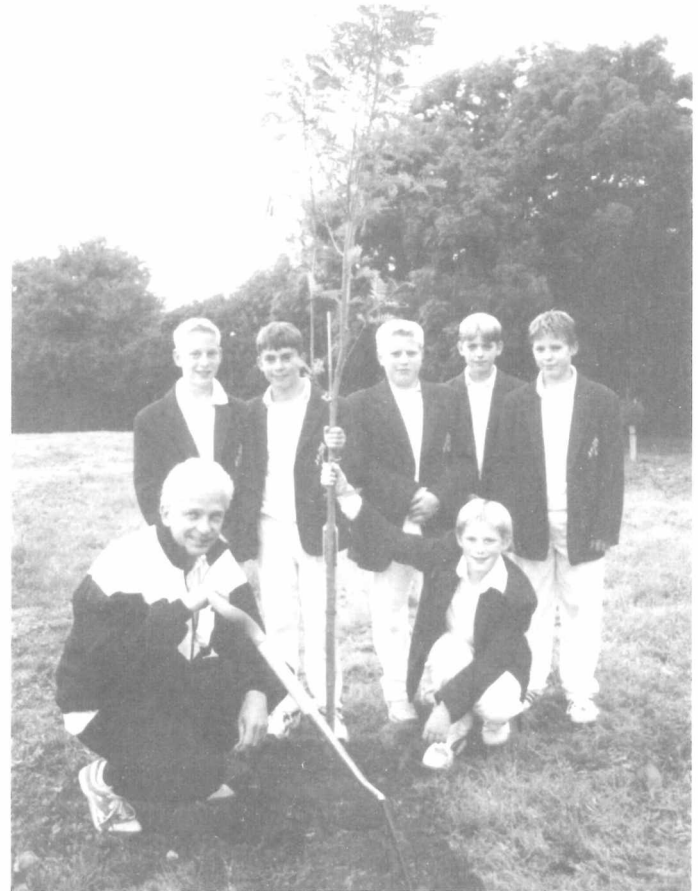
The Juniors managed to win the principal Sussex Junior Cricket Festival title in 1998 and 1994 and a number of the Junior League and Cup titles from 1982 right up to the present day.

The numbers of Colts have grown considerably over the years, the age ranges from 10 years up to under 17 years.

The formation of the Junior Section led to the Club being able to field a stronger Saturday 3rd XI which, captained by the Junior Cricket Manager, and made up primarily of his senior Colts, had considerable playing success particularly during the eighties. These successes led to the eventual formation of a Saturday 4th XI. However, unfortunately the momentum was not maintained and the side was disbanded during the late 1990's.

Emphasis over the last few years has gone to not only getting the youngsters to join the Club, but also to encourage the families as a whole to join in the social side of cricket.

1998 saw the opening of the new Bishop Luffa Sports Hall with its four indoor cricket nets. That autumn, to mark the inauguration, David Gower attended the end of season dinner having earlier planted a tree and assisted at a junior coaching session.



*Chichester Priory Park Colts October 1998
A. Ward, W. Gammon, D. Steadman, N. Stables, C. Hardy
David Gower, T. Evans*

REAL ALE AND JAZZ FESTIVAL

In 1981 Chichester Festivities were trying to widen the range of events at their annual culture festival and the Director asked Roger England whether he knew anyone who'd be up to running a beer and jazz festival. Roger set up a small committee, including Andy Peel, John Guess and Chris Wood, and the first RAJF was held that summer. 600 people attended over the two nights. The ticket price was £2.50 and there were six different beers.

Chichester Festivities had arranged for Marks and Spencer to sponsor the first RAJF and M & S were so delighted with the quality of the event that they asked to sponsor it for a second year.

In the third year we needed a new sponsor and struck up what proved to be a 10 year relationship with BBC Radio Solent. The BBC paid for the bands and recorded the music for subsequent transmission on Chris Walker's jazz programme on BBC local radio stations across the south. The relationship only ended when BBC policy shifted away from music to spoken programmes.

In subsequent years we have enjoyed sponsorship by locally based firms, Stena Sealink and, since 1996, CPG Logistics.

Everything about the event has grown enormously, albeit constrained by the size of the plot of land in Priory Park. The tentage has evolved from marquee to big top to industrial 'hanger'. The duration of the event has been extended to four days, and the total number of attendees approaches 8000. The number of beers provided is now over 30, although we have found by trial and error that there is a maximum number that is practical. The ticket price has increased at least sixfold, yet we still manage to sell out most nights.

Drinking habits have changed. In early days over 3.5 pints of real ale were consumed per head. This has fallen to less than 2.5. Extra wine consumption has made up the difference! This is no doubt due to a change of audience more women and more corporate hospitality guests.

Similarly the music has changed. In early days the musical emphasis was strictly jazz, much of it the traditional kind, what one musician called 'toe tapping tunes'. Many of the great names of British jazz have come to Priory Park: Kenny Ball, Humphrey Littleton, Kenny Baker, Acker Bilk and many more. In more recent years a blues element has been introduced and one of the most passionate subjects of debate in the organising committee is the future musical direction and how to cater for changing public tastes without entirely losing the RAJF ethos. The appearance of the legendary James Brown in 2000 may be a sign of future changes to come!



This year is the 21st year of RAJF. Throughout its life it has remained an event managed and staffed by unpaid amateurs, but to the highest professional standards. A handful of dedicated Club members, and some of their friends, have applied their business and personal skills to planning and managing the event. Hundreds of Club members, their families and friends, have given their time to be helpers at the event, for no more reward than a free T-shirt, an annual helpers' party, and the exhilaration of taking part in Chichester's leading social and musical event.

Overall responsibility for the event falls on the shoulders of the Chairman. There have only been three in the life of RAJF Chris Wood, David Rudd (who died so sadly in 1999) and now Bob Riley. Curiously all three went to the same school King Edward VI Southampton.

RAJF makes a substantial profit each year. These profits have provided major elements of funding for Astro turf hockey pitches at Chichester High School for Boys and at Chichester College of Arts, Science and Technology. They have helped fund a sports hall at Bishop Luffa School and cricket nets in Priory Park. Many local charities have also received donations out of RAJF profits. The next big target for RAJF funds is the refurbishment of the Astro turf pitch at Chichester High School for Boys; a £350,000 project.

Chichester RAJF has spawned many imitators. We have actively helped Reading and Havant Hockey Clubs to launch their similar events. But we had nothing whatsoever to do with the disastrous Millennium 2000 concert, which left a highly dissatisfied audience and a trail of debts, despite the fleeting appearance of Art Garfunkel. That fiasco illustrates the importance of maintaining strict control of the quality and financial integrity of RAJF. If the Committee and its many helpers can continue to do this as they have done over the past 21 years RAJF will continue to be a source of pleasure and profit for many more years to come.

CRICKET CLUB PRESIDENTS

| | |
|-----------|----------------------|
| 1851 - 57 | J. Gates Jnr. |
| 1858 - 60 | Earl of March |
| 1861 - 91 | 6th Duke of Richmond |
| 1892 - 01 | Sir Robert Raper |
| 1902 - 04 | W. Smith |
| 1905 - 09 | O.N. Wyatt |
| 1910 | G. Ashley Tyache |
| 1911 - 13 | Major H. Jellicorse |
| 1914 - 20 | W.B.M. Bird |
| 1921 - 60 | Sir William Bird |
| 1961 - 66 | G.R. Horrocks |
| 1967 - 70 | H.R. Underhill |

Combined Club Presidents after amalgamation with the Hockey Club

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 1971 - 73 | H. Ludlow & H.R. Underhill |
| 1974 - 79 | H. Ludlow |
| 1980 - 2000 | R. Briance |
| 2001 | N.M. Smith |

CRICKET CHAIRMAN

| | |
|-----------|----------------|
| 1936 | R.G. Blackman |
| 1937 | G.P. Salt |
| 1938 - 39 | J.N. Palmer |
| 1940 - 41 | A. Scales |
| 1942 | G.F. Longlands |
| 1943 | A. Scales |
| 1944 | Lt. Poe |
| 1945 | R.W. Boon |
| 1946 | G.P. Salt |
| 1947 - 49 | G.F. Longlands |
| 1950 | A. Scales |
| 1951 - 57 | H.R. Underhill |
| 1958 | W. Wadsworth |
| 1959 - 60 | T.K.M. Vaughan |
| 1961 - 62 | W. Wadsworth |
| 1963 - 66 | W.A. Walton |
| 1967 - 72 | M. Hall |
| 1973 - 78 | G. Misseldine |
| 1979 - 86 | A. Watson |
| 1987 - 88 | G. Missledine |
| 1989 - 91 | A.C. Davis |
| 1992 - 95 | G.D. Watson |
| 1996 | B.J. Hardy |

1st XI CRICKET CAPTAINS

| | | | |
|-----------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1894 - 97 | C. Howard | 1968 - 69 | J. Carter |
| 1898 - 03 | Committee | 1970 - 71 | A.W. Barnes |
| 1904 | J.W. Ashby | 1972 - 74 | N.M. Smith |
| 1905 | L.S. Edney | 1975 - 78 | R. Briance |
| 1906 - 11 | C. Howard | 1979 - 80 | A.W. Barnes |
| 1912 - 13 | W.O. Stride | 1981 | N.M. Smith |
| 1914 - 19 | A.H. Holland | 1982 - 83 | N. Hillier |
| 1920 | L.J. Purchase | 1984 - 85 | J.S.B. Phillips |
| 1921 - 22 | G.F. Longlands | 1986 - 93 | D. Briance |
| 1923 | H.W. Triggs | 1994 - 95 | P.T. Hillier |
| 1924 - 25 | G.F. Longlands | 1996 - 97 | D. Briance |
| 1926 | J. Lillywhite | 1998 - 2000 | J. North |
| 1927 - 28 | G.F. Longlands | 2001 | N. Dyer |
| 1929 - 30 | E.J. Tranchant | | |
| 1931 - 33 | G.R. Horrock | | |
| 1934 | M. O'Brian | | |
| 1935 | S.V. Doree | | |
| 1936 - 38 | J. Catchpole | | |
| 1939 - 42 | A. Scales | | |
| 1943 - 45 | G.F. Longlands | | |
| 1946 | R.W. Boon | | |
| 1947 - 48 | S.V. Doree | | |
| 1949 - 50 | T.K.M. Vaughan | | |
| 1951 - 52 | H.R. Underhill | | |
| 1953 - 54 | H.E. Avery | | |
| 1955 - 57 | R. Longlands | | |
| 1958 | T.K.M. Vaughan | | |
| 1959 - 61 | R. Longlands | | |
| 1962 - 67 | A.D. Holder | | |

all club who had recently been pro-
vided with the privilege of using the ground
for cricket club matches. The
club had, as well as a secretary,
treasurer and vice-presidents. These offi-
cers were elected by the joint club.
The ground was Lord Mountbatten's



Price £4.00