

Worthing Old Grammarians Cricket Club. 1922- 1966. (The Pre Score Book history)

1922 -

"A Junior Club" was reported as being formed in the January press. It was formed alongside the Football Club. Membership restricted to 'old public and secondary school boys'. Club colours were to be Royal Blue and Gold. Press stated that 'several local lads' had founded the club so that youths were able to play cricket before joining senior sides. "Grammarians Cricket Club" was the name. However, as there were numerous clubs' called Grammarians from the across the County, this was soon changed to 'Worthing Old Grammarian's'.

First ever fixture, against YMCA on Wednesday 3rd May 1922 was washed out, so Saturday 6th May 1922 saw the first match played. John Farrow captained as Worthing Nomads were bowled out for 29 with MS Jones taking 5-8.

WOG passed this on the way to a total of 75. Lewin Edwards topped scored for WOG and was to remain a stalwart of the club right through to 1954.

It was common practice for much of the pre-war period for the chasing team to bat on after reaching the target. However, more often than not, the chasing team struggled too and the match turned into a two innings affair.

A merger with Worthing Nomads mid-summer saw attempts at running two XI's, but apart from a couple of double weekends, this failed to take off. However, Eric Firth and N Marshall had joined and they duly won the Batting and Bowling Averages.

Their figures 159 runs at 14 and 24 wickets at 4 perhaps highlighted that scoring runs wasn't easy. Regularly totals of under 50 were seen and only 2 individual half-century's were recorded. Charles Skinner came second in the batting averages with 7.3!

Of the 21 matches played won 7-drawn 2-lost 12 was the final record, which was reported as a 'Successful Season'.

Matches were played at Broadwater Green, Homefield Park, Victoria Park and The Sports Ground.

1923 -

At the AGM in February, WOG accepted the offer of Worthing CC's to amalgamate and effectively form the 2nd XI, called 'Worthing A'. However, they demanded and retained the right to have their own committee and ran therefore 'parallel' to Worthing CC. This merger did enable a higher standard of opposition as home games would be played at The Sports Ground - an area north of Pavilion Road. Eric Firth was appointed Captain, but replaced by C Markwick when job commitments took him to Denmark. Markwick's performances, including the first recorded Hat-trick, saw him soon playing for Worthing CC too. Cecil Peasgood then took over as Captain. On field the record of 6-5-7 was encouraging for the team still consisting principally of teenagers. MS Jones had the top score, 78, as well as the best average, 17.3.

William Tree's 8-14 helped him top the bowling with 22 at 10 each. Shoreham Grammar School had scored 28 in this match.

The team also played a couple of mid-week games under their previous name of Worthing Old Grammarians.

Charles Skinner carried his bat for 47 not out in a total of 81 all out at Shoreham St Mary's.

Southwick 'A' were bowled out for 25, East Preston for 42, and Worthing Police for 37. The Police got their revenge the following month when bowling WOG out for 30 (in one of those mid-week WOG matches).

1924 -

Results of 12-4-4 saw further development. MS Jones retained the Batting Averages with 275 runs at 21 with a top score of 62. His record included carrying his bat for 33no in a total of 73 against Worthing High School.

D McCormack won the Bowling Averages with 29 Wickets at 6.1 each. and alongside Cecil Peasgood, 44 at 6.4 and Robert Pengelly, 47 wickets at 6.5, they formed a devastating trio of bowlers, taking 13 hauls of 5 wickets between them.

Pengelly also had the seasons' top score of 78no.

Team scores continued to be low. The club had all out scores of 73, 74, 35, 67, 32, 60 and 34 amongst it's results. Similarly, the opposition's total's of 51, 60, 23, 53 and 32 fair little better.

Eric Firth had been re-elected as Captain for the 1924 season at the 'Combined' AGM meeting in April. Press reported those in attendance at the AGM were nearly all from past and current 'A' team members. The 'WOG' connection proving to be strong.

1925 -

Worthing CC lost the use of the Sports Ground as it was converted into the Tennis Courts that remain to this day.

Worthing CC therefore ceased to exist. Worthing 'A' continued as before, with all their fixtures away. 8-2-6 for the record.

Eric Firth led for the 3rd season. Press again emphasised that the Town should be proud of the 'Old Grammarian' spirit that continued to drive the 'team' on.

On the field Jones (32w @ 5.3), Peasgood (65w @ 5.6) and Pengelly 47w @ 6.7) well and truly dominated the bowling, with 144 out of the 148 known wickets taken. They took 14 hauls of 5 wickets between them in the 16 matches, so at least one of them managed a significant contribution per match. Pengelly's 7-4 figures were trumped by Jones' 8-19.

Peasgood however had 5 hauls of 7, three of which came in August alone. He also had 12 wickets in a 2-innings match.

Batting wise Peasgood came top with 283 runs at 28.3 with a top score of 84no out of a total of 132. He then took that 7-17. This is the only instance in the club's history of such a match double (70+ 7w). He also hit the only other half-century, 51no.

Pengelly took 5-9 as Shoreham St Mary's were rolled for 16 in May, however a month later 'A' were dismissed for 19 themselves. Lionel Watson made his first appearances; he would serve the club for over 30 years. Alongside Edwards he would be the principle link to what happened in 1934.

In December it was noted that the proposed new ground at Broadwater 'Manor' would not be ready for 1926, therefore Worthing CC would again have no team themselves for the following summer. 'A' would see only away fixtures again arranged for 1926.

1926 -

Season results of 10-2-9 saw a 'winning' season for the 3rd year in a row. The team was reported as being 'Worthing II' but the members were still principally those that began in 1922 as the Grammarians.

The team had a Tour in August that would take in Steyning, Hailsham, Battle, Heathfield and finally Hellingly Mental Hospital. For the period this made significant news in the press. Hailsham recovered from 8-5 to post 252-8 which is one amazing turnaround. 'A' made 97! The tour party included many guests who proved to be more than useful allies.

The first tour match at Steyning saw the Club's first ever century, 102, by Charles Skinner, during a 10-wicket victory chasing 168. 'A' batted on to 288-7 which stood for many years as the highest total. Alongside Jones, Skinner made another 100-run partnership. JK Matthews made a couple of appearances for 'A' and would later go on to score 1000+ runs for the reformed Worthing side - and also represent Sussex CCC.

Jones with 604 runs at 35.5 scored twice as many runs as the next man, Skinner. He hit 5 half-century's and became the first - and last until after WW2 to pass 500 runs. He also took 36 wickets at 9 each. Pengelly's 64 wickets at 11 with 4x5w hauls only placed him 3rd in the Averages, which were headed by Norman Fuente who took 31 wickets at 7 each.

Like many of the team, he'd not play another season for WOG/'A' as in December 1926 it was announced Worthing CC would be re-starting at their new Manor ground and a full merger of members would see the end of WOG/'A' fully until the mid '30s.

1931 -

The WOG FC team had organised a one-off match against Storrington. The footballers in the XI included William Woolgar, Cyril Childs, Lionel Watson, H Muggerridge and John Denyer, who would all eventually form the backbone of WOG CC team for the next couple of decades. For the record the match was won, despite defending only 83 as Storrington scored 52.

1934 -

There was no formal announcement in the press, but from late June match results began to appear.

Only four matches were reported, with WOG winning three of them. They were again called 'Worthing Old Grammarians' and would keep that name now up until the 1965 season. Ernest Craddock share bowling honours with Woolgar and would continue to do so up until WW2. Woolgar took 13 wickets in these 4 matches at 7 each.

The top score of 67no was hit (2x6, 11x4) by Leonard Joyes, who was one of only a handful of players to represent the club before and after the 1927-33 hiatus. It could be said that most of the original WOG were in their late 20's, so were far from past their best by the time of the re-start. The Football Club had retained the WOG name throughout the time too, so the connection and association was still strongly linked to that original formation back in 1922.

1935 -

Press reports in September stated "the newly reformed Worthing Old Grammarians Cricket Club had a successful summer" - Results being 15-2-2. Home games were played at Homefield Park, The Rotary and Victoria Park.

Local newspapers (Worthing Gazette, Worthing Herald and Shoreham Herald) all continued to print full scorecards each week for all local clubs - it wasn't until the 1950's that the papers' merged and reporting reduced to the odd paragraph.

The principle players were again Woolgar (who topped the Batting Averages with 307 @ 18) and Craddock (46 wickets at 6.4). Only half a dozen players could average double figures as the era of Bowler-friendly wickets continued.

Watsons' 67no being the top score of the summer, being one of only 4 half-century's made.

Woolgar himself took 40 wickets at 8 each. Cyril Childs had 5-3 and 3-4 which also include a hat-trick. AN Clark took a hat-trick in his 6-9 as Shoreham Grammar School made 22.

This season saw the first appearances by Len Punter and Ernest 'Harry' Foinette, who by the time they left the club in the early 50's had over 8,000 runs and 600 wickets between them. Punter went back to Old Azurians and Foinette moved to Worthing who he served for many years on and off the pitch.

1936 -

Again playing once a weekend, the results of 5-5-8 were a disappointment after the previous summer. Opponents included Broadridge Heath, Slindon, and Amberley as well as the usual double-headers against Findon, Old Azurians and Clayton. Cyril Childs was Captain. He'd play nearly 200 matches for the club in a long career.

The Batting Averages were won by L Pullen, who only twice batted above no.7 in the order and helped by a few not outs, including an innings of 59no from no.10 he finished with 185 runs for an 18.5 average. (His career Average finished on 15)

He did share an 85 run partnership for the 10th wicket with J Black that would stand for 50 years!

Broadridge Heath made 19 as Woolgar took 6-7 and Craddock 4-9. Woolgar topped the Bowling with 50 wickets at 8.1 each.

Childs, Watson, Edwards and Foinette all featured heavily with 10 players appearing in more than half the matches.

W Wells' debut season for the club saw 33 wickets at 12 each. Bowlers were still having their say in most games as again only a handful of players could be seen with >10 averages. The seasons' highest total of 210 included that last wicket record.

Home games again saw the club host sides at Homefield, Rotary, Victoria Park and Durrington.

Elsewhere, a train carriage called the Princess Helen, was formally opened as the new Pavilion at Lancing Manor.

1937 -

The season had started with reports of an exodus of players - Wells and Brazier who had played 16,17 each of the 18 played were indeed gone, but by the end of the 1937 season the backbone of the side remained as before.

Of the 23 matches played, 14 were won, 2 drawn and 7 lost. Homefield, Victoria and Rotary were 'home' for the summer.

William Semmons appeared for the first time. He would end the season winning both the Batting and Bowling Averages. Helped by 5 not outs, his 342 runs gave him an Average of 57. Heights previously unheard of.

His top score of 100no was the first under the 'WOG' flag, as the previous hundred, by Charles Skinner, was as Worthing II.

He ripped out 31 wickets at 7 each too and alongside Woolgar, 42 @ 9, Foinette 29 at 8 and Childs 31@10 there was always someone amongst the wickets each game. With Childs, Semmons put on 103 for the 4th wicket which stood for some time.

Frank Allen debuted in an innings victory over Ditchling. He hit a rapid 61 in WOG's 170 before Ditchling made 67 & 70.

Top run-scorer was Woolgar with 358 with 3x50's. He also became the first player to do a mini-double of 300 runs and 30 wickets in a season.

1938 -

Two principle events occurred this season. WOG reached the knock-out Cup Final (watched by over 400 at the Rotary) - and the tall, medium pacer, hard-hitting, 19 year old Dave Rickard appeared in WOG colours for the first time.

The route to the Cup Final exploded during the quarter-final, with 'Harry' Foinette hitting 102no in 62 minutes - his partner, Punter had 7 by the time he'd reached 50. This stood for over 70 years as the quickest hundred scored for the club.

The final was a disappointment as Worthing Chipp's skipper, C.White, hit the winning runs off the first ball of the last over chasing a 98 target in their 20 overs.

Full season results - included the Cup - saw 25 matches, with 15 won, 7 draws and only 3 defeats.

The start of the season was pretty good too. Len Punter and William Semmons came together at 13-2 and were not parted taking the score to 225. The 212 for the 3rd Wicket remains a record more than 70 years later.

Foinette also happened to win the Bowling Averages, 51 at 7, just ahead of Semmons 27 at 9 and Woolgar 51 at 9.7.

Foinette took a best of 8-21 and an astonishing 7-5 as Barns Green made just 27. His third best figures, 6-23 were good too.

Helped by their Hundreds, Punter 572 at 31.8, Semmons 409 at 31.4 and Foinette 400 at 28.5 lead the Batting.

Watson, Woolgar and Rickard all scored around 300 runs too. L Pullen, Cyril Childs and Howard Jay all score over 100 runs.

A very exciting season it appears to have been - covered thoroughly in the local press too.

Which perhaps encouraged local players to join up - Charlie Coleman and Jay himself had joined and would remain for years.

1939 -

Only 13 matches were reported as played. 8 won, 1 drawn and 4 lost. Homefield Park and The Rotary were "home".

The star player of the season was Dave Rickard, who doubled as WOG FC's goalkeeper during the winter; he was to finish, very unluckily, second in both the Batting and Bowling Averages. Despite 351 runs at 21 and 29 wickets at 5.3 he came behind George Cannons who scored 23 runs in 4 innings prior to hitting 86no and a final 109 runs at 27 is a rather sneaky win. Having only 4 dismissals should have discounted him, but 5 'innings' appears to have been the qualification. Guest bowler, Norman Mercer, who was a Worthing CC stalwart, ripped out 12 wickets at 4 each from 13 overs to win the Bowling. This is by far the fewest number of overs bowled to win the Cup. However, Rickard had made a marker for future seasons. Foinette, Childs and Punter all scored 200+ in the shortened season. Cannons, Semmons and another Worthing CC guest, Denys Greenfield, all took around a dozen cheap wickets. Perhaps decent groundsmen were thin on the 'ground' at the time. Low scores feature heavily - having bowled Barns Green out for 55, WOG fell for 28. WOG did defend 81 against Clayton (56) though.

There was no repeat of the Cup heroics as WOG fell in the first round.

WOG played Lancing CC for the first time, bowling them out for 84 before surpassing that and then continuing on the way to 138 with Greenfield's 40 supporting Foinette's 55. Rickard's 7-25 against Barns Green were the best figures of the season.

1940 -

It is of little surprise that the season was cut short due to WW2. Only six matches were recorded, 2 won, 1 drawn, 3 lost being the results. Only 5 of the 24 named in the teams had been past, or would be future, WOG players, (Foinette, Watson, Childs, Craddock and Rickard) the remainder being guests. Of those 'Jack' Eaton played 5 of the 6 games. He'd played for Sussex CCC on occasions as reserve Wicket-Keeper. For WOG he had of course been a standard above.

He scored the only half-century of the summer and also took 16 wickets at a little over 4 runs apiece, which nipped ahead of Rickard's 16 at 5.6 each. Rickard took the seasons' best 8-26 against Lancing CC, who were ripped out for 51. As fixtures and player availability fragmented, some of WOG's players joined Findon. Foinette ended up winning their Batting Averages!

The following six summers were devoid of any local cricket. Rickard missed years of playing from the age of 21 to 27.

When his final career figures are noted, the period 1940-1947 perhaps cost him 250 wickets. Foinette feasibly the same level.

William Woolgar who took 200 wickets from 1931-39 and William Semmons who had between 1937 & 1939 scored over 800 runs at an average of 31 (at a time when the club average was mid-teens) did not reappear after the war.

1946 -

In March the club had plans to play during the summer, however, pitches, fixtures and playing members could not be brought together in time and it wasn't until August 1946 that a meeting held at the Cricketers Hotel established future plans.

1947 -

28 fixtures had been organised over the winter. All but five being away due to a 'chronic shortage of pitches' in Worthing area. 16 wins and 9 losses with 3 cancelled. No draws to be seen - mainly as scores continued to be low. Only 5 totals over 150.

Lionel Watson was the first post-war Captain. Len Punter was the star batsman with a new record aggregate of 713 at 29.7. However, Ron Edgson's late season 76no saw him jump to 187 runs at 31.1 to win the Batting Averages.

Yet another season - and there would be more of course - where the winning Batting/Bowling Average was not the principle player. That is not to say Edgson wasn't a good player - during his time with WOG he'd average nearly 26 in over 50 matches - but Punter could perhaps be seen as robbed. Punter hit 4x50's and complimented this was 41 wickets at 10 each.

He had 3x5 wicket hauls too. With Edgson, Punter recorded a 10-wicket win chasing Portsmouth Bohemian's total of 163.

Chasing Clayton's 91 all out, WOG finished 20 short. Punter had carried his bat for 42no.

Rickard also hit 4x50's in his 506 runs (Av. 22) and that went with the record breaking 88 wickets at 7.1 each. 7 times he took 5 in an innings, the best being 7-26. He took hat-tricks on consecutive weekends in September. The highlight of Rickard's season was the last match at West Chiltonington. He scored 77 out of 162, then took 5-21, including a hat-trick for WOG to win by 100 runs. He became the first player to do the 500 run / 50 wicket season double. Foinette's 35 wickets @ 10 seemed lean.

Frank Allen had re-appeared and snared a few cheap wickets. He was to remain for another 15 seasons and dominate the club, perhaps more off the pitch than on it, during his time. His driving commitment to both Cricket and Football Clubs can't be questioned as he held numerous committee positions over the years. Fifteen year old Peter Bromley appeared for first time.

"Home" games were played at either Broadwater Green or The Rotary ground.

1948 -

A shortage of local pitches and the restriction on Sunday cricket meant most fixtures were away. 13 of the 21 matches were won, 4 drawn/abandoned and only 2 lost. Hill Barn, Rotary and Durrington were 'home'. Unfortunately no averages were printed in the local press and full scorecards weren't so common either, clearly the Sports editors were saving time/not cricket fans. That said the reports from other papers and details picked up from the local papers of the opposition have provided much information. Len Punter scored his second hundred for WOG in the seasons top score of 219 against Amberley in July.

In the 12 innings that are reported he scored 487 runs at 44 with 3 other scores of 50+. In August Rickard took a hat-trick in his 5-14. Later in the month C.White (of Chipps Cup Final fame) and Watson put on 75 unbroken against Ferring for 10th Wicket. Foinette and Rickard also hit half-centuries during the summer. Rickard took a reported four 5w hauls within 34 wickets at 5.7 each. George Cannons name appears only in the press three times, however that is for taking 6-50, 6-9 and 5-28!

Lesser performances are not known and so this season is mainly 'highlights' rather than inclusive of 'lowlights' too.

One performance cannot be missed. 'Jack' Eaton's 7-3 against Watersfield (20) which remains the best ever 7-for analysis.

Foinette and Bromley also took 6-for's during the season as teams' simply refused to open up games on the basis there was no guarantee they would chase the target if what could be called 'lesser bowlers' were used.

If a team was 30-6 there'd be no let-up at all as if that grew to 80 all out that could be more than enough!

In November press reported that a piece of land in Forest Road, Worthing had been acquired on a 5 year lease. There was hope that cricket could be played at the 'fine little sports ground' in 1950, but as things developed the first cricket would not be played until 23rd June 1951.

1949 -

At the AGM in February a record 37 fixtures were announced. This actually grew to 39 with a Won 22, Drawn 2,

Lost 15 record being the final analysis. For the 3rd year running, Lionel Watson was skipper.

No centuries were scored, but Punter (99) and Foinette (90) came close. Foinette had 2 other 50+ scores as he won the Batting Averages with 576 runs at 21.33 Punter's 681 @21.28 came just 5/100ths behind. Bromley (350) and Childs (402) also scored 50's along the way. Punter and Childs put on 116 for the 1st wicket against Partridge Green in a game they won by an innings.

The outstanding bowler was newcomer Ron Goble, a 24 year old medium-fast bowler who took 97 wickets at 6.47 each. Stunning figures in any era. He reportedly took his 100th wicket of the season in the last game of the season, but the additional '4' wickets were taken in the Knock-Out Cup, which for this seasons' Averages had been excluded, otherwise he would have been the first to the 100 mark. He did have a record 17-42 over the weekend of 11/12 June (8-14 and 9-28) when 16 of those 17 were clean bowled. George Cannon's 47 wickets at 10.8 placed him down in 5th place, but he did take a hat-trick.

Foinette took 47 wickets @ 8, Bromley 43 @ 9 and the returning Craddock (first season since before the War) 19 @ 10.

Frank Allen's 47 wickets at 11.5 was his first real stamp on the side although that unbelievably placed him 7th in the Averages.

The club also reached the Knock-Out final for the second time in their history. They imploded to 25 all out in only 11 overs to lose badly. Three club members, Andrew Joanes, RJ Adam and Peter Bromley were selected for the Sussex Young Amateurs - playing alongside future Sussex CCC 'stars' Robin Marlars and Don Bates. Over the coming seasons' Bromley would play County League level for Streatham, only reappearing for Tours and the odd match thereafter. A massive loss it could be said.

His final bowling record is still astonishing: In 47 matches he took nearly 150 wickets at just over 6 runs each with 12 hauls of 5 wickets, the best ratio of matches to 5 wickets by any bowler ever.

One 'star' name missing from the season was Dave Rickard who records only two nominal appearances - nothing is noted whether he was injured or working away, but a virtual blank season. I suspect Goble would not have taken 100 wickets!

Goble's 97 wickets came in 248 overs, a strike-rate of a wicket every 15 balls. A debut season unlikely to be bettered.

Home games were still being played at Durrington Rec, Hill Barn and The Rotary.

1950 -

Fixtures reduced to 35 for the summer, of 30 played, 10 wins, 2 draws and 18 defeats, 5 were lost to the weather. Again WOG reached the Knock-Out Cup Final. They completed the hat-trick of defeats when only mustering 66-9 in chasing down the Broadwater total of 138-7 from 20 overs. Len Punter took over the Captaincy. The Club colours were now said to be Black, Blue and White. The club had hoped the end of National Service would mean more members. However, 18 year old Bromley was still a huge loss as he would be in the forces. Harry Foinette trumped Goble's previous season by taking exactly 100 wickets. By mid July he had 52 wickets at 7 each. The final average of 8.6 was still astounding by modern standards. In all he took 8 hauls of 5 wickets, 5 of those being 6-fors. Dave Rickard had returned in full force, with 72 wickets at 10.8 each with the seasons best figures of 8-33 amongst his 5 hauls of 5. Goble ended with 25 wickets at 11 each, somewhat down on 1949. Punter broke his own run-aggregate record with 752 runs at 20.9 to win the Batting Averages for the 3rd time. Foinette 425 @ 17 and Rickard 517 @ 19 (with a top score of 94) came close behind. Rickard had again done the 500 run / 50 wicket double. Frank Allen took 9-28 as Arundel made 139. WOG only made 102, so despite Allen's efforts they actually lost the match. The last planned season of being somewhat 'nomadic' saw games at Hill Barn and The Rotary. The Forest Road Ground was getting into shape ready for the 1951 season.

1951 -

Forest Road wasn't actually ready for the start of the season as hoped, with 'opening' delayed until 23rd June. Until then they played at Hill Barn and Rotary. The first match at Forest Road saw a thumping 186 run defeat to Preston Nomads! Punter retained the Captaincy and then the Batting Averages too with 692 runs at 27.7 with his 3rd and last Century, 110 being the seasons' top score. Only one other player, Foinette with 379 @ 22, passed 250. Won 9, Drew 4, Lost 13 were the results. Watson, Rickard and Allen did all pass 200 runs but they were all less than half the runs and less than half the average too. Foinette 34 wickets at 14, Allen's best 70 at 12 and Punter 39 at 11.8 all came behind Rickard whose 77 wickets cost 9.9 each. Allen had 8-24 and 8-19 in his 4x 5w to put up against Rickard's 8-38 amongst his 9 hauls of 5 wickets or more in an innings. WOG enjoyed a 10 wicket win against Amberley after Rickard and Foinette took 5 wickets each in dismissing their hosts for just 47. Rickard then opened the batting too (23no) with Punter (38no) to see WOG home...and beyond! A week later chasing Partridge Green's 57 (Allen 8-19) they made 39! The day after, chasing Barns Greens 88, they made 72. This was Punter's last season for the club. He'd played a reported 194 matches, scoring 4436 runs at 24 with 3 hundreds and 20 fifties and won the Batting Averages on 4 occasions. His 3rd wicket partnership record of 212 unbroken still stands to this day. He also took 163 wickets at under 11 runs each. He went back to Old Azurians and continued to rack up the runs for them.

1952 -

WOG reached a milestone with the opening of their Forest Road pavilion before the game with Partridge Green on May 25th. It was to be used by both Cricket and Football teams. The cost was shared between club funds and an anonymous benefactor. In the match itself, 15 year old Les Lenham, making his debut, scored 97. He would go on to win the Batting Averages with 407 runs at 33.9 with 2 other 50+ scores. Rickard returned to form with 531 runs @ 22 and 74 wickets @ 9.6 for another 500/50 season double. He scored the seasons' only hundred, 101, as WOG racked up 234-6 against Dunsfold. His wickets included a best of 7-9 among his 5 hauls of 5 wicket matches. He won the Bowling Averages for the 3rd time. Joining Rickard in the 500/50 double was Foinette with 588 @ 21 and 70 wickets at 9.9. His best figures, 9-55, were also the seasons' best and also included a hat-trick. Ralph Parsons 30 wickets at 10 and Frank Allen, 60 @ 14 came 3rd and 4th. Watson was again a near ever-present, playing over 30 matches and score 332 runs. Sadly, no record of his keeping statistics. One match highlight to mention, as WOG were bowled out for 35 at Goring, Lenham, batting at no.3, finished unbeaten on 25! Lenham would join Sussex CCC as part of their junior academy and would over the next 25 years only appear fleetingly until he returned in the late 1970's to lead the club into a new era of dominance. WOG had scores of 45, 36 and that 35 but did pass 200 on a couple of occasions. Seven fixtures went unreported in the press. Results for the season, played 28, won 12, Drew 3, lost 13.

1953 -

Press reports in April had WOG satisfied with the upcoming fixture list being 'the best ever' - at seasons' end the results within the 31 matches played were: won 14, drawn 5, lost 12. 7 matches were cancelled. Further improvements had been made at Forest Road - including the square which over an August weekend saw nearly 700 runs scored. Foinette was skipper. 'Practice' nets on Monday's and Thursday's were announced to entice new members. Only the leading averages were listed in the Sussex CCC yearbook which has Ron Edgson 341 runs at 34 in 10 innings with 4x50's leading the Batting. Closely followed by Rickard 629 at 27 with 5x50's and newcomer Alan Adams who scored a record 530 runs in a debut season that still stands nearly 60 years later. They did come in 31 innings at an average of 18 with a best of 87no of his 3 50+ scores. Thereafter press reports and scorecards give us a good record - Lionel Watson, Cyril Childs and John Denyer were still playing, supported by regulars like Frank Allen, Harry Foinette and Ralph Parsons. With newer players such as Mike Graham, Andrew Joanes and Les Lenham's cousin, Ray Knight and for a few games Les himself, the club was well served by talented all-rounders. Knight was a strapping 6'4 left-arm, faster-than-most, bowler who as a child would enjoy summers' with Les pretending to be Trueman and Statham. Over the next decade he would become the spearhead and be simply too good for the level that WOG played at. He'd eventually leave for a bigger challenge. As a pair, Knight and Rickard were as devastating as Peasgood and Pengelly in the 1920's. Perhaps later in the club's history Tony Watts with either Gerry Dawson/Neil Hewitt in the 1960's and then Russell Wood/Norman Johnson in the early 70's could approach them, but the statistics, over a longer period, make them stand out alone. This season saw Foinette with 35 wickets at 10.4, Lenham 16 at 10.7 and Parsons with 36 at 10.9 lead the averages - closely followed by Rickard (50+ wickets again) who could console himself with yet another 500/50 season double. Allen's 7-33 was the seasons' best. Some highlights: Winning by 10 wickets chasing Brighton Insurance's 41 (Knight 4-2). Chasing Billingshurst' 58, WOG made 46. At Shipley the hosts were bowled out for 11 with Staplin 4-1 and Rickard 4-7 doing the damage. Rickard then helped himself to a 50 as WOG made 123-6dec, before the host showed little better in their second innings to be all out for 49.

1954 -

A long list of fixtures saw 37 matches played, 16 won, 11 drawn and 10 lost. The club now provided 'free' parking as well as being able to offer teas and refreshments to spectators. An extension was built to the pavilion and a new concrete practice wicket was laid. In June Harry Foinette resigned as Captain and left the club. He'd served for some 20 years and his record as an "all-rounder" is second only to Rickard's. In just short of 200 matches he scored over 3,500 runs with 15 scores of over 50, including that Cup Final Hundred. He also reaped 448 wickets at 9.7 each with 27 hauls of 5 wickets or more.

During the summer the press had a quarter-page article on him, regarding his career as the biology master and sports master at Worthing High School. It covered his time at Cambridge University where his sporting prowess took him into the Athletic team. He later played football for Grammarian FC and also won the odd Golf tournament too. All-Rounder he certainly was!

He was replaced by Frank Allen who would then take up the post 'officially' the following year and remain in the role until his departure in the early '60s. The club had its first tour since before the war with a four match venture to the West Country, taking in matches against Shaftsbury, Crewkerne, South Wiltshire and Dorchester Casuals.

On the field two outstanding seasons were had, by Ron Edgson who retained his Batting Trophy with 717 runs at 23 with 4 scores of over 50. Adams again score 500+ runs, but averaged in the low teens.

Watson, Rickard, Graham, Denyer and the returning Peter Bromley all scored fifties at various times during the summer.

Bowling wise, well, Dave Rickard blew all records away with 104 wickets at an average of just 6.66.

On 10 occasions he took 5 wickets or more. Including 9-11 against Brighton & Hove 'A'. This remains the best figures in the clubs' history. The match was a two innings affair, he took 5-33 in the second innings too. 14-44 in the day.

The following Sunday he took 11-62 (7-38, 4-24) in another two innings match. Not forgetting 7-23 and 8-23 in other matches. In all his figures were 255.4-42-693-104. A strike-rate of a wicket every 15 balls is astonishing. He also missed a few games!

When he'd passed 50 for the season he became the first bowler to take 500 for the club. Nearly 60 years later he is still only one of six bowlers to pass that milestone. Despite all his efforts he was pipped at the Bowling Averages by Peter Bromley, who took 28 at only 6.64. Had he conceded a single run more he would have dropped below Rickard. This was to be the first of three second place finishes in the mid-1950's for Rickard, who would end up with 'second place' on six occasions to go with 4 Bowling Cups. Bromley's efforts were helped by the Tour, where on consecutive days he managed to help himself to 7-29 and 7-54. Lenham's influence saw Derek Semmence appear in WOG colours, where he chipped in with 5-5 & 4-21 in one 2-inns match. Knight took 39 wickets at 12 and Allen 52 at 12.2 as eight bowlers scrambled to take any wickets that Rickard didn't.

1955 -

Another 36 weekend, mid-week and tour matches saw 19 wins, 5 draws and 11 defeats and one abandoned.

A new batting star was Ian Pitt, who'd won Lancing Manor's Averages the previous season. He had captained the Worthing and District Cricket Junior Association during 1955 too. He was to move clubs' again, to Worthing CC, before too long though, as his talent was clear to see. He would return sporadically over the next decade and finished with 1,000+ career runs for WOG.

He duly came top with 467 runs at 23 with a top score of 84no among his 3 scores of 50+. Another newcomer, Phil Akam, was a 30 year old all-rounder who had just been discharged from the Royal Navy. His debut season of 493 runs at 22 and 72 wickets at 10.96 has probably never been bettered. Six times he took 5 or more in an innings and with Rickard's 74 @ 9 (with 7 x 5w) they formed another devastating pair of bowlers each bowling well over 200 overs each. The Bowling Cup was again won by Peter Bromley, who took 34 wickets at the ridiculously low average of 4.9. This was mainly due to his tour performances of taking 24-108 off 63 overs in the four matches he bowled in where he took 7-35, 6-23, 3-9 and 8-41. David Duffield, Worthing CC guest, took 8-16 including a hat-trick as Cooksbridge fell for 41. Parsons and Knight also had their moments in their 20+ wickets each.

Rickard, Allen and Adams all passed 300 runs but all averaged in the teens.

The tour to the West Country took in Shaftsbury, Frome, South Wiltshire, Dorchester and D&M School who played at the Bovington Camp ground. Derek Semmence was given leave from Sussex CCC to join the tour - duly hitting the season best 88. Frank Allen continued to skipper with Rickard as Vice-Captain.

Press reported "Worthing Old Grammarians' Cricket Club is an unconstitutional club, for it has no rules and stipulates only that members must be good cricketers and good sportsmen" Speaking at the Club Dinner held at the Berkeley Hotel, Allen said "we like it that way and hope those who meet us like it too". The club was hoping to focus on increasing junior members.

1956 -

37 Matches were played during the season - Wins 16, Drawn 5, Lost 16. Frank Allen again Captained the side.

The club was looking somewhat thin of strength as they lost Edgson (Worthing CC), Lenham and Knight to National Service, Ian Pitt was working in Rhodesia and Andrew Joanes was teaching in the USA.

This meant intensive push for new players which didn't really materialise as it turned out. As this and others clubs have found, local players do show loyalty to their clubs if they are happy and new members are sought from junior interest and new locals. On the pitch WOG beat Old Parmiterians with an overthrow from the last ball of the match.

Another mid-July tour, based at Shaftsbury, saw five matches played - Shaftsbury, Frome, Shaftsbury Grammar School, Dorchester Casuals and Bovington Camp. The Dorchester game was rained off. The touring party consisted of more guests than actual WOG members. WOG always had a wide circle of friends who'd join the tour, but weekend play was elsewhere.

Players such as Harold Goodwin and George Renham (Azurians) joined most tours and contributed well. However, the last match of the tour saw WOG bowled out for 36, with Peter Bromley's 26 nearly 3/4 of the total.

Dave Rickard carried the team almost single-handedly, being the leading run-scorer, 611 at 30.5 and took 76 wickets in 283 overs at 9.9 each (the last time he'd do the 500/50 double for the club). Twice in the season he did the match double of 50r/5w.

Phil Akam did his best to keep up, finishing second in the Batting averages, but his 328 runs were at 13.7 and his 45 wickets came at 16.5 each. Alan Adams again was a near ever present and scored 422 runs at 13.6.

Frank Allen (200+), Mike Graham, John Denyer and Lionel Watson all contributed to the runs on occasions.

1956 continued.

The Bowling averages were actually won by Ray Knight, who's 34 overs brought him 13-67 and an average of 5.15. Rickard again finished second despite being the principle bowler. Allen, Parson and the odd appearance from Bromley saw wickets shared, but Rickard taking 9 hauls of 5 included 7-48, 7-27, 6-26, 6-39 and 5-10 being the pick.

Two outstanding performances stand out. Rickard scoring 146 not out with 5x6's and 23x4 followed by 5-21 to become the only player in the clubs history still to have achieved such a match double. A month later, the Worthing CC guest, Norman Mercer scored 96 not out followed by 5-56 to almost match it. Elsewhere Ralph Parsons' 11.2-4-9-7 stood out as the seasons' best. The annual club dinner at the Berkeley Hotel saw Sussex CCC Coach, James Langridge and players, Don Smith and Ken Suttle as guest speakers. WOG Captain, Frank Allen and Vice Captain, Dave Rickard also spoke. The press seemed somewhat harsh in its review of the dinner (not sure why they were present anyway) as the headline "Speeches mostly Gay" found the mirth of all those, bar the dour Langridge, in summing up what was wrong with the mindset of young sportsmen of the time.

1957 -

Was a very significant season in the history of Worthing Old Grammarians Cricket Club and ultimately its future incarnations, 'Manor Cricket Club' and 'Lancing Manor Cricket Club'. The move from playing in Worthing to the Manor Ground, Lancing.

In February Worthing Council had abandoned its plans to build a school on the Forest Road site - with the possibility of WOG playing home game on the playing field - instead the ground was to be sold to housing developers. The club managed to complete the 1957 season, but then began a frantic search for a new home. In May they'd begun reserving corporation pitches for the '58 season, but their application to move to the vacant Lancing Manor ground was approved, subject to no other applications before the end of June. Sompting applied, as did the evicted Lancing Manor club. But in September '57 the Council confirmed that WOG would be the new tenants of the Manor Ground in Lancing. WOG were not impressed with the square (which in truth was partly why the previous tenants were evicted) and even thought of moving it's square from Forest Road, turf by turf - until it was deemed financially just a farcical idea.

The club won only 9 of the 33 matches, drawing 2 and losing a new record of 22. Only the 26 lost in '62 is higher.

The Annual Tour had to be cancelled due to petrol rationing. Skipper Allen missed a period of the season after an operation and the performances of Rickard, Akam and Allen himself were well down on recent seasons.

Mike Graham had his most successful season for the club, 330 runs at 23 won the batting averages. His career only totalled just over 1,000 runs. Ken Batchelor impressed during his first full season (after a brief spell in '56) in finishing 2nd in both batting and bowling averages (194 @ 21 and 15 @ 10). A 'lanky' 19 year old left handed naval student, John Bee, impressed in his debut season with 404 runs at 18 and 39 wickets at 12. He had a top score of 72 to go with the seasons' best figures of 7-42. Barry Harman made his debut and later scored his maiden 50 for the club. His association would span some 30+ seasons. Ray Knight nipped in with 14 wickets in 47.4 overs at 6 each to retain the Bowling Cup in a handful of games.

Adrian Snow was a hard-hitting all-rounder who hit 3x6's in his maiden 50. Derek Semmence had pre-Sussex practice in hitting 105no for WOG at Findon. Later in the season, Rickard 5-9 and Bee 5-10 bowled Horsham Leatherhunters out for 24.

With the tour cancelled, their hosting of 'Sussex Club and Ground' grew a large crowd to Forest Road. WOG made a paltry 40.

1958 -

With the one year 'trial' lease taken up, WOG moved to the Lancing Manor Ground. 43 Fixture were played - a record - with 17 wins, 6 draws and 17 defeats (as well as 3 abandoned) the first season at the Manor proved to be substantial and not without its success on and off the field. 13 new members had joined, some of whom would contribute much and the West Country tour was back on too. Within a couple of games the square became an embarrassment. The surface became simply dangerous and visiting sides often complained. More so if they were beaten of course! Storrington stormed off to their coach without accepting Allen's apology or offer of drinks. Allen then broke his thumb himself during another match. 22 year old Johnny Evans had a match to remember against Old Manorians with 62 and 7-31. He'd been promoted from his usual position of 9 to 3 to give it a whack and he did. Those remained his career best performances. He ended with 40 wickets at 7.95 each. Ray Knight won the bowling averages for the 3rd consecutive year. Virtually unplayable he took 61 wickets at 6.38 each with 7 hauls of 5w+ including a best of 8-14 against Keymer & Hassocks who made 46 and 7-9 as Southwick made 28.

In a special feature in the papers during May, Lancing Athletic and WOG argued over who nurtured Les Lenham's early career. Athletic had a team photo from 1951 that included a lad with a large sun-hat said to be Lenham. In 1952 he played a full season with WOG. Athletic won the 'debut', but WOG provided the platform for him to go on to Sussex CCC.

It could also be said that as Knight and Lenham spent their summer holidays playing on the Lancing Manor outfield that both their careers 'came back home' when WOG moved to the Manor.

The touring party was said to have more guests than WOG members yet again - make of that what you will. Appearing in one game was to be Len Punter, who'd left WOG for Old Azurians for 1952. No record is known of his performance, if he did play. Other tourists included guests from Ferring, Arundel and other Azurians too.

During the main season, Geoffrey Bee (John's brother) joined the club and was to play in over 30 matches. (John was soon to be Australia bound). Ken Batchelor, Alan Adams (300+ runs) and Frank Allen all played 30+ matches too. Allen had one of his best seasons' with the bat and ended the top run-scorer with 433 with 2 fifty's - his first since 1937. His average of 16 was some 13 below the winning average, by Dave Rickard, whose 416 at 29 that won him a final Batting Trophy. He had 3 scores of 50+ and yet another (his 6th) match double of 50 runs and 5w. His 29 wickets cost a high (for him) 17 runs each. This was to be Rickard's last season for WOG and he retired, aged just 41. His all-round record will surely not be beaten. In around 300 matches he scored 5,265 runs at 20.25 with 2x100 and 27x50. He also took 66 hauls of 5 wickets or more in reaping 768 at less than 9 each. His 9-11 remains the best figures. The 146no stood until 1983 as the top individual score too. He played as goalkeeper for many years for WOG FC and it is perhaps an injury that saw him finish. Maybe he didn't like the Manor. His batting was always described as 'hard-hitting' (he was once out in the first over of a match for 14!) The bowling figures, simply irresistible. At the time of his leaving he had scored more runs, taken more wickets, played more games and held both the batting and bowling records. 6 seasons lost to WW2 significantly reduced the final totals by feasibly a third.

1959 -

WOG's second season at their Lancing Manor home saw a record 44 fixtures played through the season, with 18 wins, 5 draws and 21 defeats. Not a surprise with so many matches that runs and wickets were at high levels too. For only the second time of three occasions ever, three bowlers took over 50 wickets each. Frank Allen 53 at 16, Tom Dix 53 at 14 and Ray Knight with 58 at 7.9. Head and shoulders above the rest of the bowlers again to win the Averages for the 4th consecutive year.

Considering Allen 228.5, and Dix 218.1 bowled more than Knights 156 overs, the strike rate of 16 was some 10 fewer than any of the six other bowlers who qualified. Over the weekend of 16/17th May he took a combined 15.1-9-19-14. He took 7-10 against Coalville, who made 34, with a 3-wicket maiden. The next day his 7-9 included a Hat-Trick then the next 4 wickets in his next over against Sussex Downs who managed a paltry 14 all out! Tom Dix in his debut season supported Knight's fast-left-arm with medium pace and had the astonishing figures of 9-15 against Worthing 'A' who must have collapsed to 103 all out.

In a season of new blood, teenager Keith Forshaw took 6-9 and 14 year old Tony Harding 4-17. Forshaw ended with 39 wickets too and with Phil Akam taking 33 wickets there were eight bowlers who achieved a 5+ wicket haul during the summer. Keith's elder brother Graham won the Batting Averages with 194 runs at 23 in 12 innings. Frank Allen's 38 innings saw him hit a personal best 758 runs at 19.95 with a couple of 50+ scores. Geoff Bee, Knight, Alan Adams, Phil Akam, Arthur Patience and newcomer Bill Garland all scored 200+ runs. Garland and Allen put on a record 141 for the 1st wicket. Against Ferring the last pair of Don Ambrose and John Stevens put on 48 unbroken for victory with two minutes spare.

Other club matters saw a soil analysis reveal the square being almost solid clay, so the club had a huge job of improving that.

The club appealed again in the press for new players, "We have the lowest playing membership since the club was formed in 1922" said Allen, during one of his regular statements to the press. He stressed the club had traditions to uphold and a strong fixture card to maintain. He blamed age and employment as reasons - Rickard had retired, Robin Parsons was in the forces, Ray Knight could only play Saturdays (still took 58 wickets!) and Ken Batchelor was now working in London.

In May the club discovered an Oil Painting above the fire place in the Corner House (Sussex Potter). This painting came into the clubs' hands during the summer of 2011 when a local firm of Solicitor's donated it to the club having had it on their office wall for more years than anyone could remember. It now takes pride of place on the present pavilion wall.

The club 'toured' for the sixth time, again to the West Country. Taking in fixtures against Shaftsbury, Midsomer Norton, Shaftsbury Grammar School, Dorchester Casuals and finally, Crewkerne. Allen's 6-16 won against Shaftsbury for first time in five attempts. The touring squad again consisted of 50/50 WOG/guest players.

Other match highlights saw Amberley out for 30, a 10-wicket defeat against MD Neligan's XI and a weekend to forget against Findon and Slinfold when they lost by 207 and then 156 runs. On three other occasions WOG lost by 100+ runs.

In September the wicket was aligned North-South for the final three games of the season. The first two matches saw scores of 182-6, 181, 207-7 & 191-9 before the last saw 137-9 play 68. The idea was shelved for the winter and another decade.

1960 -

Fixtures were reduced to 35 with only 9 won, 4 drawn and that record equalling 22 defeats. (1962 was soon to break it). No formal averages were published in the press, but the results and individual performances were clearly below the standard seen previously. The tour had to be cancelled through lack of member's interest, which didn't go down well with the committee. The club were granted a further 3+2 year lease of the ground, after which the ground had to be leased 'season by season'.

A groundsman had been employed to maintain the square all year. The club had been granted permission to use the 'mortuary' in the basement of the Manor House, electricity and running water was to be supplied. Annual subs were to be replaced by a match fee instead in order to generate additional income. During May, Les' brother Keith Lenham made his debut.

The second half of the season saw the addition of Billy Minns (break from Durham Uni) and schoolboy Richard Lloyd-Evans who proved to be very useful indeed. Tadworth were bowled out for 17 with Keith Forshaw 5-5 and Allen 3-11 taking wickets.

Ian Pitt, who as a 17 year old won the Batting Averages in 1955, returned after four years service in the Rhodesian and Nyasaland Federal Army to play the odd game. Goring hit 232-0 in 107 minutes in 31 overs before WOG succumbed at 80. The previous day WOG had scratched with only eight available. That same number had caused the tour to be cancelled.

A ten-wicket defeat to old adversaries, Old Azurians in early May formed part of sequence of only 2 wins in 15 matches.

Les Lenham returned for the match at Burgess Hill, where with Allen he put on 100 for the 1st wicket as both made 60's. He then bowled off-spin to take 5-33. The season did see the odd highlight, Bill Garland's 8-33 won against West Hove and Lloyd-Evans' 7-14 saw Ferring dismissed for 40. Allen's 5-1 rolled Amberley for 53 before he joined Lloyd-Evans in helping WOG win by 10 wickets. Strangely those figures had overtaken Forshaws' 5-5 as the best ever 5-for analysis of only weeks before.

What we do know statistically is that Allen scored just short of 300 runs and took over 30 wickets, with 2 half-centuries and 3 hauls of 5+ wickets, including a best of 7-28. Akam 7-33 and Knight 6-44 also did well. Geoff Bee had been leading the Averages at the time of his finishing his season - again over 230+ runs are known. Pitt 62, Knight 50no, and Allen with another 60 all passed 50's. The lack of averages sees the record of the season at minimal levels, although the results and details therein do not suggest anyone took 50 wickets or scored over 500 runs.

A season to forget in terms of results they had and also the individual performances on the field.

The December AGM saw press reports of a 'blow out' at the club which resulted in 3 committee members resigning and leaving the club. Frank Allen was said to be at the heart of the dispute. No details were given.

It transpired later that the Club Chairman, Cyril Childs' 30 year association with the club had come to an abrupt and sad end.

1961 -

PL 43, Won 11, Drawn 7, Lost 19, Abb3 - Included here were 10 all-day fixtures. What a difference a year makes.

What a difference having a classy batsman makes. Ian Pitt had now returned fully and the 23 year old stormed the Batting Averages with 635 runs at 27.6. He scored his first hundred for the club, 103, as well as hitting 3 other half-centuries.

Supported by the returning Ken Batchelor, 433 at 21, Geoff Bee, 295 at 18 and 600 between Lloyd-Evans and Allen, WOG returned to form. Ray Knight was still only playing once a week due to his Policeman duties and won his 5th Bowling Cup (he may have won it in 1960 too, so possibly 6th in a row) - with 25 wickets at 8.4 each, with a best of 7-33. Dix returned to form too with 44 at 10.9 with 7-38 his best. Akam 23, Pitt 35, Allen 25, Batchelor 29 and Lloyd-Evans 25 all took a generous helping of wickets. Lloyd-Evans' 5-105 still stands as the most expensive 5-for analysis - a year after Allen's record low of 5-1. The return of Ian Pitt also saw his fast bowling friend, Tony Watts, move from Worthing CC to WOG. His 17 wickets at 14 each was just a glimmer of what the next five seasons would bring.

An innovation this year was a periodical newsletter. A pre-season 'dance' attended by some 130 members, wives and friends had been organised in order to raise funds for crockery, cutlery, table-cloths etc, as the club wished to provide it's own teas.

By April the brick building adjacent to the Manor House known as the 'mortuary' (as it had been previously used by the St. John Ambulance Brigade), had been transformed into a lounge and separate kitchen. Carpeted, a large settee and a three piece suite as well as other furnishings made for a splendid lounge indeed. The kitchen had 'mod cons' including 'Harlequin' crockery. One drawback was the discovery of a rat that had been living in back of the settee!

Playing membership had risen to 36. The members, plus the groundsman had improved the wicket enormously. After the first match the new 'clubhouse' was opened with a party. The Train carriage building overlooking the ground was (apart from one room used by visiting cricketers to change); the sole residency of the Crown Bowlers who had taken a firm hold after earlier disputes with the previous cricket club and now permitted very little access. Such a shame it couldn't have been fully shared.

By June a licence had been granted for a bar and the social club was now fully operational. A new mower was purchased at a cost of £40 and the new 'covers' were being used to protect the wicket. How times have changed.

After the last game of the season some 50 cricketers + friends attended the end of season party. Raffle prizes improved club funds. In November the clubs' second annual all-male supper was held at the Cricketers. 38 members and guest attended.

The guest speaker was Mr Charles Homan, a Worthing Solicitor. I guess he meant something to someone at the time.

After a player dropped out on the morning of a game, Les Lenham just happened to be available; he eased to 98, before being bowled in the last over before tea. It was a fortnight before his 25th birthday. The all-day game against New Haw turned into a two-innings match after both teams' had been bowled out for sub 60 scores. Gerry Dawson's debut season was marred by a broken hand having fallen in delivering a ball. There were Seven Ducks in WOG's 120 all out at Amberley as Ian Pitt stood firm with 80 not out. Short of players, Allen called County coach George Cox for help. He provided 18 year old Barry Brown (5-24) and Peter Shade (who made 8no in 70 minutes to draw the game).

15 year old Wicket-Keeper-Batsman, Dave Peskett had promising press reports.

In June press, a feature on a local 'Cricket Captain' focussed on Frank Allen, complete with photo and sporting history. It noted that in 1962 Allen would be completing 25 years service and would be rewarded, traditionally, by the club with a gold watch.

1962 -

Another full summer for WOG saw 37 matches played. However, a club record 26 losses that still stands today must have been demoralising for the players. Just 7 wins and 4 draws saw any respite from a series of heavy defeats. It wasn't until the 19th match of the season, 15th July that the first game was won. September saw 4 wins. At least ending on a high of sorts.

One critical factor was the loss of Ray Knight - 5 time (possibly 6) winner of the bowling averages had left the club for Goring in May. It is not clear whether he was frustrated with the squad, but he wasn't averse to such change. Press around the same time reported that when 'rested' by his Football Club, he immediately sulked and went elsewhere 'to feel wanted'.

His 9 year association with the club 1953-61 saw 265 wickets at less than 9 each. With 15 hauls of 5 wickets in his recorded 96 matches. If you were to treble those figures into 288 matches & 795 wickets, you have similar to those of Rickard, 281 matches & 767 wickets! However you compare them, they rightly sit at the top table of bowlers the club has had.

Rickard had been replaced by Knight. Now Knight was to be replaced by Tony Watts, who in fewer seasons took more wickets than Knight. After Watts' departure, Russell Wood took on the mantle, followed by John Coles. 'Great' bowlers all.

It is however another season where full averages are missing. However, there is much to be gleaned from the results and reports from the papers. Watt's is seen to have taken 62 wickets at under 10 each, with best of 6-12, 5-15 and 5-19.

17 year old Phillip Neller stood up too, his 20 cheap wickets supporting Watts. Phil Akam, Ian Pitt and before his return to Dublin Uni, Adrian Snow, all took double-figures of wickets too. New players R Day and D Atkins also took 6-fors.

The undoubted batting star was Ken Batchelor who in 18 reported innings scored 555 runs at 37 with 4 half-centuries. We are not aware of his 'failures', but it is of course feasible that we are missing a further 100-150 runs from his actual total. Whatever his final total, he out performed the rest. Snow, Watts, Geoff Bee all scored 150+ runs with new players, Brian Moore (298) and Steve Slater (209) passing the 200 mark.

It is perhaps not a coincidence that the press reporting waned from this season onwards - as there was another significant loss to the club on the playing field. Frank Allen who had played since 1937 - and had voiced his concerns that new players were needed in pre-season press, failure to be highlighted at all in any of the games. For such a central player not to have scored a 'double figure score' or take a '2-for' - which were the minimum requirements to be noted in any match reports - suggest he missed the entire season or those few matches he did play he simply failed miserably. He returned for a few final games in '63. February press highlighted that for club that had been one of the strongest in the district they had slipped and the impressive fixture list was possibly something they may not retain. Weekly nets were held at Field Place on Wednesday evenings.

In May the club bought a motor mower. The club was also granted permission to lay a concrete wicket. East of the 'East' trees.

At the December '62 AGM, it was agreed that annual subscriptions for 1963 of 30 shillings could be paid in 3 instalments of 10 shillings on 1st May, July and September. Match fees were to remain at 1 shilling.

Frank Allen resigned as captain. He was elected president. Tony Watts would be Captain. Ken Batchelor became Team Secretary and Fixture Secretary. Freddie Greenwood became Vice-Captain. He'd achieve nothing on the field of play of note.

1963 -

Fixture had reduced to 36 - however performances again waned - Only 7 wins and 6 draws were salvaged from a season that saw 22 losses. However, there was the excitement of a rare tied game.

Again a season of minimal statistic record - no averages were printed in the two Worthing papers or the County Handbook which all had been reliable sources over the years. The match reports did note scores of 10+ and notable bowling performances. From those, as they were in 1962, the Batting and Bowling stars were Ken Batchelor and Tony Watts.

Batchelor scored nearly 300 runs in 10 innings, 3 which were not out, with top scores of 74no and 59no. Watts took 72 wickets at a single figure average with 5 hauls of 5 wickets or more. He took 4 on 7 occasions too. 12 matches of 4+ which is excellent. Only Dawson, Neller and in debut season, Neil Hewitt, took significant 15+ hauls. Watts certainly carried the attack.

New players Richard Harvey, David Thomas, Stan Hawken all scored 100+ runs. Brian Moore again with 200 and David Peskett with 233 had their moments. Indeed, Peskett's 90 was the clubs top score of the summer and would remain Peskett's top 1st XI score - although he would pass three figures for the 2nd XI nearly 30 seasons later!

WOG scored only 28 chasing Old Azurian's 150. The next day they made 43 chasing the 112 of Southwick. That weekend was soon forgotten the Saturday after when they bowled West Chiltington out for 27. Watts 5-6 and Neller 4-19 chief destroyers.

In mid August 62 all out was followed up the next day with 33 at home to Ashdown. So it continued with only the odd score of 100+ amongst others of 55, 75, 54, 82 and 84. Little wonder the average match score of 107 saw more defeats than wins.

From January indoor nets were held at Field Place. In April the Chief Public Health Inspector reported the club regarding the need for satisfactory sanitary conveniences at their social club. The matter was reported to the 'Beaches and Open Spaces Committee - who were to look into it and issue a report. No further reports that the facilities were improved.

In a match with West Chiltington, chasing 115 for victory, WOG collapsed from 108-6 to 113-9. With the scores then level the last wicket fell with 2 balls of the last over remaining. In August the club was promoting the upcoming benefit match to be played against Sussex CCC at the Manor. Rev David Sheppard and Ian Thomson were hoping to get Frank Worrell or other touring West Indians' to play too. That failed to happen, but the club were granted permission for cars to park round the boundary and 600 deck-chairs were provided by Sussex Cricket Welfare Association. The match raised £105. The publicity saw 4 touring teams asking for fixtures. That's club sides, not International teams! Through this season the club had struggled for players and funding, but this glamour match had done much to turn the tide. The match itself saw Sussex CCC ramp up 223-6 with Ken Suttle 55, Sheppard 41 top scorers. WOG's Hewitt took 2-36 in 10 overs, including Suttle, to impress the Sussex players and large crowd. WOG were rolled over for 83. Batchelor with 19 and the guest, Ken Dalmon, 29, were the top scorers. This glamour match caused internal argument as more and more guests turned out for WOG meaning members being dropped. Frank Allen's record: 300 matches, 3760 runs & 515 wickets is similar to Foinette's, but way behind Rickard's.

1964 -

Another disastrous season saw 20 defeats from 35 matches. Just 6 were won and 5 drawn.

Watts (50), Dawson (33) and Hewitt (16) did their best with the ball - 8 hauls of 5 wickets between them, as they all had averages in single figures, but the continuing issue was the lack of runs. Watt's had expressed to the press that 'the club needed more bowlers, more batsman and simply more players!'. Frank Allen had definitely left the club now too, to a place unknown.

Dawson did have a chance of an all-ten performance after taking the first 9 (11-2-35-9), but Roger Spells nicked out the last man to deny any record breaking. Watts had carried the bowling for a couple of seasons now and the pressure got to him and he resigned the Captaincy and his position on the Committee saying he was being left to do too much. Derek Rice took over for the remainder of the season, with Dawson as Vice-Captain. In July Watt's was selected for the Club Cricket Conference Presidents XI for the match at Arundel. It confirmed his standing in weekend cricket and how lucky WOG were to have him.

In the all-day match at Hatch End, Brian Moore scored 29 in just short of 2 1/2 hours. It simply delayed the inevitable loss.

In November a bomb exploded in the pavilion but the damage was not particularly serious. The club had sought a 7-year lease.

Run-scoring was at a premium - only 5 recorded half-centuries were reported in the press, Adrian Snow's 76 being the highest with 75 being the higher of the two by Richard Harvey. Half-season skipper, Rice showed his mettle too with 67.

A pitiful 25 all out at Amberley during May could have been worse not for Roy Loveland's 18. Representing 72% of the total.

Match totals of 52, 64, 86, 97, 76, 91 and 89 (in a 10 wicket defeat to Burgess Hill) tell the continuing tale of frustration.

The match at Southwick, chasing 120, saw WOG slump to 35-9 before the last pair of Hewitt and Vardell slogged to that 64.

On **7th February 1965** it was decided to change the name to **Manor Cricket Club**. Voting had been 7-6 in favour of change.

The AGM in November 1964 had seen the proposal rejected by a single vote too.

It was agreed that for 1965 and 1966 both the Old and New names would be on the fixture card. It was hoped that despite the case being so for many years, the club was not solely accepting old school boys as members, but anyone wishing to play the game. On field in 1965 the 30 reported matches, 9 were won, 5 drawn and 16 lost. New players arrived.

The Club Lounge was 'always crowded' and the spirit of the club had been considerably lifted. New players included Mike Reynolds and Graham Hill (Athletic), John Carver (Littlehampton), Chris Lyons (Sompting) and Len Cheshire (Hendon). Reynolds would eventually Captain through the 70's.

The highlight of the 1965 season was again Tony Watts. He reached 100 wickets in the last match of the season.

His figures were noted as being: 355 overs, 124 maidens, 683 runs, 100 wickets - for an Average of 6.83. Less than 2 an over.

In the two matches against West Chiltington his combined figures were a startling 24-13-17-16 as he followed 12-7-6-8 in the away match with 12-6-11-8 in the home fixture. He also took 8-12 to become the only bowler ever to take 3x 8 wicket hauls in a single season. That Dawson and Hewitt took 44 & 32 recorded wickets too, with 5 & 4 hauls of 5w+ too, the bowling was again as strong as it had ever been. With Lyons' debut season also seeing a single-figure bowling average it is a wonder how the opposition scored anything to defend. But as before, the oppositions' 12 runs per wicket was more than Manor's 9.9 per wicket. That figure is the lowest ever 'club' average runs per wicket apart from 1922 and 1925.

Manor had scores of 41, 38, 54, 73, 57 and 59. The 59 was against Sussex CCC who having struggled against Manor's bowling themselves, decided to unleash their County bowlers fully. The nadir was 19 all out against Petworth Park, whose own press reports were damning in the extreme. No full averages were recorded, but Moore, David Lewis, Reynolds, Hill all scored 150-250 runs. Les Lenham appeared in the last match of the season, duly hitting the first hundred since Pitt's in 1961 with 102no.

He hit 5 sixes in all - one of which landed on the roundabout. The name had changed, but the spirit of the members continued.