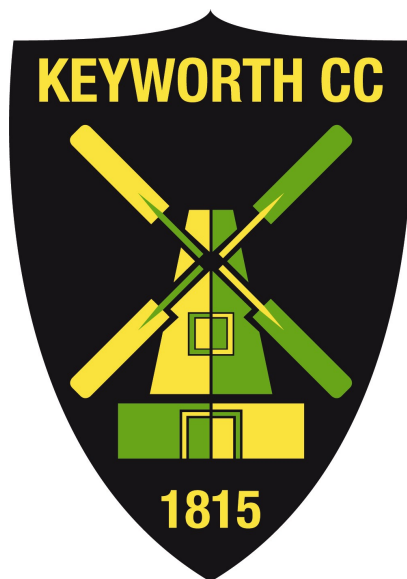


History
of
KEYWORTH CRICKET CLUB
Nottinghamshire, England

Last revised October 2022



The History of Keyworth Village & Keyworth Cricket Club...

An excellent publication, Keyworth 1894-1994 - A Century of Change, produced in 1994 by the Keyworth & District Local History Society, is obtainable from local libraries and provides a background to the village and it's people. Within Chapter 6 there is a section on Cricket in Keyworth, written by Jeff Disney, Melvis Phoenix & Geoff Witcomb and with the Society's permission we have included some of their text in the following.

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PHOTOGRAPHS:

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CLUB WEBSITE: www.keyworthcc.net

LINKS:

History of Cricket in Keyworth www.keyworthcrickethistory.co.uk

Keyworth United Football Club www.kucfc.com

Keyworth & District History Society www.keyworth-history.org.uk

INFORMATION about the WEBSITE:

The statistics shown on the site are very incomplete and represent the results of our research to date, nothing has been included that cannot be supported by written evidence from meeting minute notes, newspaper cuttings etc

Most of the evidence, plus photographs and other memorabilia is available for viewing in the Local History Section at the Public Library on Church Drive in Keyworth. Some evidence has been copied from material loaned to us by families.

Research is on-going and new data will be uploaded to the website at the end of each playing season or sooner, if significant.

REQUEST for more Data:

If you have in your possession, memorabilia of Cricket in Keyworth - photographs, reports, press cuttings, fixture cards, handbooks, minute books etc., please get in contact with us. We can make copies, scan photos etc, if you want to keep the artifacts.

CONTACT POINT:

KCC Historian: Barry Baker telephone: 01509 854136

email: bgbaker@btopenworld.com or, just come along on match days.

THANKS:

We are indebted to the contributions from players and supporters past and present - too many to list by individual name plus archivists from many cricket clubs.

Historical Notes:

MAIN STREET was previously known as TOWN STREET

ELM AVENUE was previously known as OLD LANE

THE SQUARE was previously known as CROSS HILL

COMMERCIAL ROAD was previously known as BLIND LANE

NOTTINGHAM ROAD was previously known as NOTTINGHAM LANE and MILL LANE

FAIRWAY Public House was previously a Cinema.

PLUMTREE RAILWAY STATION was on the Midland Railway line from Nottingham to London via Melton Mowbray & Kettering, It closed to passengers in 1949 but was still a 'goods' line until 1965 and is now a 'test track'.

The BOARD SCHOOL opened in 1874, became an Infant School in the 1960s & closed 1985.

The EGGLESTON Family ran Manor Farm on Bunny Lane (the biggest in Keyworth) until 1919

Thomas TOMLINSON ran a Grocery/Sweet Shop on the corner of Selby Lane with Elm Avenue until the mid 1920s.

John Holmes STAGE COACH ran up until 1912 taking people and goods from Plumtree Station to The Square in the centre of Keyworth.

Arthur How ran the COMFY BUSES service competing against ATKINS BUSES in the 1930s.

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Cricket in Nottinghamshire:

The early History of Cricket in Nottinghamshire is comprehensively documented and if you are interested in finding out more, we would direct you to the following books...

Trent Bridge One Hundred & Fifty Years 1883-1988, by Peter Wynn Thomas (1987)

100 Years of Trent Bridge, by E V Lucas (1938)

Notts County Cricket Annual, by C H Richards (1901-4, 1907 & 1913)

Victorian Nottingham - A Story in Pictures, volume 18 (1977)

by Richard Iliffe & Wilford Baguley.

Start of Play, by David Underdown (2000)

Keyworth & Plumtree on old Picture Postcards, by Reflections of a Bygone Age (2009)

Keyworth Professional Cricketers:

There were many references to players from Keyworth in the press, particularly in the latter part of the 19th century and it is reported that many "professional" players from Keyworth were playing around the UK and travelling to countries all around the world at that time. The most famous son of Keyworth was the Nottinghamshire & England bowler, William 'Dick' Attewell.

We refer you to the A-Z Biography section in www.keyworthcrickethistory.co.uk

You can also read about the Keyworth cricketers and many other players in...

Nottinghamshire Cricket & Cricketers, by F S Ashley-Cooper (1923)

Nottinghamshire Cricketers 1821-1914, by Peter Wynn Thomas (1971)

William Attewell - his cricket career, by C H Richards (1891)

Memories of Club Cricket, by H Turner (1890)

A History of Bucks CCC by Douglas Miller

Argentine British Community Council, The Hurlingham Club (Argentina) by Jeremy Simpson

Helensburgh Heritage Trust, Harry Bolton by Donald Fuller

Keyworth and World War One, by Howard Fisher (2011), Keyworth & District LHS

Moorside Cricket Club Website History section

Nottingham Date Book

Sporting Magazine published 1816 & 1817

The Philadelphia Inquirer Newspaper

Cricinfoengland www.cricinfo.com

Nottingham Newspapers stored at the Library in the City Centre - Nottingham Daily Guardian; Nottingham Review; Nottingham Journal; Nottingham Football Post; Nottingham Evening News;

Keyworth Professional Footballers:

A number of professional footballers have played cricket for Keyworth CC, including John 'Jack' Armstrong, Tom Hinchliffe, Kevin Hitchcock, Albert Keetley, Harry 'Herbert' Pike, Horace Pike and Brian Stubbs, and again we refer you to our website A-Z Biography section.

For a detailed breakdown of their careers we would refer you to the www.kucfc.com website, history section and the following books...

Football League Players' Records 1888-1939, by Michael Joyce

The PFA Premier & Football League Players Records 1946-2005, by Barry J Hugman

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Keyworth - the Village:

The village of Keyworth is located approximately 7 miles/10km south east of the city centre of Nottingham and at the last recorded census in 2001 had a population of 6,920 people. The earliest known document to refer to Keyworth is Domesday, dated 1086, but recent finds (circa 2001) on the parish outskirts, of Roman and pre-Roman coins plus other artefacts, suggest human occupation goes back at least a further thousand years. Keyworth through it's history has been known as Caworde, Chaword, Kaword, Kaeworth, Keworth and Keiworth.

A hilltop village, Keyworth resides in an area of gently undulating land, around 300 feet



above sea level and until the 19th century most of the farmhouses and labourers' cottages flanked a single quarter-mile-long street (now known as Main Street) with at its northern end, the Church of St Mary Magdalene (a grade 1 listed building dating from the 14/15th century), the Manor Farm and a small open space (now called The Square) with a village cross and pump, and until well into the 20th century the roads were coated with mud and manure. The Parish of Keyworth was enclosed following the passing of an Act

of Parliament in 1798 and the population in 1801 stood at 325, the great majority being farmers, farm labourers and their dependants.

The village (and cricket club) logo is a windmill, a structure that in itself ceased to operate in the early 1920s and was demolished in 1958. The Rectory Playing Field, home to the Cricket Club for many years following World War II lies immediately behind the Church on the site of ancient medieval ridge and furrow system land which sometimes made running and catching a rather precarious business for the outfielders on match day. The current ground on Platt Lane on the north east boundary of the village is a facility shared with Keyworth United Community Football Club.

Historical Roots of Cricket in the East Midlands:

The first recorded match in the East Midlands took place between Nottingham Old Club and Sheffield on 26 August 1771 before in the villages of Bingham (1787), Southwell (1787), Radcliffe on Trent (1798) and Melton Mowbray (1800) the game began to spread and popularity really grew in the South Notts and Leicestershire border area between 1810 and 1820 when most of the villages formed a team. This was particularly stimulated by a match between 22 players of Nottingham County and 11 of England (the Marylebone Club) at the Forest Ground (a leveled, grassed area inside the city's Race Course on a large acreage roughly a mile north of Nottingham) on 23 to 25 June 1817, which the home team won by 30 runs. Nottinghamshire first played at Trent Bridge from 1838, when by then they engaged "professional" players and competed in the Inter County competition, a fore runner to the County Championship which began in 1873 with Nottinghamshire joint winners with Gloucestershire.

History of Cricket in Keyworth...page 8

Cricket first played in Keyworth:

The 23 June 1815 issue of the Nottingham Review records Keyworth defeating neighbour village Bunny in a two innings match played on Tuesday 13 June 1815. Keyworth scoring 24 and 81, Bunny 59 and 36. The Review in another issue, records another two innings match played on the 7 August 1815 in Bunny, in which a combined Keyworth, Plumtree & Normanton selection played

On Tuesday the 13th instanc, a match at cricket was played between the yillages of Bunny and Keyworth. The following is a statement of the game:

Keyworth first innings.....	24
Second innings.....	81
Byes.....	3
	—108
Bunny first innings.....	59
Second innings.....	36
Byes.....	3
	—98

The game excited a considerable degree of anxiety in the spectators, and was allowed by judges to be as singular and well contested a match as ever has been played in the county.

against East Leake. Other matches involving Keyworth are shown in the records of the Nottingham Review as having taken place in 1818, 1821, 1827, 1828 and 1835 before the Nottingham Journal began to report on matches regularly in the 1850's. Many of the cricket games were "challenge matches" for a purse of a nominated amount of guineas.

Changing Face of Cricket - Tradition, Culture, Rules & Clothing:

The game of cricket was known as "Dab & Billet" until 1791 when the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) re-named it "cricket" and from the village social world of the eighteenth century where men and women enjoyed feasts and festivals (agricultural and church) had evolved a new form of leisure, usually promoted by noblemen or by inn/tavern owners attempting to boost trade and often involved a wager or prize. For the working people these sporting contests would usually be staged in Whitsun Week, Midsummer Day, during the local parish festival (wakes) or after the harvest had been gathered (August/September). From the outset, cricket was predominantly a game centred around London and Southern England with the focal point being the MCC at Lords but by the beginning of the nineteenth century the game had spread northwards and became very popular in Nottinghamshire. In these early days for every run a batsman made, a notch was cut on a wooden stick by a scorer and bowlers delivered the ball underarm along the ground. Two innings were usually batted by each team and each full innings was completed irrespective of the match result. Players wore flannel jackets, white trousers (ducks) held up with a belt or cloth tie and sometimes braces, flannel jackets, spiked shoes and caps of velvet or cloth (some wore tall black hats) and the rules of play changed rapidly. LBW had been introduced in 1774 and throwing was deemed to be a "no ball" from 1807. The phrase for the match commencement time was "the wickets will be pitched at ? o'clock". Wides were penalized from 1816 and the size of the wickets (the stumps) was increased in 1819 to 26" high by 7" wide - they were increased again in 1823 to 27" x 8". Over arm bowling however did not become the norm until 1864. Four ball overs were increased to five ball in 1889 (increased to six in 1902) and in the same year, declarations were legalized. Six hits through clearing a boundary were introduced in 1910 to replace hitting the 'ball out of the ground'.

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John Bickley from Keyworth, an All England XI cricketer:



Born in Keyworth on 16 January 1819, John (photo left) was a right arm fast bowler who made his first class debut for Nottinghamshire CCC against England in 1847 and went on to take 141 wickets at an average of 11.70 in 38 matches., including 8 for 23 against England in 1853 and carried on to represent All England XI's against several other county teams. A good all round sportsman, after retirement he ran the Sawyers Arms at Lister Gate in the city and died 15 November 1866. He had originally been discovered playing for the Rancliffe Arms club and also played with Surrey CCC in 1852 and Kent CCC in 1854 and participated in the Gentlemen versus Players matches of 1853, 1854 & 1855. On 16 July 1849 at Lords, John played alongside John Wisden, George Parr and William Clarke, three famous names in the history of cricket in a North of England team in a match with gentlemen from the South of England in 1853.

John Pike - first Nottinghamshire Colt:

John Pike (photo right) was the first Keyworth player to be selected for the Nottinghamshire Colts. A two day, two innings match at Trent Bridge played on 10-11 April 1871 - a trial match looking for new talent which was traditionally played over the Easter Holiday weekend when 22 of the best 'amatuer' club players in the county played against the Nottinghamshire County XI, At the time John was a contracted player in Scotland with the Glasgow Academical College.



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The Domestic Framework Knitting Industry in Keyworth:

The domestic framework knitting industry had become the main source of employment from the 1860s as numerous 'home based' workshops became a distinctive feature of the village. This gave rise to population growth which soared to a peak of nearly 900 by 1881 and from this environment where players could take "time off" to play cricket, in addition to William 'Dick' Attewell and John Pike, many other players from the village were selected for the Colts - William Lane Pike (1880, 1881 & 1888); Matthew Wright (1882, 1885, 1889 & 1890); William Lacey (1882); William Tomlinson (1889); Walter Attewell (1890 & 1891), Thomas Attewell (1891, 1892, 1893 & 1894); Thomas Armstrong (1892, 1893, 1894, 1895 & 1897), Arthur Pike (1894); William Widdowson (1894 & 1896); Ezra Attewell (1895); Harry Bolton (1895); Walter Simpson (1897); Seth Attewell (1899), Albert Armstrong (1905 & 1906) and Jack Armstrong (1907 & 1910). Some of these players also received an occasional call to represent the County.

Move to Bunny Lane:

It is known that cricket was originally played until the 1870's in Keyworth on the Rectory Field (this later became the 'home ground' from 1939 to 2012), before they moved on to a field on Bunny Lane immediately behind the present Davill's (Greenhays) Farm. The move to Bunny Lane is explained in an article which appeared in the 'Countryside Magazine' in 1957 - the author, J Hallam was born in Keyworth in 1866. Commenting on the struggle that followed the passing of the School Board Act in 1870, he wrote "This brought about another change in the life of the village. The Rector (Rev Potter) being so incensed with the changes, placed a ban on all Free Churchmen entering the Rectory Field where the cricket matches were played and this led to another club being started with a ground on Bunny Lane".

The fact that Reverend Potter used the word "Club", we believe gives us license to consider as known evidence that a Keyworth Cricket Club has existed in some shape or form since at least, as early as 1815.

The Nottingham Guardian newspaper reported that a cricket match took place in Keyworth on 12 October 1833 between XI Married Men and XI Single Men - the married men were the victors by 27 runs and on 25 September 1855 a number of Keyworth players were included in a Plumtree, Normanton, Keyworth & Edwalton XI that lost by 44 runs to a Cropwell Bishop, Cropwell Butler & Owthorpe XI and when several Keyworth players helped Plumtree to field eleven players against Tollerton on 22 September 1859, according to another report in the Guardian this considerably strengthened the Plumtree team but many matches didn't find their way into the local newspapers in those early days but among matches that did, Keyworth were involved with matches against many neighbour villages including East Leake 1815, Colston Bassett, Kinoulton, Widmerpool in 1818, Bingham, Colston Bassett, Cropwell, Normanton, Plumtree, Willoughby in 1821, Bradmore twice in 1827, Ruddington, Willoughby 1828, East Leake twice in 1835 until by the 1850s more and more matches were played and Keyworth were travelling longer distances for fixtures against Attenborough, Cinderhill, Hyson Green and Old Basford and the like.

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Keyworth became one of the best village teams in the County after their move to Bunny Lane. Many of the players achieved fame beyond the village border and it is said that the village produced no fewer than forty professional players and coaches. Several played for Nottinghamshire CCC, including Thomas Armstrong, Thomas, Walter and William Attewell, Arthur Pike, Thomas Simpson, William Tomlinson and Matthew William Wright.

Access to the Bunny Lane ground was via the farmyard on the village side of the farmhouse, which itself was built in the 1890's. An 'Agreement' document dated 4 May 1885 made between William Davill and Keyworth Cricket Club, showed the rental for the cricket ground to be five pounds per annum and reveals the signatures as being of John Tyler, Joseph Tomlinson, Harry Pike, Thomas Disney and Sam Price.

Notts Castle Challenge Cup Runners Up 1879:

Only the very best club teams in the County were invited to participate in this competition and after beating a very strong Worksop CC team by 40 runs in an earlier round during July, Keyworth lined up against Wollaton CC in a final played over two weekends in September at the Castle Ground in Nottingham and lost by 5 wickets. The organizing committee awarded KCC the sum of three sovereigns to cover their traveling expenses to the final.

Keyworth's formidable playing squad that season included William 'Dick' Attewell, John Pike, William Lane Pike, Mat Wright, William Tomlinson, Josh Simpson, Arthur Simpson and William Lacey.

Published Scorecards in the 19th century:

KEYWORTH				FOREST AMATEURS			
A. Simpson, b W. Martin	...	...	2	J. A. Dixon, st J. Simpson, b Pike	...	...	10
J. Armstrong, b W. Martin	...	...	8	A. Martin, b Pike	...	...	0
J. Simpson, b A. Martin	...	...	28	H. H. Wood, c Wright, b Armstrong...	...	...	4
M. W. Wright, b W. Martin	...	...	17	G. Beves, b Armstrong...	...	...	4
W. L. Pike, b W. Redgate	...	...	2	W. T. Hancock, b Tyler	...	...	21
S. Lacey, b Dixon	...	...	17	W. Redgate, c Tyler, b Pike	...	...	15
J. Tyler, b Dixon	...	...	2	H. Billyeald, c Wright, b Pike	...	...	3
T. Tomlinson, not out	...	...	6	F. I. Fox, st Simpson, b Pike...	...	...	0
T. Disney, b A. Martin	...	...	0	T. Barlow, c Wright, b Tyler...	...	...	5
S. Simpson, b A. Martin	...	...	2	F. Redgate, c Armstrong, b Tyler	...	...	7
W. Tomlinson, b A. Martin	0	W. Martin, not out	3
Extras	19	Extras	5
Total	103	Total	77

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By the second half of the nineteenth century, match scorecards were published in the detail (see page 11) from the Monday issue of the Nottingham Daily Guardian following the day of the Saturday match. This particular match was an annual home friendly fixture against one of the strongest club's in Nottinghamshire of that time and illustrates the strength of the Keyworth 1st XI in 1881 which contained a County player in Matthew William Wright and two Notts Colts in William Lane Pike and William Tomlinson, plus all rounder Arthur Simpson and wicket keeper/batsman Josh Simpson, both highly regarded on the club circuit.

Through the 1880's the club were playing home matches at their Rectory Field ground and in addition to the Cup matches the club fielded 1st & 2nd XI teams in Friendly fixtures, some of which were played on weekdays and Sundays and Bank Holidays. Their opponents included... All Saints, Basford Park, Burton Joyce, Bunny, Clifton Imperial, Cotgrave, East Leake, Forest United, Forest Wanderers, Hathern, High Pavement, Hucknall Portland, Hyson Green, Lenton United, Long Eaton, Long Whatton, Loughborough, Meadow Willow, New Basford Baptists, North Notts Institute, Nottingham School Board, Nottingham Tudor, Notts Castle, Prospect Place, Ruddington, Shepshed, St Marys Institute, Ward & Cope, Widmerpool, Wymeswold and Wysall.

The Keyworth squad in 1885:

The photograph below features the Keyworth team of 1885 and a number of the club's legendary players...Back row (left to right)...Matthew Wright, Thomas Tomlinson, Harry 'Herbert' Pike, Arthur Simpson, William Lane Pike (a prolific wicket taker), Thomas Simpson, William Andrew Pike, John Pike, John Armstrong & John Tyler. Front row sitting (left to right)...Joseph Tomlinson, Arthur Pike (a county class wicket keeper) & Samuel Simpson.



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First ever 1st XI Century:

Matthew William Wright scored 113 against Dalby & District CC on 20 September 1886, the second century ever scored by a KCC player and the first at 1st XI level. Mat went onto become a very successful player in the Minor Counties League with Buckinghamshire CCC having been appointed a Coach at Eton Public School for 1885, where he remained until 1936.

William 'Dick' Attewell - the most famous son:

William 'Dick' Attewell (born 1861) is the most famous of all Keyworth cricketers and perhaps the first indication of his future potential came at the age of twelve, when he obtained a hat trick for Keyworth School v Plumtree School. It is said that he was quickly re-christened 'Dick' because the Nottinghamshire CCC team had its full complement of 'Williams'. He dominated the Nottinghamshire bowling attack for a longer period of time than any other bowler in the long history of the club, taking 100 wickets in a season on ten occasions and 1949 wickets in total between 1881 and 1900 at an average of 15.34 and scored 8060 runs at an average of 14.00. He played 10 Test Matches and toured Australia on three occasions including on the 1891/92 tour being a team mate of the immortal Dr W G Grace. He was also on the staff at Lords from 1881 to 1903 with the MCC. 'Dick' Attewell is credited with being the first exponent of the 'Googly' and he is generally regarded as being the most miserly bowler in Test History, conceding only 22.2 runs per 100 balls delivered. He was also the first person ever to be bowled for a 'king pair' - out, scoring no runs off the first ball received in both innings.



WILLIAM ATTEWELL
1861—1927

'Dick' Attewell was born on Old Lane (Elm Avenue), alongside the site of the Keyworth CC home ground until 2012, the son of Samuel & Deborah (nee Disney) and later married Fanny Hornbuckle and lived on Main Street in the heart of the village. In later life he moved to be near some of his children and died in Long Eaton in 1927 on the eve of his 66th birthday. 'Dick' Attewell often returned to play for his village club when his professional commitments allowed and his score of 133 not out in 1889 was only the fourth century recorded on behalf of Keyworth CC following John Disney's second eleven undefeated 102 in 1887, Matthew Wright's 113 in 1886 and John Pike's 106 in 1887. With the ball, he took 169 wickets at an average of 5.03, still the best career record in the history of the club.

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Dick's mother's family, the Disney's were along with the Armstrong's, Attewell's, Gunn's, Pike's, Simpson's, Tomlinson's and Wrights, prominent families in Keyworth sport and former player and Keyworth footballer Horace Murden (born 1902), a figure often seen for many years dressed in his tweed hat riding his bike around the village, often told the tale of when an 'All Disney XI' beat the 'Rest of Keyworth' at football 3-1 on Easter Monday 1910. Dick's cousin Walter was himself a formidable player and at one time the professional and coach at Shrewsbury School and was immortalized in the writings of the great Neville Cardus, who assisted Walter for a period.

Keyworth Cricket Families 1888:

Nottingham Daily Express article, 28th April 1888 issue, page 7, read...

Keyworth is a well known village club, the composition of whose team is often a curious illustration of how cricket runs in families. Pikes, Simpsons and Attewells form the backbone of the cricketing talent in the village, though there are other familiar names. The Keyworth club has a membership of about 30 and at the end of the season when many of their professionals have returned home at the close of their engagements, the club can raise an exceedingly strong team.

Under ordinary circumstances the club has a good working eleven, some of the best known are as follows:-

W TOMLINSON, a good bat, drives very hard and clean, is also a very fair change bowler. M W WRIGHT, a very fair bat, can cut very prettily and very hard and is a good fast bowler. W A PIKE, a very patient and when set, very troublesome batsman, the 'barrier' of the team. A PIKE, a sound batsman, drives very hard and clean, scores rapidly, also good local wicket keeper. John PIKE, a very regular scorer, he hits hard and clean to leg, is a very fair bowler with a break from the off. W L PIKE, a very good local bowler, very difficult to play on a sticky wicket, breaks from both sides. Thomas ATTEWELL, brother to Wm Attewell the famous Notts County bowler, very good bowler, he can get a lot of work on from the leg. A SIMPSON, a very good bowler, can either bowl fast or slow and can get a lot of work on from the leg. Keyworth have a pretty good list of Fixtures including matches with Notts Forest CC, Ruddington, Bestwood Park, Nottingham School Board, Harrington United, Hyson Green and Sheepshed.

Keyworth Cricket & Football Clubs amalgamate:

Nottingham Daily Express statement, 5th May 1888 issue, read...

"Keyworth Cricket & Football Clubs have amalgamated, the object being that both organisations may benefit. Mr H Hodgett is the Hon Secretary".

It is not known when the two clubs parted but Heber Hodgett continued in office until the end of the 1904 cricket season.

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Arthur Pike, County Wicket Keeper & Forest Footballer:

An outstanding sportsman, Arthur Pike (born 25 December 1862 on Nottingham Road) (photo right) played at right back for Nottingham Forest FC between 1887 and 1890, was selected to represent the Nottinghamshire FA in matches against the London FA at the Trent Bridge ground in both 1883 & 1884 in the left half back position, was a stalwart of Keyworth Football Club for many years and, he was one of the best wicket keepers ever to play for Keyworth CC and made his first class debut for Nottinghamshire CCC on June 14th 1894 and went on to play 66 first class matches for the County, scoring 1128 runs, taking 102 catches and making 30 stumpings. He often kept wicket to the bowling of his fellow Keyworth player William 'Dick' Attewell and like Dick on his retirement became an Umpire in First Class Cricket.



Sadly Arthur died in Keyworth on 15 November 1907 after a protracted illness of 5 years at the young age of 45 on 15 November 1907 and with such esteem was he held, the village staged a Benefit cricket match for his widow and raised £18.5s.3d. The obituary published by the Nottingham Evening Post confirmed that Arthur had been a member of Keyworth CC for more than 30 years.

End of the 19th & beginning of the 20th Centuries:

The decline of the two mainstays of the village economy, framework knitting and agriculture, brought in 1880, a railway station in the neighbour village of Plumtree and thus Nottingham within commuting range of Keyworth but this did nothing to alleviate falling population numbers.



The Notts Cricket Association was formed on 20 September 1889 and Keyworth finished fourth in the Senior Division of the League in the first 1890 season during which William Lane Pike led a rampant bowling attack taking 58 wickets, ably supported by Harry Hebb and Thomas Armstrong in particular whilst Arthur Pike behind the timbers took 7 stumpings and 7 catches and weighed in with 189 runs from the bat, by 1894 he had been spotted by Nottinghamshire CCC and signed as a professional.

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The club however dropped out of the League in the following season as it was proving difficult to raise a good enough team on a regular basis due to many of the players being involved with coaching at private schools around the country and some contracted as professionals at other clubs. Also, players like Jack Armstrong, Horace Pike, Harry 'Herbert' Pike and Thomas Simpson were good enough to play professional football. A half back, Armstrong went on to captain Nottingham Forest FC and made a record 461 appearances for them between 1905 & 1922 and Jack's older brother Thomas Armstrong was now playing Lancashire League cricket with Sefton CC, Werneth CC and Moorside CC and for a wage of a little under £5 per week was proving good value with plenty of runs and wickets for his employers and Thomas Simpson another Keyworth cricketer was playing as a professional with a number of Lancashire clubs. The dropping out of the League by the club was falsely interpreted by the Birmingham Daily Post in their 6 July 1891 issue where they announced that the "Keyworth club from which many famous Nottingham cricketers were introduced has had to be dissolved owing to many members having accepted professional engagements".

The club did struggle to find opponents at short notice for 'friendly' matches that season but survived although it was interesting to note that the quality of Keyworth Cricket was being recognized as far away as Birmingham in the West Midlands.

Thomas Simpson - Cricketer/Footballer:

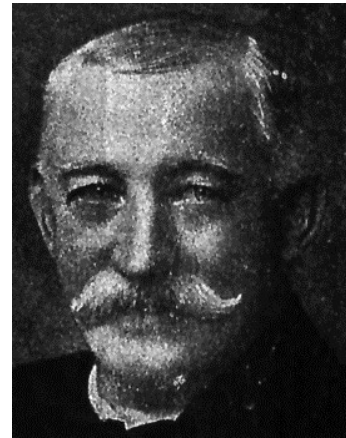
Born 13 August 1879 on Selby Lane, Tommy made his debut for Keyworth aged 13 years in 1893 and by 15 was engaged at several local clubs until he moved up to the Central Lancashire League with Heywood CC with whom he remained until 1906. He played for both Nottinghamshire CC and the Lancashire 2nd XI but often returned to Keyworth and play the occasional match. An accomplished all round sportsman, Tommy made the front page of the Football News published by the Nottingham Evening News on Saturday 10 November 1900 on joining Notts County FC - photo (right), he could play on either wing and eventually transferred to Leicester Fosse FC (Leicester City nowadays) in October 1902 before moving on to Everton FC which fitted nicely his his professional cricket career in the Central Lancashire League where he scored more than 10,000 runs and took over 2,000 wickets before retiring in 1932 to become the Groundsman at Rochdale CC. The Rochdale Observer newspaper wrote two lengthy articles about Tommy's 60 years of cricket when he retired in February 1953, tracing back to the start of his career in Keyworth and quoted Tommy saying that "for the present I will continue living in Royton and visit my native village (Keyworth) now and again. Tommy passed away on 19 December 1961 at the Oldham & District General Hospital, he was aged 82 years. His father Josh also played both cricket and football for Keyworth and was one of the best wicketkeepers in the history of Keyworth CC, amassing over 107 victims behind the timbers including 51 stumpings. Tommy's older brother Walter was also an accomplished wicket keeper and made one appearance for Nottinghamshire Colts in 1897 but also had the privilege of playing alongside W G Grace in the London County club team at the Crystal Palace ground in the 1890s.



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William Lacey, a big name in Argentina:

William (photo right) left framework knitting and summer jobs at Oundle School and in the Lancashire League to travel across the Atlantic Ocean to play professionally in Montreal, Canada and then in 1889 travelled with his family to become the Manager/Coach at the newly formed Hurlingham Sports Club in Buenos Aires. He stayed until 1925 and became a legend not only in cricket but as the designer of the first ever Golf Course in Argentina (9 holes) and was at the forefront of Polo where his son Lewis Lacey became an all-time great for his adopted country.



First 'Hat-Trick' and decisions questioned:

Thomas Attewell became the first Keyworth player to perform the 'hat-trick' playing for KCC at home against Digby Colliery CC on 20 April 1895 but in a match at the Meadows on 9 May 1896 against Notts Harrington CC a KCC player questioned an umpiring decision and the game was forfeited when the KCC captain took his team from the field of play.

First 'Ashes Test' at Trent Bridge:

1899 saw a Test Match staged at Trent Bridge for the first time when England took on the Australians, further enhancing the game of cricket in the local communities.

William 'Dick' Attewell retired at the end of the 1899 season from first class cricket and announced he was becoming a First Class Umpire.

Harry Bolton, Scottish record holder:

Harry (photo right) was another Keyworth framework knitter who sought to earn a living from his cricketing skills. Only 5ft 8ins tall, he had powerful shoulders and was a genuinely quick bowler. Dick Attewell recommended him to Clackmannon County CC in Alloa in Scotland and thereafter Harry spent the majority of his summers taking wickets for various clubs north of the border and when he finally retired at the age of 60 years he had set a Scottish record haul of 2080 wickets. He still found time to become Keyworth's groundsman, utilizing skills he had acquired along with being a club professional and has been the only Keyworth bowler to take 10 wickets in an innings, a feat he achieved on 14 June 1919 against Chilwell Royal Ordnance CC, taking 10 for 42 runs.



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New Professional at Portmadog CC in Wales:

Arthur Pike's younger brother William Pike (born 1871) on the recommendation of the Notts CCC & England cricketer and England footballer William Gunn was engaged as the professional for Porthmadog Cricket Club at the start of the 1902 season and stayed in Wales until aged 65 years. He also had a spell coaching Pwllheli CC and played football for Porthmadog FC and was responsible for establishing the first green at the Town's Golf Course.

William Lane Pike emigrates to Canada:

Arguably one of KCC's greatest ever players William Lane Pike (photo right), retired at the end of the 1903 season and in the following year emigrated to Canada with his wife and children, where he continued to coach local players in Saskatchewan. Will Lane's record of 526 1st XI wickets stood for another 107 years and he was renowned as being very difficult to play against on a damp, sticky wicket because of his ability to swing the ball both ways although in the press he was sometimes described as 'slow leg break bowler', he clearly had batsmen and journalists equally confused.



The 'Double'

Both Jack Armstrong and Harry Richards did the 'double' of more than 50 runs and 5 wickets during matches in the 1907 season and during a busy 1908, Jack fitted in being a professional footballer at Nottingham Forest, cricket with Keyworth CC and representing a Nottinghamshire Club & Ground selection. Armstrong and Richards were the 7th & 8th of 20 'doubles' claimed by Keyworth players since John Pike first did it in 1887. Ian Graham has done it 4 times, the last in 2014.

Football, the Winter partner:

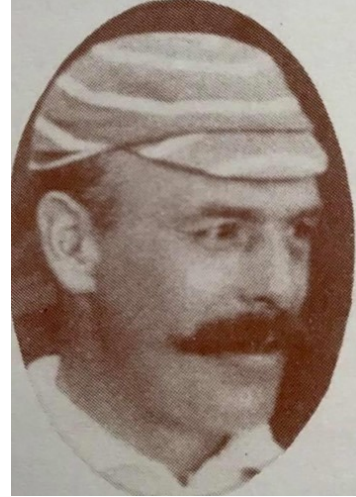
By the time Keyworth Football Club joined the Notts Alliance Football League in 1905, the cricket club's fixture list had become adjusted to accommodate the overlap of the seasons for the winter and summer games as so many of the players were good at both sports and members of both clubs. The football club in 1905 played home matches at Holmes Chapel Field (now the location of Nottingham Road Primary School), sometimes on Bunny Lane on the site now occupied by the Health Centre and occasionally at Smiths Meadow until they finally settled down on a ground on Selby Lane in the 1920s, using changing facilities at the Plough Inn. For a period either side of the 2nd World War the club was known as Normanton & Keyworth FC before changing to Keyworth United FC in 1947 and sharing a home ground at the Rectory Field where both clubs used the British Legion Club for changing rooms until the new pavilion was built in 1949.

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William Andrew Pike dies in Edinburgh after fall from train (1907)

Travelling home to Keyworth on the North British Railway Midland Express on 25 August 1906, William fell from the train near Hawick and sustained serious injuries from which he eventually died on 10 July 1907 in an Edinburgh Hospital.

The cricketing professional at the esteemed Heriot's Academy since 1896 it had been a regular end of season journey for William back to the village where he was born on 12 March 1863 and was known as an outstanding footballer and cricketer with the village teams. So successful was he at Heriot's that they extended his extension to include him being the groundsman when they moved to the new home at Goldenacre in 1902, he was earning 28 shillings per week all year round and given a free house with coal in the city for him and Sarah his wife. Nottingham Daily Express described William as a 'very patient and when set, troublesome batsman, the barrier of the Keyworth team' but was also a fine bowler who onced record figures of 7 wickets for 42 runs against Clackmannan County CC. In total for Heriot's he made 1898 runs and took 69 wickets during his eleven year stay and when not away as a professional played 134 times for Keyworth between 1882 and 1902.



Bunny Lane Pavilion & Players (circa 1908)

The photograph below includes among the players...Jack Armstrong, Edgar Pike, Frederick Dodson, Jack Attewell and Henry Hebb...



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Keyworth sportsmen lose their lives fighting for their country in the Great War:

Sadly, five Keyworth sportsmen lost their lives in the service of their country...



Claude Owen Disney
Died 31 August 1916
in France



Albert Armstrong
Died 25 July 1917
at Arras, Flanders



Arthur William Peet Disney
Died 7 June 1917
at Ypres, Belgium



Arnold Disney
Died 13 April 1918
at Ploegstraat, France



John 'Jack' Dodson
Died 11 April 1918
at Le Touquet, France

After the Great War at the Bunny Lane Ground:

The Club was closed down during the Great War as it was considered unpatriotic to continue playing and not least because many of the young men of the village were away fighting. When hostilities ceased, motorbuses had replaced horse-drawn vehicles and as these came right into the village many more Keyworth people were now prepared to commute. Plumtree station was largely ignored and it was eventually closed to regular passenger traffic in the 1940s, though the line remained in use until the 1960s. The first recorded match after the war was played at the Bunny Lane ground on May 24th 1919 against Forster Street Prims CC and resulted in a handsome win by 105 runs as Thomas Armstrong (6 for 3) and Harry Bolton (6 for 9) demolished the opposition batting.

The owner of the Bunny Lane ground William Davill died in 1920 and his son Ernest 'Dar' Davill, who was a regular player with the club took over the farm and ensured continuity. The club paid £10 per annum for the use of the farm's ground and facilities. Dar's daughter Gwen told stories of how the players helped themselves to apples, much to her mother's disgust, as they made their way from through the farmyard to play or practice cricket. Card schools were also known to have taken place in their hovel - a brick cow shed used for milking.

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The purchase of a motorized roller and the problem of regularly having to make repairs to the wires protecting the cricket square from cattle were frequently raised at the Annual General Meetings of the Club - these were generally held in the Lecture Hall, National School, Rectory, Council School or Legion House during the period prior to the outbreak of the Second World War.

John Elliott Pike in the USA:

Former Keyworth cricketer and footballer John Elliott Pike, now living in Pennsylvania was selected to represent an All Philadelphia XI playing against an All New York XI in 1918.

South Notts Cricket Champions:

1922 saw the club enter the South Notts Cricket League and win the competition undefeated. In the one match they didn't win, rain was the victor in a draw against closest rivals Cotgrave CC. The table below was as known on August 21st but it is evident that no other club could have overhauled the total of KCC.

Pos	Teams	Pld	W	D	L	Pts
1	KEYWORTH CC	12	11	1	0	23
2	COTGRAVE CC	10	7	1	2	15
3	WILLOUGHBY on the Wolds CC	8	5	0	3	10
4	TOLLERTON CC	12	4	0	8	8
5	BUNNY CC	9	3	1	5	7
6	PLUMTREE CC	8	1	1	6	3
7	CROPWELL BISHOP CC	9	1	0	8	2

Harry Bolton did the 'double' on June 17th against Tollerton CC at home when he scored 50 runs and took 6 wickets for 13 runs and Thomas Armstrong, at home against Willoughby on the Wolds CC on May 27th just missed out on a century, being dismissed having scored 99 runs. Billy Mills in a 2nd XI friendly away against Radcliffe Street Prims on May 27th claimed the season's best bowling performance taking 8 wickets for 23 runs.

The South Notts League eventually got into financial difficulties and folded, leaving the Club to resort back to playing friendly matches and by 1928 they were also fielding a Thursday XI.

In these times, the cricket season was relatively short, many of the players were footballers with Keyworth United and only available for selection during the 'close season'. Team Captains were not appointed by vote at the pre season Annual General Meeting but chosen on a weekly basis by a Selection Committee and Subscriptions were fixed at seven shillings and six pence for Senior players and five shillings for under 16 year olds.

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The club were playing home matches at their Bunny Lane ground and in addition to League matches the club fielded 1st & 2nd XI teams in Friendly fixtures, some of which were played on weekdays and Sundays and Bank Holidays. Their opponents included...

Barrow on Soar, Boots Athletic, Colwick GNR Loco, East Leake, J & R Montays, Kingston Hall, Lindby & Papplewick, Loughborough Brush Works, I & R Morley's, Nottingham Ramblers, Nottingham YMCA, Notts Forest, Notts Post Office, Notts Unity, Notts Waverley, Parker & Booths, Radcliffe Street Primitive Methodists, Ruddington, St Annes Institute, Thomas Adams & Co Ltd, Vernon Athletic and Wymeswold

Players included...Arthur J Attewell, Ezra Attewell, R E 'Dick' Attewell, Sydney Attewell, Jack Armstrong, Newman Bycroft Armstrong, Thomas Armstrong, Harry Bolton, Samuel Caddick, Ernest Davill, William Gunn, Tommy Hebb, H Holbrook, H Holt, Billy Mills, Alvin Pike, Edgar Pike, S B Price, Harry Richards, Dick Rimmer, Walter Simpson, Harry Tomlinson, Ivor Tomlinson, Oliver Underwood and Dan Wright.

Harry Henson - Long Serving Captain:

One of the club's longest serving captains, Harry R Henson (HRH, he loved this title) first came to the attention of the club when the Keyworth School team beat the Willoughby School team comfortably by 31 runs on Tuesday 17th July 1928. Harry who also went on to be an important player and administrator with Keyworth United Football Club, lived at the time on Blind Lane, now Commercial Road and told the tale of how his mother made the cricket teas and he used to carry buckets of water from the pump in The Square down to the Bunny Lane Ground on his bike, the water was then boiled on a primus stove in the pavilion.



Harry, a fast medium bowler who delivered off the 'wrong' foot took 545 wickets and scored 1661 runs in a career with the club that lasted between 1932 and 1963 and even though he suffered a serious injury during the Second World War, it never appeared to affect his sporting prowess. He captained the first eleven from 1948 to 1959.

'Hat-Tricks' & Representative Honours:

There was a long gap between Thomas Attewell first achieving the feat on 20 April 1885, then William Wright repeating the feat against Tollerton CC on 18 May 1907 before Lenny Gunn's 'hat-trick' on May 24th 1930 for the 2nd XI against Wysall CC, then later in the same season on August 9th also for the second XI, Jack Garvin repeated the feat against Wymeswold CC. Jack played only three seasons with the club and this was his last but Lenny played 23 years and then became an Umpire in the Notts Amateur League during the 1950's.

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Buttered Bails:

The cricket field was rather exposed and on a windy day at the Bunny Lane ground and keeping the bails on top of the stumps often proved a problem and in a match against Bramcote on 12 August 1933, Keyworth's unique idea of using 'butter' was reported on in the Nottingham Evening Post.

Moving to the Rectory Field in Elm Avenue:

In the 1930's with population numbers rising again in the village and the Club fielding two elevens at weekends, plus a midweek team and the death of host farmer Ernest Davill in 1932, the need to start looking for a new ground became a priority, culminating at the AGM in February 1939 when it was reported that "The Bunny Lane Ground was in such a condition that it was unfit for play during the season 1939". This resulted in Messrs William Gunn (photo below) and Hedley Tomlinson leaving the meeting to interview Ted Eggleston the tenant of the Rectory Field, with a view to renting a portion of the field. This was agreed, with the consent of the Reverend Brooker at a yearly rental of £10 subject to specified conditions which included no play on Sundays on the Church covenanted land and access to be only from the entrance from Selby Lane.

An area of 50 square yards was fenced off and Harry Hebb loaned a horse for the heavy roller to be brought up from the Bunny Lane Ground on Saturday 25 February 1939 and Bert Lambert and the Rev Brooker both promised to bring their mowing machines on the following Saturday. The Bunny Lane Ground Pavilion was eventually sold to Mrs E Davill for £6 in early 1940 and was moved to the farmyard where it remains to this day as one of the farm buildings.

The club played through to 1940, changing in the Legion House in The Square for a donation of fifteen shillings, but then it was decided to disband for the duration of the Second World War and £66, the proceeds from two Gymkhanas organized jointly by the Cricket & Football Clubs with a view to providing a Sports Ground for the Village, was left lying in a Bank Account.



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A number of the Keyworth CC players saw active service during World War II and (photo above) shows Stuart Tomlinson and Peter Gray meeting up whilst serving on different ships in the Royal Navy over Christmas in Durban, South Africa in 1943.



Cricket re-starts after the Second World War:

Following the cessation of the War, it was agreed that the Cricket & Football Clubs could both use the Rectory Field, jointly at a rental of £24 per annum and for the grazing rights to be sub-let to Tommy Hebb at £12 per annum.

A temporary wicket was laid down on the football pitch (pictured here 1950) and was used until a new wicket, 30 yards square was ready for the 1953 season - the square that is still used by the Club to this present day. The photograph was taken from the



Nottingham Road entrance to the field and looks toward the corner where behind the sight screen the Scout Hut is now located. A pond existed in front of the tree. The tree was eventually removed and the pond filled in and this view would now show South Wolds Academy and Keyworth Bowling Club in the background.

At the AGM in February 1947 it was decided to use the small room in the National School for changing (a charge of 2s 6d was made) and the Welfare Secretary was instructed to apply for a form from the Food Office at Bingham, to obtain necessary rationed goods for providing refreshments for home matches - permission was subsequently refused.

Sets of stumps had been donated by the officer in charge of the Army Camp that had been stationed on Wysall Lane throughout the war, Major Shorter. Occasional matches had been played during the war between players from Keyworth either too old or too young to fight, or engaged on reserved occupations against a team made up of Polish Fighter Pilots stationed locally who called themselves the Polish Falcons.

History of Cricket in Keyworth...page 25

Transport to away fixtures was provided by Wright's Buses & Taxis, an arrangement that worked very well, except on one occasion when the Second XI were playing at Parliament Street Methodists in August 1947 when only five players arrived at the ground, the consequence of a misunderstanding between Mrs Wright and the Club Secretary Peter Witcomb, when a vehicle arranged to take some of the players did not arrive, these same players then turned up at the Selby Lane Ground, where Les Bloor the acting First XI captain was able to utilize their services owing to some of his team being absent.

Notts CCC dig up the Trent Bridge Square - Keyworth CC get the soil for their square

The Selby Lane ground in Keyworth had been provided by the Keyworth Parish Council in their pursuit to provide dedicated sporting facilities away from the centre of the village and was used by the Second XI, when both XI's were at home and on Sundays because of unavailability of the Rectory Field through covenant restrictions.

The Keyworth Playing Fields Association was founded in February 1948 and Messrs H G 'Peter' Gray for many years the Club Honorary Auditor and still a Vice president, William Gunn and Ivor Tomlinson represented the Club at the inaugural meeting and in the following year the first pavilion was bought and erected at a cost of £150. The money, initially borrowed from Keyworth Parish Council's 'Playing Field Fund' was repaid by the holding of joint social events with the Football Club.

The notorious "featherbed wicket" at Trent Bridge County Ground was dug up at the end of the 1952 season and the soil was lifted and transported to Keyworth where Trent Bridge groundsman Mr Frank Dalling, assisted by Mr Ray Forman also from the County ground helped the Keyworth players led by John Reeve, in top dressing, extending and levelling out the Keyworth square to provide one of the best wickets in the area at the time.

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Strong team in the Post War Years

During these early years after the War as growing numbers of townspeople sought a healthier life in the country, Keyworth became a focus of inward migration as people acquired cars and became more mobile and the village population doubled between 1951 and 1961, and doubled again between 1961 and 1971.

Tommy Hinchliffe who had debuted for the club just prior to the outbreak of war made 102 not out at Sandiacre on 2nd July 1949. This was outstanding as he was now about to be more available for selection as his professional football career as an inside forward with Nottingham Forest, Derby County, Huddersfield Town and Grimsby Town was winding down but it was Charlie Underwood (photo right) who emerged as the leading batsman of the team, operating under the astute leadership of Harry Henson. 'Chuckie' as Underwood was popularly known, passed away in the summer of 2010.



He was the son of a former Keyworth player Oliver Underwood and became the first and only player ever to record successive centuries for the club when on August 16th 1952 he cracked 105 not out against Sandiacre CC, six days after hitting 113 against Hucknall CC. Charlie's first century had been in 1950 when he making exactly 100 not out, Sandiacre CC again the victims. Grandfather William Underwood had been a bowler with the County but Charlie rarely bowled, however he was a brilliant athlete anywhere in the field and his accumulation of 3848 career runs in the 1st XI (average 20.58) is the seventh most ever in total by a Keyworth player and his 594 runs in the 1952 season stood as a club record until 1976 and has only been bettered by seven other players. Together with Gerald Starbuck, their 124 run partnership on August 1st 1959 against Raleigh Athletic CC is still the club record for the seventh wicket.

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Six-a-side Cup Winners at Lenton:

On August Bank Holiday Monday in 1953 the club won the inaugural Lenton United 'Six a Side Cup'. Sixteen teams competed and Keyworth amassed more than 600 runs in the five rounds of innings they played at the Gregory Sports Ground in Lenton in the presence of a large following of villagers. The team included a number of legendary figures in Keyworth cricket, Charlie 'Chuck' Underwood the flamboyant left handed all rounder and also league champion skipper of the Football Club; professional footballer Tommy Hinchliffe, whose wife Mary became known to many players through later decades making 'teas'; the wicket taking long serving skipper Harry Henson; the immaculate former Lancashire League professional Alec Bennett and the little and large all rounders, giant quick bowler Brian Ford and the little swing and seamer Ron Armstrong. Tommy Hinchliffe's high scoring record during the tournament went unsurpassed for many years it is believed.

LENTON UNITED CRICKET CLUB

SIX-A-SIDE, "LIGHTNING" KNOCK-OUT CRICKET TOURNAMENT

at the
GREGORY GROUND
DERBY ROAD · LENTON

on
BANK HOLIDAY SUNDAY, AUGUST 1st, 1954

Commencing at 10-30 a.m. prompt

Teas, Refreshments available

Programme - Price 6d.

Cars on Ground - - 1/-



Winning team, left to right, back row...William Bloore (reserve), David Disney (reserve), Ron Armstrong, Charlie Underwood, Harry Henson & Peter Witcomb (Secretary).
Front row...Arthur Ford (Vice President), Bryan Ford, Tom Hinchliffe (captain), Alec Bennett & Jack Reeve (Chairman & Umpire)

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Ground Improvements 1955 - Trees Felled:

Following the completion of home fixtures during the 1955 season, two trees - a lime and a horse chestnut, both of which had stood within the cricket boundary along the Nottingham Road side of the Rectory Field, were felled to make room for a junior football pitch.

Good team spirit and Social Life:

The Club were still been playing only friendly fixtures until 1956 when they joined the Notts Amateur League and fielded two teams. The League had already been in existence since 1952 and consisted mainly of Works & Colliery teams and a few village teams. That same year, a second pavilion was purchased and used for changing rooms. The original pavilion became the tea room.



The mood of the players enjoying a day out on a bus to Skegness in 1956 with family and friends in the photograph above reveals the good spirit in the club at the time, left to right on the photo...John Woodford who played with the club for 38 years and stayed on as Treasurer until 2006; Cyril Marchbank (not a player); Bill Bloore, top order batsman for 13 years with a technique of playing the ball late; John Reeve, for 19 years a leading bowler who claimed a career haul of 272 wickets and is still a Vice President; Eric Watson, a Vice President who can be seen at almost every home game supporting the club and a wicket keeper/club secretary for 16 years; Charlie Underwood; Les Bloore, father of Bill and spin bowler for 34 years; Jimmy Longworth, larger than life character and very good footballer; Bryan and Margaret Ford; Ron Armstrong, 364 wickets in 15 years, the fourth biggest haul on record and in 1959 he was the first player to claim a hat-trick in a League match; June Longworth (Jim's sister); unknown (thought to be June's boyfriend)

The club's home ground future was secured when on 28 April 1958, a 21 year lease arrangement for the Rectory Field was entered into between the Keyworth Parish Council and Herbert Mills, and Trustees (A A Middleton & Elaine Isobel Ashworth) and vested in the Management Committee of the Keyworth Playing Fields Association.

History of Cricket in Keyworth...page 29

The impact of Gerald Starbuck:



During the 1958 season, Gerald Starbuck a big powerful fast bowler and hard hitting batsman joined the club and when he departed in 1962 he left a string of great performances behind him. He was even selected to represent the Notts Amateur League team despite the fact that Keyworth were then playing in Division Two and all the other selected players were from the top division. He claimed 91 victims in his debut season which is still the club record for most wickets in a season, followed that with 52 wickets in 1959 and 83 in 1960 and in all he took 290 wickets at an average of 8.17, whilst weighing in frequently with the bat and setting a club seventh wicket partnership record with Charlie Underwood. His build and height meant that on hard, dry wickets the bounce he generated made him almost unplayable. He loved to bowl up the hill and had the stamina to keep going for long spells and is reputed to have once bowled a 35 over continuous spell !

Unfulfilled Promise in 1959:

The first eleven looked to be on course for promotion out of Division Two of the Notts Amateur League during the 1959 season, only to fall away at the end for third place. A nine man team (see photo below) for the match against Kimberley Institute who were eventually the promoted club as champions and a consequent 18 run defeat didn't help the cause. Left to right, back row...Jack Reeve (Chairman), Bill Bloore, Eric Watson, Gerald Starbuck and Phil North, an opening bat and future captain. Front row...Jeff Disney, product of the youth team who helped pen the first history about the club, Harry Henson the captain, Brian Johnson another youth team product who went on to play 29 years with the club and manage future youth teams, Ron Armstrong and Keith Hodgett yet another youth team product, still a Vice President and a prolific wicket taker over a 23 year career, 412 wickets at 11.83.



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Hat-Trick Bonanza in 1959:

29 years after the previous hat-trick, three were recorded in 1959. On 9 May in a friendly against Bingham CC, John Stubbs achieved the feat and finished with 5 for 7, then away on 21 August, 14 years old Keith Richmond included a hat-trick in a 6 for 20 spell also against Bingham, then in a 1st XI league match against Eastwood St Mary's CC, Ron Armstrong claimed a hat-trick and finished with 6 wickets for 13 runs.

It was downhill from then on in the Notts Amateur League, with the first and second elevens both finishing bottom of their respective divisions in 1962 and the then Club Secretary Eric Watson recalls that they were having difficulties finding enough players to field two teams and initially the 2nd XI was withdrawn from the League in 1964, followed by the 1st XI after again finishing in last place, at the end of the 1965 season and this notwithstanding the heroic efforts of Keith Richmond and Reg Marriott. Richmond even managed a fine 104 against Nuthall CC in a friendly and a 7 for 11 performance with the ball against Moor Green Colliery CC in the league during the season.

For 1966, the Club reverted back to playing only friendly matches.

Low interest and the Club in difficulties:

1967 and the Club was on the verge of folding, this at a time when the population of the village was rapidly expanding and bringing with it the building of large housing estates, a Village Hall (built in 1968), three Primary Schools (Nottingham Road, Willowbrook & Crossdale) and one Secondary School (South Wolds), numerous Shops and Offices, a Health Centre, Swimming Pool, Squash Courts, a Bowling Green and a commercial Trading Estate.



Fielding only one eleven, the club looked for players among the new arrivals to the village and from school leavers, one such being Brian Stubbs, born on Park Avenue. He made his debut for the club during these difficult times as a 16 year old and went on to become one of the village's most well known sportsmen through a long career as a rugged central defender with Notts County Football Club and a hard hitting batsman with the Cricket Club. Brian made only 95 appearances for the club over a period of 24 years due to the limitations imposed by his football career

A group of enthusiasts including among others, John Baldrey, Alan Copson, and Geoff Ward set about re-building the Club and this hard work ensured that the Club has never looked back again since. Keith Hodgett and Brian Johnson were still playing and during the early 1970's John's brother David Baldrey, and Ernie Lay began careers with the Club that have lasted until the present day.

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1970 saw Geoff Ward became the first player for many years to pick up both the Batting & Bowling awards in the same season at the Annual Dinner staged at the Harborough Hotel in Melton Mowbray. Guest of honour, former England test player Peter Parfitt is on the far right in the photo which also includes from left to right Nigel Colman (Captain), Peter Witcomb (President) and Cliff Quinton (Secretary).



Jeff Read took 50 wickets during the 1971 season and picked up his award from Basharat Hassan the Nottinghamshire CCC player whilst umpire, Stan Armstrong was honoured with a silver tankard to commemorate his long service with the club - he began as a player in 1925, a nephew of the great Jack Armstrong.

Club Colour Change in 1971:

The Club Colour of Blue (see Cap circa 1960s) was replaced by Green for the 1971 season. Players decided that they wanted the same colour as the 'baggy' Australian fielding cap.



The Club participated in Six-a-side competitions at Widmerpool CC in 1970, 1971 and 1972 and in the 1972 season staged a Single Wicket competition on 20 August 1972.

Arguments raged through the 1972 season relating to Sunday matches not being permitted on the home ground. Mr John Tinsley, Chairman of the Keyworth Parish Council and Messrs Arthur Ford & John Price, Chairman & Secretary respectively of the Keyworth Playing Fields Association were actively engaged in discussions with Club officials. The Parish Council would have preferred that the Club move to the Platt Lane Ground like the Football Club, but the club argued, and still argue to this present day that the Platt Lane Ground is completely devoid of atmosphere. Playing Sunday friendly matches at Platt Lane had provided plenty of evidence.

South Notts Village League founder members in 1973 & Champions 1976:



The Club was anxious to get back in a League rather than continue to play friendly matches and when a new South Notts Village League was formed in 1973, Keyworth CC became 'Founding Members' and the rehabilitation as a club was complete when they went on to become Division One Champions in 1976 in thrilling fashion, defeating the champions of the two previous seasons Whatton & Aslockton CC on their own ground. The photo below shows the team lined up before the match, left to right, back row, Rhodes, J Baldrey, D Baldrey, Heeley, Roylance, Stan Armstrong (Umpire), front, Lay, Giddens, Copson, Taylor & Gee

The team of 76 was skippered by Clive Morrissey, scorer of 592 runs in the season but he missed the Whatton & Aslockton match. It had "become a winner take all encounter" describes Alan Copson, captain for the day " and after a shaky start we managed to reach 135 for 9, not a great score but our bowlers were outstanding and the fielders held their catches and we dismissed them for 70". The team had Nigel Roylance, winner of the League's Best Bowler award with 36 wickets at an average of 7.47 runs per wicket, a wicket keeper/opening bat Ernie Lay who notched up 628 runs in the season together with 17 catches and 4 stumpings. John Baldrey led the bowling attack taking 67 wickets in the season, supported by Roger Turnbull, Gerry Heeley, Alan Morris, Bill Taylor and batting all rounder John Rhodes, plus Copson himself, steady in the middle order, Laurie Gee a century maker with 113 not out against Ravenshead in a friendly, David Baldrey, younger brother of John and a promising left handed batsman and not least, Colin Giddens a taker of sharp catches whether behind the stumps or in the close field - 19 in the season.

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1976 Division One League Table:

Pos	Team	Pld	W	L	NR	Tie	Pts
1	KEYWORTH	12	9	2	1	0	38
2	WHATTON & ASLOCKTON	12	7	4	0	1	31
3	GEDLING VILLAGE	12	7	5	0	0	28
4	CAYTHORPE	12	6	6	0	0	24
5	THURGARTON	12	5	6	0	1	23
6	BINGHAM SPORTS CENTRE	12	5	6	1	0	22
7	GUNTHORPE	12	1	11	0	0	4

Club Award Winners (1976 Season)

Wm. Gunn Cup—Batting Average J. Rhodes

Arthur Ford Cup—Highest Score L. Gee

Webster Cup—Bowling Average G. Heeley

J. Hartley Trophy—
Best Bowling Performance R. Turnbull

Fielding Awards D. Baldrey & W. Taylor

Clubman Trophy A. Copson

Keyworth Cricket Club would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the Vice-Presidents for their support during the past 12 months.



Keyworth Cricket Club

(South Notts.
Village League Champions 1976)
(President: B. Coyne, Esq.)

Annual Presentation Dinner Dance

at the
HARBORO' HOTEL
Melton Mowbray

on
FRIDAY, 18th FEBRUARY, 1977
at 7.30 p.m.

Dancing from 9.30—11.45 p.m.
to KEVIN HOPCROFT SOUND

Licensed Bar Dress Optional

TICKETS £4.25 EACH (inc. VAT)

Keyworth & District Six-a-side 1977:

A Tournament was staged on Bank Holiday Monday (30th May) with 8 local teams participating and Keyworth Methodists beat IGS Taverners by 5 wickets in the final match.

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Youth Development:

In the seasons that followed, mid table positions were the best managed and with schools cricket on the wane the Club took to encouraging young players and began participating in the Nottingham Youth League. Immediate success came in the form of Laurie Gee's younger brother, Russell being selected to represent the Nottingham Youth League against a Loughborough team in 1978. He scored 16 runs in a winning team. Other players to emerge from these youth teams, whom were to give long service to the club included John Childs, John Greatorex, Paul Keeling, Sean King, Stuart Meek, Nick Palmer, Gary Robson and Tim Wright.

Disappointments of 1978 included the Lowest Score:

From the 'high' of 1976 on 18 June 1978 came the ignominy of setting the League's lowest ever score when Thurgarton CC bowled out Keyworth for just 14 runs as they were chasing the home team's total of 123. Alan Copson, again captain that day, recall's that "villagers were stopping me in the street to enquire whether that was really our score or whether it was a newspaper mis-print". The club subsequently passed this record in a League match against Clifton CC in 1998 when dismissed for just 11 runs.

The club had been drawn to play against Sproxton CC on 23 May 1978 in the first round of the Salaman Cup match, a 15 x 8 ball over per side competition for clubs in the North Leicestershire and South Notts border region. The home side batted first and made 94 and in reply KCC reached 94 for 6 of the allotted overs and thought this meant victory by virtue of least wickets lost but the competition organisers declared a 'tie' and ordered a replay. The replay took place at the Rectory Field on 8 June 1978 and incredibly both sides 'tied' again, this time both teams making 115 with each team losing their last man of the last ball to run outs. On the toss of a coin Keyworth won home advantage for the second replay and on a cold, wet evening, batting first KCC made 116 for 6 wickets down. Sproxton passed the score for the fall of only five wickets thanks to a flurry of dropped catches as the ball took on the feel of a tablet of soap. Sproxton moved on to the second round and the rain continued unabated.

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Eddie Marshall Cup Winners 1979:

The club decided to join the Nottingham Evening League and in the same season won the prestigious mid-week Eddie Marshall Knock Out Shield under Clive Morrissey's captaincy, beating Notts County Officers, Plessey Sports, Lenton United in early rounds before nearly crashing out against Kegworth CC in the Semi Final. Man of the match Mick Brooks smashing a magnificent 60 to get Keyworth back in the match after they quickly fell to 24 -3, then John Baldrey and Bill Taylor were the last pair at the wicket for the last 3 balls in fading light. No 11 John missed the first ball but smote the very last ball for a towering six to win the match.

The Final was covered by Radio Nottingham and played on home turf against Southwell CC in front of a good size crowd. Keyworth making a respectable 108 before bowling their opponents out for 48 from a combination of fine bowling and tidy fielding, then all adjourned to the Keyworth Tennis Club for refreshments and celebration. The trophy was presented by former England & Nottinghamshire fast bowler Harold Butler.

Brooks was usually a Radcliffe on Trent CC player but living in Keyworth he enjoyed playing Evening cricket with the local club and occasionally played at weekends. An aggressive and stylish batsman, his medium pace bowling was accurate and consistent and in the field he was very athletic. He was a great asset to the club for eight years, picking up many accolades and his 9 for 12 against City Hospital in 1979 is still the second best ever bowling return in a match for the club. That season he also hit 144 against Farndon CC at home on 1st September and took 5 for 29 with the ball to claim a double. His 423 runs in the season at an average of 60.43 was supported by 42 wickets at 5.23 average, he also crashed 16 sixes during the season.

Other highlights were Dave Baldrey scoring 94 against Blyth CC away on 6th August, Ernie Lay's 597 runs in the season with a top score of 65 against Tudor CC away on 10th June, John Dring's 456 runs, with a top score of 70 against Plumtree CC at home on 8th September and John Baldrey's 45 wickets for the season with a best of 5 for 26 against Stanton Nomads at home on 21st April.

The shield winning team included two other players who would go on to give distinguished service to the club, John Dring and Dave Hallam.

John Dring (photo right), more recently a Chairman of the Keyworth Playing Fields Association was then a regular selection as captain of the South Notts Village League representative team and overcame a short defection to local rivals Plumtree CC. A stylish wicket keeper batsman he scored 7468 runs at an average of 21.58 between 1967 and 2001 including a 1980 century of 105 against Gedling Colliery CC and a 101 against South Muskham & Little Carlton CC in 1985.



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Dave Hallam is still around after thirty years and was for a period the Club Treasurer. Powerful built fireman Dave generated sharp pace of a short run and has 625 wickets to his name, the third most by any player in the club's history.



1979 Cup Final team line up, left to right, back row... Mick Brooks, John Baldrey, Dave Hallam, David Baldrey, Brian Cannell, Bill Taylor & Ernie Lay . front row...John Dring, Laurie Gee, Clive Morrissey (captain) & Steve Mathers.

During the 1979 season the club entered a team in Division Ten of the Nottingham Evening League and gained promotion without suffering a defeat. John Dring's 326 runs and a best of 60 not out against Notts GPO on 29th May proved very influential together with 36 wickets from Dave Hallam, 32 from John Baldrey and 23 from Gerry Heeley.

The club also competed at Under 15 level in the Nottingham Youth League where 360 runs from Russell Gee and a top score of 73 not out against Forest Wanderers at home on 27th June was outstanding - he made three scores of fifty plus in the season and the team won the South West Division, losing only one of the ten fixtures.

The under 13 & under 15 youth team squads for several seasons gained winter practice through entering the TSB supported Notts Cricket Association Indoor Leagues.

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New pavilion and many new young players:

Following protracted and sometimes acrimonious negotiations between with the Parish Council, the KPFA secured a Sports Council grant and the two old pavilion buildings were demolished and replaced by a new modern pavilion, to be shared with the Keyworth & District Table Tennis Club for the 1981 season. The Football Club by this time having moved permanently to the playing fields built by the Keyworth Parish Council in Platt Lane.

The new pavilion was built at a cost of £17,200 plus a lot of hard work by club members, spearheaded by John Baldrey (pictured below holding a plank of wood) and the Sports Council grant was supported by contributions from Rushcliffe Borough Council, the Keyworth Parish Council and £750 from the cricket club's own funds and was officially opened by Judge T R Heald on Bank Holiday Monday, 25th May 1981 with a celebratory 6 a-side tournament involving six local organizations. The cricket club beat Keyworth Methodists in the semi final before winning the final against Keyworth Rugby Club.



John Baldrey also found time to join skipper John Dring in representing the South Notts Village League XI playing the season opening fixture against the 1980 League champion Caythorpe CC team on April 25th.

The Club finished Third in the League in 1981 and entered a second eleven in the Third Division which finished in mid table. Fourth place in 1982 and sixth in 1983 followed with one of the more interesting pastimes being the anticipation of which form of headwear the extrovert spinner Brian Mills would field in, which included French Berets and a Buffalo Hunters Stetson.

Playing members subscriptions had been increased at the commencement of the 1982 Season to £10 (from £7.50) for Adults and £2 (from £1.50) for Juniors.

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Several new players were making significant contributions including the six hitting Kevin Keep, batsman/spin bowler Cammie Chowdhary, batsman Richard Davies, wicket keeper batsman Denis Fletcher, bowlers Alan Randall and Bob Ogle, and young players were beginning to make an impact from the youth teams including batsman Shaun King, Tim Wright and John Childs, brothers Chris & Paul Keeling, bowlers Mark Disney, Gary Robson and Nick Palmer and finishing Runners Up in Division One of the 1984 South Notts Village League was a welcome boost.

John Dring's son Matt Dring also a wicket keeper batsman was selected to represent the Notts Cricket Association under 13 age team against Trent College and scored 51 not out. The current Club Chairman Richard Drury was another member of the club's youth squad at this time. And an even stronger group emerged from the youth squads of 1986 and 1987, including Geoff Baker, Rob Baker, Alex Ball, Steve Daft, Tim Hepburn and Ian Kitchinson. Sadly, the youth section was discontinued in the 1990's and not revived until the 2009 season.

The second eleven with the experience of John Woodford, Brian Cannell and Alan Copson, and many emerging young players and including new recruit Ted Elliott, gained promotion from Division Three in 1985 along with Plumtree seconds.

A revamped and expanded 20 team Division One saw Keyworth finish seventh in 1987 and reach the final of the Save & Prosper League Cup at Caythorpe. Team photo below, back row, left to right, Kevin Keep, Tim Wright, Matt Cumberpatch, Murray Stewart, Gary Robson, Dave Baldrey, Alan Randall and Robert Rathbone, front row, Shaun King, Dave Tindsley, Norman Whittlestone & Ernie Lay.



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Hitchcock blasts his way to record score:

In a remarkable 2nd XI match at home to Sutton Bonington on July 30th 1988, Chelsea goalkeeper Kevin Hitchcock made himself available at the last minute and Ian Driver stood down to accommodate him. Hitchcock then proceeded to smash twelve "6's" & twelve "4's" in a club individual record score of 165 out of a total score of 311 for 4 off 45 overs to set a new club record total (subsequently passed four times). Hitchcock & Ernie Lay put on a record third wicket partnership of 229, Lay contributing 102 not out. Hitchcock was later reprimanded for playing by his football club, for the reason that as a goalkeeper he could have damaged his fingers so near to the beginning of a new football season. Hitchcock, brother in law of Stuart Meek, played 45 times for the club between 1986 and 1998 when his football commitments allowed.



Relegation, Promotion, Sponsorship and a Cup Win:

Relegation from the South Notts Village League Premier Division at the end of the 1990 season was followed by promotion back up in 1991, virtue of being runners up behind Thurgarton CC thanks to outstanding contributions from the bat by Denis Fletcher, his best 117 not out against Bingham CC, the Reverend David Hilborn, 451 runs at an average of 56.37 and Tim Wright 491 runs, supported by 29 wickets from bowler Alex Ball, a product of the youth policy.

In a 1992 season of mixed fortunes the first eleven were relegated back down to Division One and second eleven were runners up in Division Three and promoted with Tim Wright cracking two centuries, 111 against Woodborough CC and 101 against Willoughby CC.

In 1993 the club secured it's first commercial sponsorship thanks to a three year deal with The Key Health & Fitness Club and new tracksuits and cricket shirts with their logo were available from the beginning of the season and despite optimism that the first eleven would bounce back up to the Premier Division only a mid table place ensued but the highlight of the season was winning the Evening League Knock Out Cup, defeating the old enemy Plumtree CC by six wickets in the final under the captaincy of John Dring but the star performer of the season was Richard Drury who accumulated 717 runs at an average of 71.70. Batting in 'Boycott' style, time and again he held the innings together through the season and despite opening was six times not out. It is an effective style that he has maintained to the present day although for many seasons choosing to play at only second eleven level and he stands second on the all time averages, having scored 8091 runs in first and second eleven, and evening league cricket at 45.97 runs per innings and by a distance the second best ever Keyworth batting record. Another local lad who came through the club's youth set up.



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League & Cup triumphs in 1994, 1995 and 1996:



The first eleven won the 1994 First Division of the South Notts Village League and were promoted back to the Premier League, whilst the Second XI were in Division Three and the Nottingham Evening League XI were promoted as Division Two champions. The squad photo above includes, left to right, back row...Harry Pick, Steve Pick, Rob Baker, Nick Palmer, Gary Robson, Tony Newby and Geoff Baker, front row...John Childs, John Dring, Richard Drury, Alex Ball, Tim Hepburn (captain), Steve Daft, Ernie Lay, Paul Branch and Ian Kitchinson. Missing from the photo is Ted Elliott whose season total of 502 runs was a major factor in the successes.

A moderate mid table showing by both elevens in Division One and Three of the League was all forgotten when Hyson Green Cavaliers CC were beaten by two wickets in the 1995 final of the Nottingham Evening League Senior Cup, led by the aggressive Shaun King on the neutral Plumtree pitch and warmly greeted by an exultant 'Barbey Army' as Rob Baker hit the winning run.



1996, and another Cup triumph, this time winning the Notts Village League Midland Bank Senior League Cup defeating Underwood CC in the final after overcoming Newstead Abbey CC, Thrumpton CC, Clifton Village CC and Chilwell in earlier rounds. This nearly became a 'cup double' when the club only just failed to defend the Evening League Senior Cup when losing to Arnold CC in the final.

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Skipper, Shaun King celebrates (photo left) the club's cup exploits. An explosive, hard hitting batsman King led from the front and his 7527 runs in 23 years with the club, with 7 centuries and a record 146 six hits makes him one of the most successful players in the club's history. Fourth place in the 1997 Premier Division in the Silver Jubilee year of the Village League, saw opening fast bowler Tony Newby top the Division's Bowling Averages while his brother Barry piled on 506 runs for the season. Major contributions over this period were coming from King, the Newby brothers, Warren Dessaur and Simon Smith with the bat, Ted Elliott, a great club man off and on the field and a very capable batsman who has already made over 7500 runs in 30 years with club and taken 161 catches, often as a reluctant wicket keeper, Tim Hepburn a former youth team player and captain 1993 to 1995 and seam bowler with nagging length who picked up a career 390 wickets before emigrating to the Cayman Islands at the end of the 1999 season, the bean pole swing bowler Phil Cockerton, the tenacity of medium pace bowler Ian Kitchinson, ever willing to run up the hill and aided by the slow left arm guile of another product of the youth policy Rob Baker (photo right), who's 580 wickets since debut in 1986 make him the gatherer of the most wickets in the history of the club at 1st XI level and with 710 wickets at all levels, he is still playing!. Not to be forgotten were the experienced hands of John Dring, Ernie Lay, Dave Hallam and Stuart Meek, ever ready to step in when called upon.



Struggling all season to field a team, the Club reluctantly and disappointingly withdrew from the Nottingham Evening League at the end of the 1998 season, having participated since 1980. Players were finding it just too hard to make the early evening start with all the pressures for longer hours spent at work but did make another Senior Knock Out Cup Final, losing to Gotham Village CC after overcoming an appeal on player eligibility from quarter final opponents Calverton CC.

A 'New' South Nottinghamshire League:

With Nottinghamshire following the English Cricket Board recommendations, structured cricket through a pyramid system was played in the County for the first time and as a consequence of the club's finishing position in the 1998 season of the South Notts Village League, they were placed in Division One of the new HSBC South Nottinghamshire League and among some high quality company achieved a seventh place in a one leg 20 team league and a place in the new ten team Division 1A for the 2000 season. All second teams were placed in a League structure of their own and Keyworth 2nds achieved a very creditable fourth place finish in Division 2C. To cap a memorable season, the club reached the Senior Knock Out Cup Final for the third time in four years, before losing to Gedling Colliery CC, after accounting for notable scalps in Collingham CC and Clifton CC on the way, The team and it's 'Barby Army' supporters enjoyed many a BBQ during the process of each round match played.

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Success playing Six-a-side:

Sunday 12th July 1999 witnessed Keyworth's first win at the annual Thurgarton Six-a-side Tournament - Lowdham CC, Oxtun CC, Plumtree CC, Thurgarton CC and Whatton & Aslockton CC, the competition. With arguably one of the best fielding sides in the region and vociferous support, the team were in unstoppable form.

Rushcliffe Borough Council staged a Six-a-Side competition on August 22nd 1999 and the team were unable to repeat their success at Thurgarton but enjoyed the honour of playing on the Trent Bridge Ground.

On the Slide but available on the World Wide Web:

The first eleven, including a number of promising youngsters were relegated from the top division at the end of the 2000 season and the 2nd XI also dropped a division. 2001 didn't get any better as both teams dropped another division.

On 26 August 2001 a special Six-a-Side Tournament was staged at Plumtree CC for the benefit of illness victim and popular Keyworth opening bat/wicket keeper Barry 'Biff' Newby with teams from Keyworth CC, Plumtree CC, Clifton Village CC, Cotgrave CC, Gotham Village CC and Unity Casuals CC supporting a memorable day. Also the National Union of Journalists presented a bench seat to the club in the memory of popular club supporter and Vice President, Frank Palmer.

Now under the captaincy of Rob Baker the first eleven stabilized itself at Division C level and the seconds managed mid table in Division E through 2003 and 2004.

The Club website hosted by Richard Drury had now become firmly established, giving match reports, gossip and access to the League and other Cricket websites.

Push for Promotion:

Another restructuring of the League pyramid system for season 2004 found the first eleven playing in a combined Division C and D with each of the 20 teams playing the other only once and from the outset Keyworth were challenging for promotion, only to miss out narrowly when finishing third. Sam Bradley and youngster Geoff Tindsley made significant contributions with both bat and ball, supported by gentle giant Chris Ladd adding solidity to the batting. However, Stuart Meek with 138 not out against Stanton on Dale CC and 7 for 31 with the ball at Lady Bay Boots CC shared the limelight with Rob Baker, who took a total 34 wickets in the season and set a club record fourth wicket stand with Simon Devaney of 170, Baker making 105 not out himself against the league champion Plumtree CC seconds team,

Now in a reconstituted Division C the first team again missed promotion in the 2005 season and the seconds managed fourth place in Division M. The firsts lost their first four games but fought back, only to lose the last two games and drop down to third place yet again.

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New all rounder Ian Graham made a big impact with bat and ball and featured with Chris Ladd in an opening stand of 205 out of an innings of 300 for 6 off the allotted 48 overs against Kimberley Institute CC. The opposition were then skittled out for 81, with Sam Bradley 4-27 leading the way and setting up a massive 219 run victory, the biggest winning margin ever by the first eleven in a League match.

The outstanding performance of the 2005 season came in the quarter final of the Popkess Senior Cup in beating the previously undefeated in the season, Division A leaders Long Eaton CC on their own ground, no doubt inspired by the Brass Band giving a concert nearby on a beautiful summer Sunday afternoon. Chasing a modest total of 180, thanks to Rob Baker's 4 wickets for 22, an opening partnership of 76 was followed by a mini collapse, before Baker 36 not out and Warren Dessaur 32 not out steered the Division C team to victory.

Back to Back Promotions:

Arguably, the 2006 1st XI was the strongest batting team ever fielded by the Club and they were promoted as runners up behind Kirkby Portland CC. A host of records were smashed, including making four of the ten highest team scores ever, they notched the most individual centuries in a season and the highest individual score ever at first team level, 164 by Australian, Grant Parker - an innings that included nine sixes and accumulated with Ian Graham the highest ever batting partnership (318), 113 runs more than the previous best, which had been set by Ian Graham and Chris Ladd in 2005. Opening bat Graham also became the first ever Keyworth player to score more than a thousand runs in a season (1006 from just 17 innings at an average of 67.07). All rounders Steve Rendu and Stuart Meek regularly chipped in with bat and ball, both making centuries in the same match against Attenborough CC seconds, Rendu 119, Meek 108. Ladd grabbed a 119 against West Bridgfordians CC and Rendu took 8 for 23

against Nottingham CC. Rob Baker's 43 wickets, Graham's 39 and Rendu's 25 doing damage with the ball. Team, left to right, back row... Geoff Tindsley, Rob Baker, Chris Ladd, Ian Graham, Dave Strong, Grant Parker, front row...Duncan Tarran, Warren Dessaur, Matt Dring, Steve Rendu (capt) & Stuart Meek. Missing from the photo...Dale Collison, Dave Garland and Andrew 'Ted' Elliott.



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Two Champion Teams Promoted in 2007 despite the weather:

Six weeks into the season, uniquely the first eleven led Division 'B' and the second eleven led Division 'M'. In fact the firsts clung on to top spot for five weeks while six weeks out of seven of play throughout the division were wiped out by constant rainfall and unfit pitches, then immediately lost, aided by a post tour 'hangover'. Neither XI regained top spot until Saturday September 1st 2007 when both teams dramatically beat the respective top placed teams in each of their divisions to clinch two championships and two promotions - champagne corks were heard to pop in the dressing rooms !



Despite some outstanding individual performances through the 2007 season, it was all round contributions from throughout both teams that garnered success and it proved difficult to pick the Players of the Year for presentation at the Awards Dinner.

Team spirit having been firmly enhanced by a 4 day tour to Suffolk and matches against Bury St Edmunds CC and St Margaret's Ipswich CC, with a golf tournament squeezed into the middle day - such a huge success that planning immediately began for a tour in 2008.



For the second successive season, August Bank Holiday Monday witnessed the club staging it's own Twenty20 competition with current first and second eleven players joined by some former players for a fun day, complete with families, friends, veteran former players and supporters as well as coloured clothing, a glossy match day programme, pop music accompaniments, BBQ, Bar and a prize draw.



For the first time in many years, a Sunday team was fielded under the enthusiastic leadership of second eleven regular Chris Legge and despite some loss of matches from inclement weather, players unable to get regular league action enjoyed some friendly games at attractive away venues.

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The woes of 2008:

The club eagerly anticipated life in Division A of the South Notts League for the 1st XI and Division L for the 2nd XI during 2008, along with glorious weather. A sorry tale of a constant struggle to field a competitive first team through injuries, work absences, parent duties etc saw them relegated back to Division B and the second team won their division, only to have it taken away from them by the League on a highly disputed allegation related to an unregistered player.

The tour to Somerset was blighted by wet weather and not a ball was bowled, except in fun on the beach at Weston Super Mare.



Veteran wicket keeper batsman Ernie Lay achieved the notable landmark of scoring his 10,000th run for the club in 1st, 2nd & Evening League matches since his debut in 1976.



The third annual Twenty20 Day was again an outstanding success and included for the first time a Junior Ten10 game following the successful re-introduction of Junior Cricket to the club, ably assisted by the coaching of Notts & England legend Derek Randall.

2009 a sorry tale and The Square is dug up by vandals:

The same sorry tale of getting a 1st XI on the field that truly reflected the talent within the club continued over from 2008 and further relegation followed. The seconds, despite being weakened by first team calls, more than held their own and pushed for promotion all season and Sunday friendlies continued to provide opportunities for veterans and juniors alike to enjoy social cricket.

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The re-introduction of Junior cricket through entering a team in local League & Cup competitions at under 12 age level was hugely satisfactory, through promising performances, tremendous leadership from Simon Tuckwell and Chris Legg, great togetherness and fantastic parental support.

The spirit within the club was sorely tested when vandals "dug up" every pitch on a length, on the entire square (see photo) and ripped up the synthetic wicket strip in the middle of the night on the eve of the 1st XI final home fixture of the season and just three days before the staging of the Annual Twenty20 Day. Undeterred, Mick White (Groundsman & an Hon Vice President) led club officials, players and supporters in a rescue operation to salvage the Twenty20 day and League officials arranged an alternative ground for the 1st XI fixture to be fulfilled - which we won and ended Gotham CC's promotion hopes



The club won praise from local politicians and the media (see extracts from Nottingham Evening Post) and the Wisden Cricketer magazine awarded the CLUB OF THE MONTH title.

The club embraced the 2010 season with renewed optimism and a new young skipper for the 1st XI in Geoff Tindsley who immediately introduced competitive winter indoor cricket only to full fail of this initiative through dislocating his shoulder and then missing half of the season proper which collapsed with two balls remaining in the match against league champions Collingham CC as we toppled from a potential 3rd place finish to 8th position and through the quirks of the system, relegation for a third time in succession, by less than a decimal point.

Among the many pluses of the season was fielding two teams in the local Youth Leagues competing at Under 13 & Under 12 age level, led with enthusiasm by Simon Tuckwell (Manager) and Chris Legge & Paul Newell (Coaches), winning the Notts & Newark under 13 League and having four boys gain representative honours at League & District level - Isaac Brown, Ben Healey, Tom Newell and Joe Nice and many of the youth players were introduced into 2nd XI and Sunday XI fixtures.



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Rob Baker - Wisden Player of the Month:

There were many memorable moments and achievements, including...Rob Baker beating the record for most 1st XI wickets set by William Lane Pike in 1907 when claiming his 508th victim against Bottesford on 28 August and in the same match Rob and Steve Rendu broke a 31 year old 9th wicket batting partnership record, having come together at a miserable 50 for 8 and putting together an unbeaten stand of 141 runs, Rendu (left), Baker (right) in the photograph

Baker's achievement gained national recognition in being named Wisden Cricket Magazine's "Club Player of the Month" and winning a handsome prize.



Two centuries by Ian Graham (133 and 114) meant that his 9 centuries for the club since he joined KCC in 2005 took him clear of the 7 centuries by Shaun King between 1979 and 2002. Chairman Richard Drury was at his run accumulating best collecting 77 runs in the 1st XI (2 innings), 658 in 2nd XI (13 inns) & 320 in Sunday friendlies (9 inns) for a grand total for the season of 1055 runs at an average of 70.33. Meanwhile, evergreen Ernie Lay in his 34th year with the club, moved on to 759 appearances (Dave Baldrey has 777), 12257 runs (6238 in the 1st XI), 357 catches and 86 stumpings.

1st XI Gain Promotion back up to Division C at first attempt in 2011:



Champions line up after victory at Bottesford, left to right...Simon Tuckwell, Richard Drury, Rob Baker, Tom Randall, Steve Rendu, Geoff Tindsley (capt), Ian Graham, Sam Wood, Dave Strong, Dale Collinson & Dave Hiller

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With Geoff Tindsley back to full fitness and leading the team with some courageous batting including his maiden century at 1st XI level and 444 runs for the season and sterling performances from the 'old' guard, Ian Graham 587 runs from 8 innings at an average of 97.83 and three more centuries, Richard Drury 398 runs at 44.22. Rob Baker despite missing 6 weeks through a foot injury still picked up 24 wickets at an average of 11.54 and Steve Rendu 22 wickets at 12.82. Among the younger brigade Ben Elliott was his usual brilliance in the field - surely the best fielder in the history of the club (Kevin Hitchcock back in the 1990's and legendary Charlie Underwood possible rivals) and also displayed some big hitting including 10 sixes. Tom Randall, son of former bowling legend Alan Randall joined the club and kept wicket very neatly and 15 year old Sam Wood broke through to become a regular 1st XI choice as a fast bowling, hard hitting all rounder of much promise for the future.

The 2nd XI struggled with consistent availability for selection and were eventually relegated from their division but on the plus side many young players, including under 14 juniors picked up valuable experience from participating in adult cricket and the Junior teams benefited as the Under 13s & Under 12's both won their respective divisions in the Notts & Newark League and the Under 14s gave a very good account of themselves in the much stronger Notts Youth League finishing in the top half of the table with Tom Newell and Ben Healey outstanding and a number of other players suggesting that they will form the backbone of the club in the years ahead.

Face Lift for the WEBSITE & new style FIXTURE BOOKLET for 2012:

To reflect the growing importance of sponsors in helping to fund the thriving Junior section of the club. The website and fixture booklet got a 'new look' and the main sponsor Internet-Ink.com and the eighteen sponsors were given more exposure but the season got off to the greatest number of cancelled fixtures on record as the rain continued to fall and the 1st XI didn't play a 'home' fixture until the first week of August but



Sunday cricket was played on 10 June 2012 for the first time at the Rectory Field since KCC moved there in 1939. Ironically, in the last season that the club will use the ground before moving to the Platt Lane Sports Complex, a home ground that the Juniors were already using.



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Twenty20 success at County level & Representative honours for Juniors:

The 1st XI beat three clubs who played in higher divisions to reach the South Nottinghamshire League Twenty20 Cup Final before losing to Gedling Colliery CC and played at Trent Bridge (photo below) in the Nottinghamshire Cricket Board Premier Twenty20 Cup, losing to Wollaton CC in the Semi Final on Monday 9 July 2012



Ian Graham was having another wonderful season which included his 13th century (photo left) for the club and he set a new League record for his 'double' of 115 not out and 8 wickets for 59 runs at Gedling & Sherwood CC on 2 June 2012 and Rob Baker continued to weigh in with plenty of wickets and became the first ever Keyworth player, to twice take a 'hat-trick' at 1st XI level when playing against Eastwood Town in the T20 Cup on 12 June 2012, his first having been on 3 June 2006.

Promotion from Division C to B was achieved in the rain affected season under skipper Geoff Tindsley as some of the younger players made their presence felt, in particular Ben Elliott and Tom Randall and junior players Ben Healey, Tom Newell & Joe Nice featured regularly in the 2nd XI line up. Ben (Under 15), Tom & Joe (Under 14), Isaac Brown (Under 15), Mackenzie Shepherd (Under 14) and Tom Blacklock (Under 13) all gained representative honours during the season with call ups to the Notts Youth League, the Newark Youth League and South Notts in the Nottinghamshire Cricket Association regional Sub County matches, and both the Under 14s and the Under 12s won their respective age group League championships.

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Honour for Chris Legge:

Chris who along with Simon Tuckwell had led the revival of junior cricket at the club over the past four years was presented with the 'Mick White' award for services to community sport by the former groundsman's widow (photo right) on behalf of the Keyworth Playing Fields Association. Chris an ever present 2nd XI player also found time to organize Sunday cricket for the 'veterans' and 'juniors' to play alongside one another.



ClubMark:



A major milestone in the club's long history was achieved at the end of September 2012 when CLUBMARK status was awarded under the auspices of the English Cricket Board. The culmination of huge efforts led by Club Scorer Shelley Beales, former Chairman Ted Elliott, Welfare Officer Vanessa Healey and Director of Junior Coaching Paul Newell in conjunction with the Notts CCC staff at Trent Bridge.

Platt Lane Ground in Season 2013 & the development of new facilities:

The committee and members faced much hard work as they set about developing their new home ground alongside old friends, Keyworth United Football Club and the 1st XI embarked on the adventure to continue the positive side of their yo-yo between the South Notts League Divisions, the sequence being Division C - B - A - B - C - D - C and then B again.

Pre-season was hectic moving from the Rectory Field but with the hard work from many members and assistance from grants obtained from Nottinghamshire County Council & the Olympic Legacy Fund to pay for twin Practice Nets & Artificial Surfacing, plus Pitch Covers, and the England & Wales Cricket Trust to contribute toward the cost of Boundary Fencing, plus help from sponsors with the building of a new Scorebox including digital numbers (photo right) and a few frustrations through delays eventually the season got underway and the new facilities were officially unveiled on 14 July 2013 by Notts & England wicketkeeper Chris Read and local Cllr John Cottee.



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Youngest Centurion in KCC's 198 years existence:



Tom Newell (photo left) arguably the youngest player ever to captain a KCC adult team v West Bridgfordians CC II's on 2 June 2013, aged 15 years, then went on to become the youngest ever KCC centurion with 111 against Woodborough CC for the 2nd XI on 3 August 2013. Tom also played for the Nottingham League Under 15s representative team.

14 year old wicket-keeper Tom Blacklock made his debut for the 1st XI at Kimberley on 10 August 2013.

7 KCC juniors played in representative matches for the South in Sub County matches...Tom Blacklock (Under 14s); Sam Foster, Oscar Malik, Jack Rhodes, George

Staton & Liam Woods (Under 13s) and Blake Southwell (Under 12s) and subsequently Tom Blacklock & Jack Rhodes were invited for County trials at Under 15 & 14 level respectively. The Under 13s won the Newark League Cup and were League runners up and the Under 14s were runners up in the Newark Cup. The Schools Festival was another overwhelming success and juniors were flocking to net practice sessions once the new facilities were in place.

The 1st XI found life tough in the dizzy heights of League Division B and were relegated but the 2nd XI after a slow start found their feet and finished mid table in Division J with many junior players comfortably blooded into adult cricket and Richard Drury at the helm scoring runs for fun including 'back to back' centuries whilst the Sunday XI played competitive cricket in the Newark Alliance League for the first time with predominately a team of Colts, finished runners up in Division 7 and gained promotion and best of all we were blessed with fine summer weather and a host of cricket matches, senior and junior.

The Junior section continues to grow:

Now established at Platt Lane, often termed the "New Field of Dreams" the club aided with availability of added net and pitch facilities has decided to increase junior activities from fielding Under 15, 14, 13 and 12 age group teams to include Under 11 & 10 teams and run 'taster' introductory coaching for Girls of School year 2 to 6 ages meanwhile more former Juniors known as 'Colts' are expected to push for selection to the 1st & 2nd XI's.

With volunteers from within the membership the club will have in place 3 coaches with ECB Level 2 qualifications and 8 coaches with Level 1 plus a Welfare Officer and other accredited supervisors to support the development of junior cricket in the community for the 2014 season and in building the future 1st & 2nd XI players of the future and plans are in hand to embrace girls playing cricket with the club.

Embracing the wider community, KCC signed School Partnership agreements with South Wolds Academy, Willowbrook Junior School & Willoughby Junior School to provide cricket coaching to pupils during the Summer Term of 2014 and beyond.

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Lifting the Lid - KCC get together with Notts CCC Legends:

LIFTING THE LID!

Chris Read
THE SKIPPER

Mick Newell
THE GAFFER

Derek Randall
THE LEGEND

Keyworth Cricket Club Presents 'LIFTING THE LID' - a Pre-Ashes Question and Answer evening with the Captain & Manager of Trophy Winning Notts CCC and England Legend Derek Randall.

At the Nottinghamshire Country Club, Cotgrave, Nottingham, NG12 3HB
From 7pm on Friday 15th November.

TICKETS:

£15 Adults, £8 16 & Under. Family Ticket (2A, 2C): £40. All Tickets Include a Hot Sandwich Supper. Tickets available: Geoff Baker: 07801685551 or Paul Newell: 07785737213 Email: info@keyworthcc.net

Proceeds of the evening to go to improving the club's sightscreens and supporting the club's expanding junior section and to the good causes that the club supports: **The Broad Appeal** and **Bowel Cancer UK**.

Keyworth Cricket Club staged arguably it's biggest ever social event in presenting "Lifting the Lid", a Q & A evening on 15 November 2013 at the Nottinghamshire Golf Club featuring Notts cricket legend's Derek Randall, Chris Read & Mick Newell responding to questions from Geoff Baker & Paul Newell and the audience of over one hundred members and supporters, accompanied by drinks and a supper. A resounding success, KCC is hopeful of promoting similar events in the future.

Season 2014: No longer the Yo-Yo Club as the Juniors breakthrough in 2014:

For the first time in ten seasons the 1st XI was not promoted or relegated and fielded three teenagers against Newark R&M CC on 21 July, thought to be the youngest trio in the modern era of the club, a combined age of 47 years. Tom Newell batted at No 4 all season, Tom Blacklock kept wicket most of the season and seam bowler MacKenzie Shepherd played occasionally whilst at 2nd XI level the team frequently comprised 4 or 5 'colts', under 15s and under 14s and for the first time ever an 'All Junior' KCC XI played in the Sunday League fixture at Shipley Hall CC on 6 July and the captaincy of Tom Newell and five of the Under 15s were selected to represent the Newark Youth League in matches against the Nottingham Youth League, Mansfield YL and Bassetlaw YL, Matt Bain, Tom Blacklock, Miles Chamberlain, Tom Rock & Matt Taberham. The very successful Under U14s who won broke the dominance of the so called 'big clubs' in winning the Nottingham Youth League & Cup double had Matt Antcliff, Sam Foster, Alex Newell and Liam Woods selected to play at Sub County level.

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Six Junior teams & a Girls team:

Under the direction of Paul Newell and a strong support coaching team and assistants, Keyworth Junior teams competed in League & Cup competitions at Under 15, 14, 13, 12, 11 & 10 year age levels and for the first time ever the



club fielded a Girls team playing Plumtree CC Girls at Platt Lane on 2 July, coached by President Barry Baker and almost a hundred children were receiving tuition throughout the season and for the seventh year in succession the club had ran a day long Schools Festival involving eight local primary age Schools from the local community under the direction of Simon Tuckwell.

Chris Legge rewarded:

Chris Legge's pioneering coaching work was recognized by the English Cricket Board and he was presented with an award for his Coaching Achievements by ex-England spinner, Graeme Swann at Trent Bridge during the lunch interval of the England v India Test Match (photo right).



Keyworth Cricket Club Bar - another first:

Thanks to the hard work of Rob Baker and Roger Wilson, Chairman of the Junior Parents Group, pictured together as the President cuts the tape, plus others including player's wives and families, the club successfully opened a Bar for the first time.

Cliff Anderson (23 June 1939 - 23 November 2014):

Cliff (photo right) the longest serving Secretary in the club's history died suddenly after 22 years in the post, his hard work and loyalty was recognized when many past and present players attended his funeral followed by a wake in the KCC Pavilion and many tributes posted to the KCC website and through recognition by the Nottinghamshire Cricket Board.



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200 Year Celebrations in 2015:

The bi-centenary of the club was kicked off with a launch evening on 6 March with video presentations including past and present players telling their stories and anecdotes and the publication of a book telling the story of the 200 years and featuring the life of KCC's greatest ever player William Attewell, plus a re-vamped 200 Not Out Logo was introduced - the event made the local newspapers...



KEYWORTH CRICKET CLUB

200TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

SAVE THE DATES

Launch Night Friday 6 th March 2015	Season Start Social Friday 24 th April 2015	Golf Day Friday 17 th July 2015
200th Anniversary Festival Weekend Friday 12 th June - Sunday 14 th June		
Activities Weekend 30 th / 31 st August 2015	Anniversary Ball Friday 25 th September	

Keyworth Cricket Club played their first ever fixture against Bunny on June 13 1815. A series of events including, though not necessarily limited to, those above have already been planned. Please 'save the dates' accordingly.

1815 - 2015: THE HISTORY OF KEYWORTH CRICKET CLUB

KEYWORTH CC
1815 2015
200 Not Out

WILLIAM ATTEWELL
KEYWORTH'S GREATEST EVER CRICKETER

BARRY BAKER
FOREWORDS BY
BARONESS SUE CAMPBELL & MICK NEWELL

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2015
nottinghampost.com

200 years of village cricket

By Rachel Gorman
r.gorman@nottinghampost.com

"It's funny to think where the club first formed, Napoleons was fighting in the Battle of Waterloo," says Keyworth Cricket Club chairman Geoff Baker.

This year, the club, based at Rectory Field, is celebrating its 200th anniversary - and to mark the occasion members have produced a book and a film documenting the club's legacy.

The film will premiere at their clubhouse in Plant Lane, at 7pm next Friday and the night will also mark the launch of a year-long programme of celebrations.

Mr Baker has been a member of the club since 1985 and stayed an active player even when he moved to London.

The 44-year-old said: "We may not be the best club in the county but we aspire to be the closest one."

"We're not bothered about paying players and being the best. Yes, it's nice to win and, yes, we play to win, but that's not the focus. We're not bothered if a youngster is good at cricket or doesn't know how to hold a bat; participation is key."

"The look on a child's face when they make any kind of progress or contribution, to whatever level, is what all the coaches thrive off."

"We play for fun and bring together people from the local community as a place to relax and enjoy themselves."

In the past ten years, the club has expanded from a couple of men's teams to seven junior sides, three men's teams and a girls' team.

When each player starts, he or she is given an individual number, and Mr Baker told the Post the club now issued numbers in the 800s.

Club president Barry Baker said of the anniversary launch night: "A lot of hard work has been going on behind the scenes in preparation for the night."

"It should be a really good club evening and start to the season ahead."

The club will also be hosting a 200th anniversary festival weekend from Friday, June 12, to Sunday, June 14.

Parish and borough councillor Sam Boote congratulated the club on reaching its 200th anniversary "in such an excellent state of health" and described it as "a central part of our community".



The 1908 team and, inset, their modern counterparts celebrate winning the South Nottinghamshire championship title success in 2007.

A BUNNY OLD GAME

THE first reference to cricket being played in Keyworth can be found in the June 9, 1815, issue of the Nottingham Review.

Keyworth defeated neighbouring village Bunny in a two-innings match played on Tuesday, June 13. Keyworth scored 24 and 81 and Bunny 59 and 36.

The village has produced 40 professional players and coaches, including Dick Attewell, who is locally said to have bowled the first googly, although the credit for this is officially given to Bernard Bosanquet.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4, 2015
nottinghampost.com

Q & A

Interviewed in 60 seconds



GEOFF BAKER
Chairman, Keyworth Cricket Club

Q What does your role as chairman of Keyworth Cricket Club involve?

A Firstly, I'm a poor, ageing player, a kids coach and then I have to chair committees, where we talk about how to run the club. I coach the under-9s, 11-12s and 15-16s and then sometimes I go straight to chairing a meeting.

Q How long have you been involved with the club, and what has kept you there?

A My involvement began as a player back in 1986. I've since moved away to work in London for 20 years, and I played in a couple of clubs down there, but I have always been involved with Keyworth. When I moved to London, I started helping out with organisation and became vice-president, as well as playing occasionally and helping out with events. For some cricket clubs, it is all about winning the league or winning matches, but at Keyworth, the whole ethos is really to work together, play sports and generally just come together and have a good time.

Q How does the club help children get into cricket and keep them interested, as well as their parents?

A Cricket is a fantastic game for developing physical and social confidence in children. We have kids who come here and are really quiet and it's such a buzz to see them gaining confidence just through playing sport. For adults, cricket can be an interesting game when your child is battling, but maybe not so at other times, so we like to give them a place where the parents can have a drink and a chat with other parents.

Q Do you have any favourite memories during your time at the club that epitomise what it means to you?

A To be honest, my favourite memory at the club doesn't really have anything to do with me. My brother, Rob, is a spin bowler and one game the batsman hit him for six. Rob said "I bet you can't do that again" and then bowled a really slow ball. The batsman tried to smash it out of the ground and had already been through the shot by the time the ball got to him. It trickled past him and hit the stumps and bowled him. That sums it up for me, because we like to have a good time while playing.

By Jon Pritchard

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A Vice Presidents Board was unveiled and in attendance to celebrate:



Left to right... Chris Ladd, Alex Ball, John Dring, John Cottee, Eric Watson, David Baldrey & Murray Stewart.

A new range of KCC playing kit was designed for the 200th Anniversary and following a handsome win at Gedling the 1st XI showed off their delight in wearing the colours with Ian Graham in the forefront after another century & 5fer performance. Special Stumps were also introduced and used by all the club's teams through the season and a 200th Birthday Cake was created by the Mills Family when preparing 'Teas'.



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Junior cricket continued to thrive and Henry Horne became the first KCC 'County' youth player since 1978, taking 2 wickets for 29 runs for Nottinghamshire Under 14s v Cumbria U14s at Kendall on 30 June 2015 whilst Under 15 player Matt Antcliff (photo right) became the youngest centurion in KCC History, 105 not out for the Sunday XI v Balderton CC IIs on 21 June. Oscar Brown (captain) & Alex Newell played for the Notts Youth Under 15 League representative team against the Bassetlaw League team at Radcliffe on Trent on 30 July. The 1st XI usually had at least 3 Colt players in their line up and the 2nd XI continued to open up many opportunities for Colts & Juniors to gain valuable experience of adult cricket. For the first time in KCC history a Girls team was entered into a competition and duly won the Under 12 Nottingham Kwik Cricket Girls League with an unbeaten record. Friday evenings became Junior Evenings for children from aged 4 to 11 years old.



Neighbour club Plumtree CC were also celebrating 200 years and for the fixtures between the two clubs, John Dring (ex KCC & Plumtree CC) provided the Match Ball Sponsorship. The photo left, above features Rob Baker skippering KCC at the toss with Plumtree CC skippered by former KCC player Matt Dring (right) and John (centre). Celebrations on the Birthday, 13 June 2015 were blighted by the wettest weekend of the year but this didn't stop the special match programme of Juniors playing on the Friday evening, a Past & Present match on the Saturday afternoon, a Junior Festival of Under 11 Kwik Cricket on the Sunday morning followed by a 'fun' match v Colston Bassett CC on the Sunday afternoon.

The Bar flourished, many old friends re-connected and the burgers & sausages on the BBQ were consumed in copious quantities. KCC staged a Golf Day at The Nottinghamshire GC in Cotgrave on 17 July with a record turnout enjoying a great afternoon and evening.

CRICKET ON A SUMMER'S EVENING

Get outdoors with your child this summer! Help them develop through team sport and having fun!

Little Wickets
For 4 - 8 Year Olds



Specialist coaching for younger children from Little Wickets

FREE to join
£3.50 per session

Keyworth Cricket Club
For 8 - 11 Year Olds

Coaching from Keyworth CC level 1 & 2 ECB coaches



£10 to join
£1 per session

When? Every Friday Night
Registration 6 - 6:15PM
From May 1st - July 10th

Where? Platt Lane Sports Complex
Keyworth, NG12 5EG

Coming Soon... Little Wickets Summer Camp at Keyworth Cricket Club

10th - 12th August 9AM - 3:30PM
Book now as places are limited! info@littlewickets.com

History of Cricket in Keyworth...page 57

The celebratory season culminated with a Bi-centennial Ball at The Nottinghamshire Golf Club on Friday 25 September 2015, a splendid, glittering occasion attended by 146 guests with a live band, magician, games, charity raffles and the debut of the KCC Band performing three numbers to thunderous applause.



After 201 Years KCC has a 3rd XI and a Ladies Team in 2016:

A 3rd Senior XI was fielded for the first time in the club's history, to facilitate the numbers moving up from Junior to Colt level and pushing for selection in the Senior XIs and they played in Division N of the South Notts League, using the Colston Bassett ground as their home venue. They debuted on 30 April away against Beeston & Toton Sycamore CC at Stapleford. The Girls section was fielding a 'Hard Ball' under 14 team and two Under 13 teams in 'Soft Ball' Kwik Cricket in Sunday morning competitions and Keyworth Ladies practised throughout the season playing 'soft ball' and ended the season competing in an all day Ladies joint Notts & Derbys County competition at Denby CC's ground (photo right) on Sunday 21 August, winning two and losing two matches.



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Rob Baker's six hitting assault helps keep the 1st XI in Division C:



Rob Baker on 16 July 2016 turned KCC's fortunes around in a match winning innings against close rivals Thrumpton CC scoring 105 runs in 51 minutes off 57 balls with 11 sixes, the 3rd most sixes in a match in club history and earning him the Player of the Year award presented by Notts & England spin bowler Samit Patel who was guest of honour at the Club Presentation Evening (photo left).

KCC Juniors earning County recognition:

Tom Wilson, Riley Phoenix & Josh Singh all represented the South in Under 13s Sub County matches during the season whilst Patrick Cawthorne, Henry Horne & Colin Lewis played for the Newark Youth League Under 15s against the Nottingham Youth League at Cuckney CC. Olivia Baker represented Nottinghamshire v Warwickshire at Welbeck in a Girls Under 12 match, the first ever KCC Girl to be selected for representative honours and three more girls were invited for County trials, Vicky Ball, Megan Bennett & Lucy Tuttey. KCC Girls, Ruby Atkinson, Olivia Baker, Vicky Ball, Megan Bennett (capt), Imogen Foulds, Hannah Pratt, Ella Sheehy & Lucy Tuttey represented the Rushcliffe Royals team which reached the Nottinghamshire Under 12 regional Cup Final before losing to Bassetlaw Blades at Attenborough CC's ground.

KCC fields 17 teams during a busy 2017 season:

An extraordinary season played in better than average dry weather saw the emergence of many young juniors into senior cricket and the continued growth of both the Girls & Ladies sections.

The club continued running 'Little Wickets' cricket every week for Under 7 year boys & girls and encompassed the ECB's 'All Stars' initiative and for the 3rd Year running staged a 3 Day Summer Camp at the Platt Lane ground under the excellent stewardship of Chloe Williams & her team of assistants and for the tenth year in succession KCC hosted a day long Schools Festival for boys and girls from eight local Junior Schools with Simon Tuckwell and a team club volunteers & colt players in charge of the matches and skills competitions - Willow Brook School taking the honours in a thrilling final versus Kinoulton School.

KCC fielded 1st, 2nd & 3rd XI's in the South Nottinghamshire League; a Sunday XI in the Newark Alliance League; a Colts team in the ECB's Under 19 Cup competition; a Colts team in the Leicestershire & Rutland Under 17 North West League; Under 15, 14, 13, 12 & 11 teams in the Newark Youth League; an Under 13 Girls team playing friendlies; two U12 Girl's teams in the Nottinghamshire Girls Kwik Cricket League & two Ladies teams in Soft Ball Festival Cricket across Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire, with Claire Foster (Sam's mum) becoming the first lady to play in a Hard Ball 'mens' match v Cropwell - Sunday XI, 3 September 2017.

A total of 17 representative teams !

In addition, KCC entered a team in the Thurgarton Sixes competition, the first time for more than a decade and finished Runners Up.

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Sam Foster - Youngest Centurion;

Sam Foster who had progressed all the way through the junior teams made a total of 1317 runs playing in 37 matches in the 1st & Sunday XI's as well as in Colts team matches.

Sam became the youngest ever 1st XI centurion on 12 August 2017 when he hit 112 versus Beeston & Toton Sycamore CC at Platt Lane in a South Notts League match breaking a record set in 1947 by Derek Gill and for the Sunday XI, Sam recorded two more centuries of 138 not out (photo right) and 134 and was awarded the 2017 Batsman of the Year title. Not to be outdone his fellow

former junior colleague Dhruv Shahi picked up the Player of the Year award with 422 runs, 8 catches and 20 wickets in an outstanding all-round display.



KCC Girls runners up at Lords;

The Under 11 Girls won a Cup Final at a packed Trent Bridge ground on 'wickets taken' after a tie, then played in the National Final at Lords (photo right) the headquarters of world cricket in London where they were defeated by Dulwich CC. The girls and the families were transported to the ground and hosted by the ECB and a group of international cricketers - Lady fast bowler Kate Cross escorted the girls onto the ground. The Under 13 Girls won the Notts County championship Lady Taverner's Cup then lost at Stoke on Trent in the Midlands quarter finals.

Two Girls, Olivia Baker (8 appearances) & Emma Lowe (6) played for the Nottinghamshire County Under 12 Girls team against other county teams across the Midlands & North of England & 6 other Girls were awarded County Trials at U12, U13 & U15 age levels whilst for the boys, Finlay Jackson & Ben Widdowson were selected to represent the South against the Midlands & Central selections at Nottinghamshire Sub County level & Tom Wilson was selected to represent the Under 15 Newark Youth League XI.



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Hosting Samit Patel & Notts Cricketers for a Day:

The social highlight of the season was undoubtedly on Sunday 9th July when KCC staged a testimonial match for Notts & England player Samit Patel (photo right) who brought along many of his team mates to entertain over 500 spectators in classic summer conditions with many local dignitaries in attendance for a 'super tea' laid on by club volunteers.



With the support of Keyworth United Football Club, the bars at both clubs were kept busy all day, many burgers from the BBQ were consumed and ice creams were very popular.

The programme of events included Notts & Keyworth players integrated into four teams with three ladies joining the T20 style tournament, preceded by Junior & Ladies Kwik Cricket matches, providing all the

participating players as well as spectators young and old, the opportunity of enjoying the day alongside the international stars on view including the Notts & England legend Derek Randall as a 'guest umpire', with autographs, photos and 'selfies' collected as mementoes.



2018 Another Bumper Year of Progress and Development:

The club fielded 25 teams including for the first time ever 4th & 5th XI's and a Women's hard ball team and the junior players were starting to find their feet in the senior teams.

Dhruv Shahi (photo right) scored 1118 runs in the season, 749 runs for the 1st XI & 369 for the T20 & Colts which included two centuries and eight fifties and Finlay Jackson, became the second youngest centurion with 102 for the 2nd XI v Collingham & District CC 3rd XI away on 14 July 2018, aged 15 years 6 months 2 days.



History of Cricket in Keyworth...page 61

Rob Baker did the double v Gedling & Sherwood CC on 26 May 2018 with 52no & 5 for 47 and Greg Mills took a hat-trick for the 1st XI v Eastwood Town CC on 30 June 2018

The Under 15 & 12 Boys teams were champions of their respective division in the Newark Youth League and Josh Singh was selected to play for Nottinghamshire County U17s in a 3 day match at Caythorpe (7-9 July) against Northants CCC U17s whilst four boys Osian Bennett, Daniel Garnham, Charlie Pope & Pip Williams represented the Southern district in Nottinghamshire Sub County Under 12 matches and six Girls, Victoria Ball & Emma Lowe (Under 15), Lucy Tuttey (Under 13), Olivia Baker, Ruby Randall & Annie Williams (all Under12) represented Nottinghamshire County age group teams. Olivia, Ruby & Annie (photo right) played in all 9 matches for a County team that was undefeated all season. Ruby was the County U12 Batter of the Year 2018.



Ladies Cricket thriving and expanding their activities:



The Ladies went on tour for the first time playing a La Manga 6 a-side Cricket Festival (Spain) in May and were invited to demonstrate Soft Ball before the Notts CCC T20 match on 27 July at Trent Bridge and participated in Softball Cricket Festivals across the East Midlands winning the majority of their matches and on occasions fielding up to 3 teams.

Toward the end of the season some of Ladies began playing 'hard ball' cricket and plans were made for fielding a Women's XI for the 2019 season.

Many visitors welcomed to the Platt Lane ground:

A summer of glorious cricket weather enabled the club to fit in hosting Under 12 & 15 Nottinghamshire County Girls matches v Leicestershire & Staffordshire. Under 12 Boys Sub County trials plus a match, South Notts v Central Notts and the club attained designation for providing Disability Cricket and welcomed the National Academy for Deaf Cricketers playing a match v Lancashire Deaf.

The Nottingham Hub of Loughborough Lightning Super Women's League team's Summer Camp for Girls and brought along to conduct coaching, World Cup winner Jenny Gunn (photo right), Scotland Spinner Kirstie Gordan & Leicestershire County player Lucy Higham. Former England Women's star Lydia Greenway came along to deliver a Masterclass in Fielding for the KCC Ladies & Girl players and later in the season delivered a 3 day Summer Camp for our Girls.



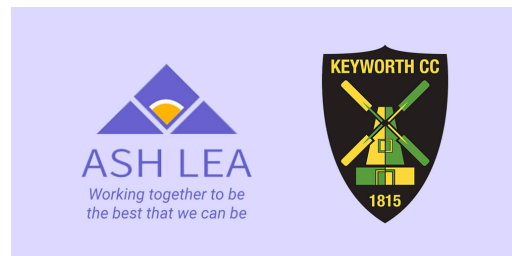
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A Wicket-keeping Masterclass was delivered by former England & Notts star, Chris Read and Batting & Bowling Masterclasses were delivered by the former Derbyshire & Danish seamer Ole Mortensen and former County players Darren Bicknell, Matt Boyce & Wayne Noon and for the 11th year in succession an 'all day' tournament was staged for eight Local Primary Schools and for the second year in succession the Rushcliffe Girls Schools Cricket Festival Day.

To conclude a very successful year the club won the 'Community Group of the Year' prize at the Rushcliffe Awards 2018, a fitting tribute to all the hard working and unpaid volunteers associated with the growth and development of Keyworth Cricket Club.

Nottinghamshire Coaching Club of the Year 2019:

Great recognition for all the hard working volunteer men and women and the club also collected the award for the Most Inclusive & Diverse Offer, recognizing the growth of the female membership and the partnership with Ash Lea School in coaching children with disabilities as well as providing coaching in eight local Primary Schools in term time.



Cultural Exchange Programme with Antigua & Barbuda:



Sir Vivian Richards, the Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke, Test Match Special's Dan Norcross, Ambassador Karen Mae-Hill and a delegation from Antigua & Barbuda came to visit us to celebrate the memorable ten week visit in the 2019 summer Essan & Timmo and promote our future

Cultural Exchange Programme including the proposed visit of Sam Foster & Tom Rock to Antigua in March and April 2020.



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Sam Foster sets new Batting Record:



Keyworth born Sam who graduated right through our junior ranks, hit an individual score of 169 not out away at Southwell CC and at the same time set with Rob Baker a new club 4th wicket partnership record in a season when the Captain & Vice Captain of our 1st XI and 2nd XI were under 21 year olds, each having passed through our junior system, and many junior boys and girls were given opportunities to gain experience playing in senior cricket in our four Saturday teams.

The 1st XI finished mid table in League Division C and our 2nds were third in Division J and in the Cups our Under 21s playing against Senior Premiership teams reached the final of the Nottinghamshire T20 Cup only to lose a 'super over' following a tie with Carrington Cavaliers CC but were winners of the renowned Thurgarton 6 a-side Cup tournament. Our Colts lost in the final of the Under 19 T20 Cup but our Girls team were joint champions of the Nottingham Under 15 Girls League and the Under 11s (photo) swept the board winning both the Nottingham League and the Newark League titles whilst the Under 13s won the 2nd Division of the Nottingham League fielding a mixed squad of our best boy and girl players.



County Hosts for Female cricket:

For the first time we hosted the Nottinghamshire County Women's team for matches against Kent Women & Lancashire Women, plus we hosted the County Girls teams for Under 13 & Under 12 matches against Leicestershire CCC. A number of our Girls were honoured by representing the County at Under 15, 13 and 12 age level and with more girls we are delighted to report successful at County Trials, we could have as many as ten KCC Girls playing at County level in 2020 which hopefully augers well for the future of our Women's team.

2020 and the impact on cricket from the COVID PANDEMIC:

Midway through March all cricket activities ceased as the pandemic seriously impacted the UK with Indoor Training activities halted for all teams and players at Trent Bridge and South Wolds School Sports Hall. Sam and Tom had barely been settled into life in Antigua on the Exchange Programme and played just one match before they had to abandon the island and fly home before all airline travel was severely curtailed and the planned fixture lists for all senior and junior League cricket was cancelled for the season.

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Cricket is allowed to re-start but with strict controls in July 2020:

Net practice in twos at first were then widened to allow small groups known as 'bubbles' and then from 11 July match cricket began for a seven week season of friendly matches home and away in a League format but with no promotion, relegation or trophies. Players had to arrive already changed and bring their own teas and at every six overs hand and ball sanitization took place. Spectators had to keep their distance from the players and bring their own chairs and everyone made it work and an amazing number of fixtures were crammed into the truncated season and despite players absent on holiday the club was able to field five senior teams on Saturday 15 August and the Women's, Ladies & Junior teams all enjoyed the opportunity to play again.

Pip Williams made a 1st XI debut v Ruddington CC on 25 July 2020 aged 13 years 11 days 18 days. Sam Foster cracked 162 not out with eleven sixes in a huge 1st XI score of 312 for 5 against Newark R&M CC on 1 August 2020 and with Tom Randall set a new club record 6th wicket stand of 132.

More than 100 Female Cricketers active for KCC:

The Women's 1st XI made their debut in the inaugural East Midlands Women's hard ball League and lost in a tight finish at Market Overton CC in Leicestershire on 19 July and the ladies team made their debut in the inaugural East Midlands Women's soft ball League at home against Clumber Park CC on 26 July.

Eleanor Owen became the first KCC female player to hit a Half Century with 65 against Ockbrook & Borrowash CC in a League match at home on 2 August 2020 and then on 13 September 2020, Georgi Sutton-Walker (67 not out) & Olivia Baker (66 not out) set a new Women's Cricket Partnership KCC Record at Market Overton putting on 152 for the third wicket (photo) and many new players joined the Ladies Soft Ball squad.



Ground Development First Phase completed Spring 2021:

The building of a new housing estate on land adjacent to our Platt Lane ground was now in full stride. The Keyworth Sports Association, a new company and in effect a partnership of KCC and Keyworth United Football Club witnessed the first phase of an estimated 4/5 year development programme completed through the building of a modern synthetic pitch for matches and training complete with floodlights for the Football Club and to follow will be the building of two new arenas for Cricket Club matches, complete with two new squares following the purchase of additional land and ground re-modelling, training nets indoor and outdoor and enhanced clubhouse facilities, car parking etc. will follow and funding and planning allow.

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Cricket Out of Covid Pandemic Lockdown allows a full 2021 Season:

No sit-down Teas anymore and for the early part of the season the changing rooms were out of bounds and face coverings were necessary to enter the Clubhouse and use the toilets but cricket was back and KCC continued to grow in playing numbers with more than 25% of playing membership, female.

Promotion for our three Senior XIs & the return of Essan Warner from Antigua:

The Nottinghamshire County League pyramid will be re-structured for the 2022 season and with our 1st XI, 2nd XI and 3rd XI all finishing third in their respective Divisions they will all be promoted.

We welcomed back Essan Warner on the exchange programme for the summer and on 5 June 2021 he equalled the club record with 14x6s in 124 not out v Hoveringham CC and went on to score 1003 runs in the season, 783 in the League with the 1st XI and the remainder in T20 matches. Essan against Hucknall CC II away on 17 July performed the 'double' scoring 69 runs and taking 5 wickets for 40 runs and then repeated the feat v Ellerslie CC II at home on 31 July with 53 runs and 5 for 14 runs and then again v Bingham CC at home on 28 August with 83 runs and 6 for 24. The only player in KCC History to record the 'double' feat three times in a season. All time West Indian great, Joel 'Big Bird' Garner visited Platt Lane for a social event to help raise funds to sustain the Exchange Programme for future seasons.

Daniel Garnham made his 1st XI League debut on 12 June v Hucknall CC IIs aged 14 years 11 months 15 days, the 20th youngest ever debutant (right in photo with skipper Sam Foster). Daniel Ferraro & Ben Walton also made 1st XI debuts and in total five Under 15s featured in the 1st XI line up during the season.



Four teams playing in the East Midlands Women's League:

Our 1st XI Women finished third in Division One and Georgi Sutton Walker scored the first ever female century for KCC v Kibworth CC away on 18 July with 130 not out and combined with 14 years old Eleanor Owen (89) in setting a new Women's Partnership record of 260 for the first wicket. Georgi was the top performer in the entire EMWL through the season as an all-rounder.

The team (see photo right) and all our teams in the EMWL wore new sponsored kit with names and numbers on their backs and the club continually attracted new players and engaged a part time coach, Michaela Kirk who played professionally with Trent Rockets CC & Loughborough Lightning CC until injured.



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KCC Juniors strong competition for the best in the County:

League cricket was suspended for Juniors but many friendlies took place and we finished Runners Up in the Nottingham Youth League Cup at both Under 13 and Under 11 age level whilst our Under 15s lost only one match all season and our Under 11 girls won the Nottingham Kwik League.



Annie Williams became first ever KCC player to make a century in County Girls cricket with 100 not out for Notts U13s v Derbyshire away at Clifton on 29 July 2021 (photo right). Annie went on to make her debut in the County Girls U18s on 8 August 2021.

Platt Lane played hosts to Nottinghamshire County Girl's at Under 18, 15, 13 and 11 year age teams in matches v Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Yorkshire and 11 KCC Girls and one boy represented their County and in addition to those in the 1st XI, many juniors played in our other Senior teams through the season with distinction. Eleanor Owen & Dan Ferraro making a match winning partnership for the 3rd wicket for the 3rd XI on 1 May (photo right) and on 15 May v Notts & Arnold CC IV, Dan Ferraro became the third youngest player ever to make a century for KCC, scoring 124 not out and for the 2nd XI on 21 August, Cameron Wells claimed a Hat-Trick v Ellerslie CC.



The former Football Club Clubhouse became a joint clubhouse as the wooden Pavilion became redundant and will eventually face demolition. All the wall hung photos were transferred and satellite TV screens were added, the bar enhanced and the tea bar with a wide range of snacks, aided by the inclusion of a pizza oven made sure of a welcome social atmosphere and venue for such as the end of season presentation evening which due to the membership size had to be spread over three separate evenings.

KCC a Community Club:

KCC expanded it's role as a major provider of coaching for players with Disabilities in the region and once again provided free coaching in eight local community Primary Schools, delivering a total of 46 hours coaching and staging the 13th Annual Schools Festival Day with a new winner, Edwalton School (see photo)



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2022, a Season of Promotions & Cup triumphs:

The 1st XI finished runners up in the South Notts League B Division, the 3rd & 4th XIs finished second and third in M Division and will be promoted whilst the Women's 1st XI won the East Midlands Women's League Division One and will move up to the Premier Division.

In the Cup competitions the 1st XI won the Popkess Cup Final beating teams from higher divisions on the way and the Under 19 Girls won the ECB U19 T20 Midlands Cup and then at National Finals Day finished fourth, and the Under 15 Girls lost in the Midlands Final of the ECB U15 T20 Cup but won the Nottinghamshire Girls U15 Development League. At Junior level, the Under 11s lost off the last ball to Caythorpe in the Newark League Cup and the U13s lost in the semi-final of their Cup.

KCC Girls play for Nottinghamshire County Women's team in National Competitions:

Olivia Baker & Evie-Mae Hicklin became the first ever KCC players to play for Nottinghamshire CCC Women's 1st XI on 10 April 2022 at Cuckney v Leicestershire CCC and they were joined by Annie Williams on 18 April at Crosby v Lancashire Women - three KCC players in the Women's County XI. Olivia Baker played on the County Championship T20 Finals Day v Lancashire for Notts with our Women's Coach Michaela Kirk still unable to play due to recovery from her ACL injury in July 2021. Michaela eventually returned to feature in the Women's 1st XI and had her Lightning contract extended whilst Olivia Baker was given a 2 year Lightning Academy contract and Evie-Mae Hicklin & Annie Williams were put on the EPP _ Emerging Player Programme.

Return of the Graham Family:

Former star player Ian Graham, recently playing for Nottinghamshire's County Vets team returned to play for KCC along with son Lewis (KCC 1st XI) & Darcey (KCC Women's 1st XI).

Records Galore for KCC Women & Girls:

Georgi Sutton Walker (photo right) became the first female to play at 2nd XI Senior level for KCC on 30 April v Oxton CC and then on 17 May became the first female to play at 1st XI Senior level, playing against Attenborough CC II in the SNL T20 Cup. She also went on to make the highest ever score by a KCC player with 172 not out for the Women's 1st XI v Thrapston in the EMWL on 31 July. Georgi also took 5 catches v Cutthorpe CC on 7 August to equal the club record and become the first person to do so, not as a wicketkeeper. Annie Williams became the first KCC player in Girls cricket to score a Century with 115 not out on Thursday 2 June in an ECB U15 Cup away match v North East Derbyshire and with Nelly Weaver (21no) they put on a Girl's record 2nd wicket stand of 125 runs. The following day in the ECB U19 Women's Cup away match against Clifton in Derbyshire, Annie scored 75 runs in another century partnership, this time with Olivia Baker who made 51 as they lifted the record to 128 runs for the 2nd wicket.



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Representative Honours accumulating for KCC Players:

Pip Williams represented Nottinghamshire County at Under 16 level, Bobby Pope featured at Under 11 & Lewis Graham played for Lincolnshire Under 18s and thirteen Girls played for Nottinghamshire at Under 18, 15, 13 & 11 years and following four young girls emerging from end of season trials there is every prospect of least 19 KCC Juniors playing at County level in 2023.

Barry Baker
(Club Historian)
October 2022