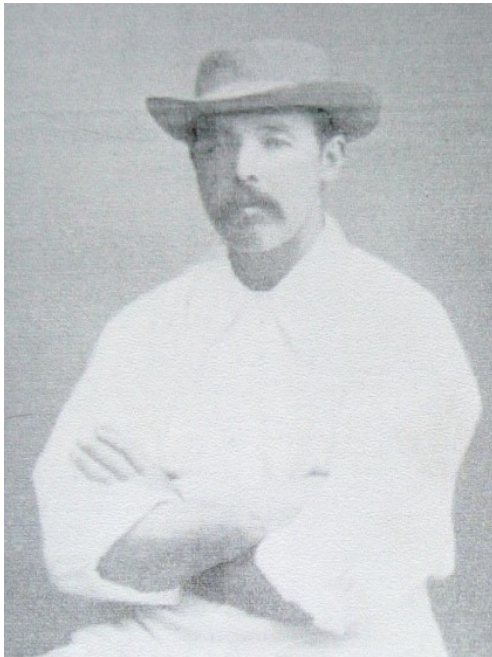


MATTHEW WILLIAM WRIGHT



Mat Wright was born in Town Street, Keyworth on 24 July 1858 the son of Matthew & Rebecca Wright and was related to the Attewell family. An all-rounder, he stood 5ft 9ins tall and could bat with authority in the middle order and with his easy rhythmic approach, bowl all day if needed with unerring accuracy at a medium pace that allowed a good wicket keeper to stand up to him. Mat debuted for Keyworth in 1875 and was regularly selected to play for Nottinghamshire Colts against the County team at Trent Bridge and did so in 1882, 1885, 1889 and 1890. He also played for Notts Colts v Yorkshire Colts in 1885 making an impressive 58 runs before being run out, he made a second appearance against the Yorkshire Colts in 1889. He also played one match for a team known as the Colts of England. Mat made only one first class appearance for Nottinghamshire CCC and that was against the

Marylebone Club (MCC) at Lords on May 23rd 1889 where he also served for a period on the MCC ground staff at Lords.

Mat was engaged as a professional at Eton Public School in 1885 and stayed until 1936, a photograph of him, along with his recollections of cricket at Eton, were published in The Times newspaper on 15 July 1934 and he had his own Sports Shop on the campus (photo right). Working at Eton gave him the opportunity to play as a professional with Buckinghamshire CCC and he debuted for them in 1891 and he continued with them for 22 years playing in the Minor Counties League until 1913, taking 918 wickets at an average of 13.79 and 68 times claiming five wickets in an innings. With the bat he had a top score of 148, making four centuries in all in scoring 5094 runs at an average of



21.13 and in a recently published History of Bucks CCC book, the editor Douglas Miller selected him to bat at number 7 in his all-time best Buckinghamshire CCC team and on the occasion of his final match for the county, the Bishop of Buckingham spoke of the esteem in which Mat was held and presented him with a silver salver and illuminated address.

Mat's appearances for Keyworth were limited through his professional commitments which also included Nottingham Commercial CC, Bridgewater CC in Somerset and Downside College. Nevertheless, until finally leaving the area to join Bucks he had amassed more than a thousand runs and taken 50 wickets.

MATTHEW WILLIAM WRIGHT continued...

His 113 on 20th September 1886 in a friendly match against Dalby & District CC was only the second ever recorded century by a Keyworth player and the first at First XI level, following on from John Disney's 102 not out in a second eleven match in 1883.

Old Etonian and former Prime Minister Lord Home in his autobiography recalled Mat Wright as a canny man who was a stickler for proper cricket, saying to him on one occasion " For God's sake sir, if you must miss, do it in style"

Mat was an outstanding full back with Keyworth Football Club between 1878 and 1890 and always maintained his connection with Keyworth and served as a Vice President of the Cricket Club during the 1920's. He died during his ninetieth year on 13 May 1949 at his home near Windsor, where he had also served as a Councillor for the Royal Borough.

Mat Wright's Keyworth career statistics...

	Mat	Inns	NO	HS	Runs	Ave	Ovrs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	Ct	St
1 st XI	88	89	7	113	1063	12.96	235.3	74	389	50	7.78	18	1
2 nd XI	1	1	0	12	12	12.00	6	3	6	1	6.00		
CAREER	89	90	7	113	1075	12.95	241.3	77	395	51	7.95	18	1