RRB Bookshelf - August 2013

NEW PUBLICATION

1. The Return of "Mac" ...

Bolton CC v Castleton CC

18th May, 1878

K. Martin Tebay

LIMITED EDITION OF 25 copies

A5 decorative card covers. (Stock ref 6711)

iv + 10 + (2) pages, illustrated.

Signed & numbered by the author

£9.95

The Lancashire County fast bowler Will McIntyre signed as professional for Castleton CC in Rochdale for the 1878 season after eight years' loyal service to Bolton CC. This being the first occasion on which the popular professional had opposed Bolton since his departure to pastures new, a crowd of around 4,000, an attendance far greater than had ever previously been seen on the ground, greeted him at George Green-lane. Amongst the thousands of spectators who were present, forming a ring all round the ground, "Mac" had many supporters. The match presented the curious feature of each club playing against their former professional, the new Bolton "professor" Tom Shooter having been engaged as professional at Castleton four years earlier in 1874. Bolton were by no means represented by their strongest team; on the other hand, although Castleton were not up to their full strength, six of their team had appeared for Lancashire County, namely Messrs W S Butterworth, E L Chadwick, J Leach, and F Taylor, plus their two professionals, McIntyre and Fred Stephenson. The home eleven 'figured most ludicrously as batsmen', their two completed innings only amounting to 63 runs and McIntyre's bowling on the day was excellent and no effort was spared by him in securing for his new club as complete a "win" as they could possibly three professionals, attain. The Stephenson, McIntyre, Shooter (the last two Nottinghamshire men both), as well as the Bolton amateur Will Scott, wrought havoc with the leather, especially "Mac", who, with match figures of 15-28, was much to the fore. (Out now)





Will McIntyre

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Against the Odds: Number Three

2. 'Grand Cricket Match'

Eighteen of Bolton Club and Ground versus W G Grace's United South of England Eleven

18th, 19th, 20th July, 1878

K. Martin Tebay

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The visit of the United South Eleven engendered 'considerable interest' in the town of Bolton. It was not the first time any of the notable "Elevens of England" had appeared in the district but was the first such occasion since the town's 'leading Club' had left their old ground at Backo'th'-Bank for a new enclosure at George Green-lane, Great Lever. The visiting eleven included several players of 'longstanding reputation in the cricketing world', among them being Messrs. W. G. Grace, G. F. Grace, W. R. Gilbert, and Billy Midwinter - Gloucestershire County men all. The XVIII of Bolton Club and Ground featured the cream of the Bolton Cricket Club, their professional Tom Shooter, the Sefton professional Enoch Tranter, as well as two Nottinghamshire men, Harry Bembridge and Edwin Mills. The match was not without incident; two disputed catches, both involving the brothers Grace, little causing controversy. Notwithstanding, the renowned "W.G." delighted the locals with his all-round play, scoring over a hundred runs and taking 20 wickets during the course of the three days' play. The early finish of the "odds" match saw an eleven-a-side game take place featuring a mixture of the 29 players. However, this, too, was not without controversy. Midwinter declined to play, while neither of the Graces, nor Gilbert, nor James Southerton, would take to the again once they had batted. Nonetheless, the event was a great success, the attendance on the final day of the encounter being greater than had ever been seen upon the cricket field at George Green-lane.

(Due to be published September, 2013)

ISBN 978 09573540 4 3



W G Grace

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3. 'The Cricketing Curate and the Cornstalks'

Lancashire County versus The Australians at Old Trafford, on 24th, 25th May, 1885

K. Martin Tebay

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Prior to the arrival of the visiting sixth Australian side of 1888, there had been 58 matches in this country between Australian touring sides and the English and counties Universities. And the

home teams had won just seven of them; Nottinghamshire had defeated the tourists twice, as had Surrey and Kent while Yorkshire had one success to their credit. The sixth Australians had enhanced that record after five first-class games of their tour as, beginning operations in the south, Percy McDonnell and his team had won all their matches, comprehensively defeating C I Thornton's XI by six wickets, Warwickshire by an innings and 150 runs, Surrey by an innings and 154 runs, Oxford University by an innings and 19 runs, and, on 21st and 22nd May, Yorkshire by an innings and 64 runs. The Australian touring party lacked some of the famous players of the day, such as G Giffen and F R Spofforth, but it was still a strong side. Two players on their first tour of England were the fast bowlers C T B Turner and J J Ferris, who were an outstanding pair of opening bowlers; they were to finish the tour with 283 and 199 first-class wickets respectively. So the omens for Lancashire having any success against them were deemed to be very slim. While the Australians were creating havoc on their way to Old Trafford, Lancashire had played just one first-class match in which they suffered a 33-run defeat at home against Kent on 21st, 22nd, 23rd May. Therefore, it seemed quite unreasonable to expect that Lancashire would be able to defeat such a dominant team. The visit of the Cornstalks to Old Trafford was, understandably, looked forward to with great anticipation and it was to mark the Lancashire debut of the Marlborough-educated Reverend Russell Napier (pictured left) and the amateur all-rounder was to have quite an influence on the game. The Preston-born "Cricketing Curate" enjoyed a fine, allround match, and this is the story of that game, together with some biographical background on Napier, who briefly flitted across the first-class scene like a meteor.

ISBN 978 0 9573540 6 7

(Currently with the printer, copies available by late-August, 2013)

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Bookshelf IV, August 2013

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