

FIDDLERS' CRICKET

In the winter of 1967, Frank Smith the popular and long serving Secretary of the Slough Cricket Club approached me and suggested that I write a short essay for the forthcoming Year Book (of not more than one thousand words.) We discussed a number of subjects and eventually he said 'Why not write about your wandering Sunday side'

The Fiddlers' Cricket Club was founded in 1949 (by our first Captain and laterly President, Gilbert Husbands.) Gilbert had joined had joined Slough Cricket Club after being demobilized at the end of the 1939 - 1945 War. A tall thin man with reddish hair, he had a commanding personality and was usually surrounded by a crowd of friends in any meeting at the bar. He appeared to be well connected in rugby circles, but whilst a very keen cricketer he had little ability.

Just after the War, Slough Cricket Club had a large number of very good cricketers and the older members and those of moderate skill found difficulty in obtaining a place in the third eleven.

Gilbert, with his deep love of cricket decided that if he could not get into one of the Club's teams he would form his own. In 1948 a number of members decided to join him and after obtaining a few local Sunday Fixtures he organized a tour of Devon. In those days beer and food were extremely short due to the continuance of rationing and one night arriving late back at the hotel, very hungry, to find the dining room was long since shut and the staff had retired for the night. Gilbert with his usual flair for improvisation decided that food could be found in the deserted kitchen. They had just opened a refrigerator door, and after a few beers on the way back to the hotel, were making rather a lot of noise, when suddenly the Chef appeared. Looking visibly annoyed he turned to them and said "You are nothing but a bloody bunch of Fiddlers" At that moment in time the clubs name was born and today, forty one years later, the Club is still flourishing.

In 1948 I was a member of the Slough Cricket Club and quite a number of members were annoyed that Gilbert, appeared to be forming a Club within a Club. This did not affect his team and they concluded a very successful season. During the winter he approached me with a view to joining his Club the following season and as it was a wandering side, playing away, always on a Sunday, I decided to throw my lot in with him. It was a decision I have never regreted and the Club provided me with many good friends, entertaining cricket and marvellous social evenings.

When Frank approached me about the article I decided that within the number of words available I would try to summarize the ideas and ideals of the Club. The article appear in the handbook in the Spring of 1968 and one of the copies must have found it's way to Australia. Later in the summer I was asked if I had any objection to my short article being reproduced in the first addition of the new cricket magazine entitled Pavilion published by the Australian Cricket Society in October 1968, and the following is the copy

"FIDDLERS' CRICKET

With the return of the Breathalyser

ARTICLE WRITTEN BY BERNARD HAMILTON FOR THE SLOUGH
CRICKET CLUB YEAR BOOK.