

Chapter 10

Cricket and the War Years 1940 - 1949



Rodney Parade staged County Cricket regularly after the War featuring some of England's greatest players - Len Hutton (Left) and Frank Lowson (Right) walk out to open the batting for Yorkshire in 1949 watched by record crowds

Gate Receipts at Rodney Parade for Glamorgan Matches (1935 - 1955)

Gate Receipts - Recorded in Groundsman Fred Cox's Notebook

Year	Day	Match	Gate Receipts	Notes
1935	1st Day	Birmingham	£200	
	2 "	"	£100	
	3 "	"	£100	
1936	1st Day	Glamorgan	£10	
	2 "	"	£10	
	3 "	"	£10	
1937	1st Day	Somerset	£135 + 4,500	
	2 "	"	£50 + 1,500	
	3 "	"	£100 + 1,500	
1938	1st Day	Glamorgan	£100 + 1,500	
	2 "	"	£100	
	3 "	"	£100	
1939	1st Day	Warwick	£100 + 3,000	
	2 "	"	£10	
	3 "	"	£10	
1940	1st Day	Leicestershire	£100	
	2 "	"	£100	
	3 "	"	£100	
1941	1st Day	Leicestershire	£100	
	2 "	"	£100	
	3 "	"	£100	
1942	1st Day	Leicestershire	£100	
	2 "	"	£100	
	3 "	"	£100	
1943	1st Day	Leicestershire	£100	
	2 "	"	£100	
	3 "	"	£100	
1944	1st Day	Leicestershire	£100	
	2 "	"	£100	
	3 "	"	£100	
1945	1st Day	Leicestershire	£100	
	2 "	"	£100	
	3 "	"	£100	
1946	1st Day	Leicestershire	£100	
	2 "	"	£100	
	3 "	"	£100	
1947	1st Day	Leicestershire	£100	
	2 "	"	£100	
	3 "	"	£100	
1948	1st Day	Leicestershire	£100	
	2 "	"	£100	
	3 "	"	£100	
1949	1st Day	Leicestershire	£100	
	2 "	"	£100	
	3 "	"	£100	
1950	1st Day	Leicestershire	£100	
	2 "	"	£100	
	3 "	"	£100	
1951	1st Day	Leicestershire	£100	
	2 "	"	£100	
	3 "	"	£100	
1952	1st Day	Leicestershire	£100	
	2 "	"	£100	
	3 "	"	£100	
1953	1st Day	Leicestershire	£100	
	2 "	"	£100	
	3 "	"	£100	
1954	1st Day	Leicestershire	£100	
	2 "	"	£100	
	3 "	"	£100	
1955	1st Day	Leicestershire	£100	
	2 "	"	£100	
	3 "	"	£100	

The popularity of First Class Cricket played at Rodney Parade can be gauged from the above figures taken from groundsman Fred Cox's notebook during the period of first Class Cricket at Rodney Parade between 1935 - 1955. Large attendances watched First Class Cricket at Rodney Parade with 15,000 spectators attending the match v Lancashire in 1948, winning the County Championship. Winston Place at Rodney Parade). Glamorgan enjoyed a very successful season in 1948, winning the County Championship. Yorkshire were also popular opponents and 21,000 spectators attended the 1949 match, which Yorkshire won in just two days (see photo of Len Hutton and Frank Lawson at Rodney Parade). Fitting then that Yorkshire provided the last First Class opposition at Rodney Parade for a Refuge Assurance Sunday League fixture in the final season, before the ground was sold in 1990.





The 'Historic' Rodney Parade Ground



The Forties - 'The War Years' : The Second World War (1939 - 1945)

A. E. Hodges Captained the Club again in 1940, but unavoidably some games had to be cancelled because of a shortage of players to H.M. Forces. In 1940, 5 matches were won, 2 lost and 4 drawn, Harry Jarrett topped the bowling averages.

In 1941 under the Captaincy of N. W. Abraham, the team played 12 - 6 won, 3 lost and 3 drawn. Harry Jarrett continued his association with the Club playing as an Amateur and had a good all round season, including one innings of 104.

Under the same Captaincy in 1942, 9 matches were won, with 1 lost (to Cardiff) and 3 drawn, A. North batted well and Harry Jarrett bowled well. Abraham was re-elected Captain in 1943, but couldn't play due to illness and was replaced by J. F. Rust, (previously Captain in 1926 and 1927) - six won, four lost and 3 drawn. North and Jarrett topped the averages again.

'Unsung Heroes'

A Club milestone was reached at the end of the 1943 season, when H. Berrow resigned after a period of over 30 years of excellent service as Honorary Secretary. Berrow had only been an average player for the Club, Captaining the Club's 3rd X1 in 1914 and 1924, he also Captained the 2nd X1 in 1920, 1921. However, Berrow became a major figure in the Club and served as Hon. Secretary from 1920 - 1943, after replacing Tom Blandford, who had resigned in 1920. Berrow also wrote the Cricket account in Newport Athletic Club's 'First Fifty Years' (1875 -1925) Handbook.

Other 'unsung heroes' in the period after the War were E.G. Armstead who had started looking after the equipment, a job he was to undertake for many years to come, providing a really first class service to the Club. Also at this time, it was noted that former Captain N. W. Abraham devoted a tremendous amount of time on behalf of the 100 junior members, until 1947 when W. Owen took over this task and was assisted in later years by John Berthon. J. H. B. Davies, R. S. Webb and N. W. Abraham continued to assist.

Having recovered from illness, Abraham was reappointed Captain in 1944, playing 19, won 6, losing 5 and drawing 8. W. Lucas Newport County's Welsh Football International, scored 336 runs in 5 innings, in his first season. Three players played for a representative Glamorgan side - H. Jarrett, W. Lucas and A. North, the later scoring 100 in his first game.

A. North was elected Captain in 1945, winning 10 matches, losing only 1 and drawing 7 games. Harry Jarrett scored 504 runs in 15 innings and took 40 wickets (Average 12.22).

Only limited cricket was played during the War, until 1946, which saw the first full peacetime cricket season for 6 years.

'After the War'

Jake Archer was captain in 1946, which saw the first complete peacetime cricket season since 1939 and it was accompanied by very wet weather. Only 13 games were completed and six were won. Arthur Porter played for Glamorgan in the County Championship and W. Lucas had an aggregate of 373 runs in 11 innings including his first century for the Club.

Club Legends Fred Wangler and Bill Jones Join the Club as Youngsters

In 1946, on the reopening of the Club following the War, Cricket was very popular. With 100 junior members, among them Club legends Fred Wangler and Bill Jones, joined the Newport Athletic Club Cricket section. Membership fees in those days were 10 shillings and sixpence (50p) and practice sessions were held on the outfield, ending only when groundsman Fred Cox threw everyone out at 9.00pm. Juniors at that time weren't allowed in the nets. The only Junior who used the nets was Hugh Armstead, who was taken by his father Ted Armstead (Senior player and equipment man) after senior nets had finished - Fred Wangler and the other junior members were very envious of this privilege. Junior matches were played against local teams, including Barry, Cardiff, Panteg and Usk.

Thus began a lifelong affiliation to Newport Cricket Club for Wangler and Jones, with both being gifted 1st X1 players and later being named as Club 'Legends'. Bill Jones as Chairman of the Cricket Club, led the fight to 'Save Rodney Parade' in the late 1980's when the ground was eventually sold by NAC. He later became President of Newport Cricket Club until he died in 2000. Fred Wangler continued to play for the Club well into his sixties and served as Treasurer for over 40 years after first being appointed in 1978.

In 1947, Jake Archer averaged 38.8 and scored two centuries both against Cardiff. John Berthon had an aggregate of 460 and W. Lewis took 30 wickets (Av. 10.5) The Thursday X1 captained by J. F. Rust had an undefeated season and a Tuesday evening team, 'The Rabbits' under E. G. Armstead, only lost one match.

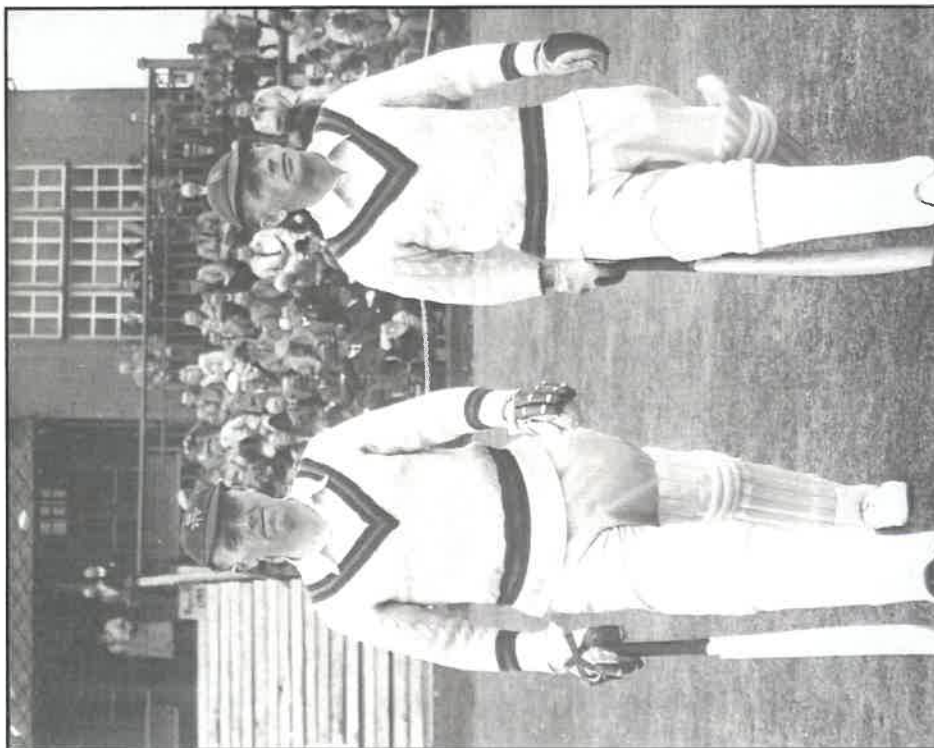


 **England Openers at Rodney Parade (1948 & 1949)** 

Glamorgan v Lancashire

Rodney Parade, Newport

July 3rd, 4th, & 6th. 1948 (3-day County Championship)



England Openers - Winston Place & Cyril Washbrook

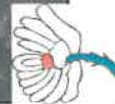
Open The Batting at Rodney Parade



Glamorgan v Yorkshire

Rodney Parade, Newport

August 27th, 28th, & 30th. 1949 (3-day County Championship)



England Openers - Len Hutton & Frank Lowson

Open The Batting at Rodney Parade

Record Crowds at Rodney Parade

In 1948, over 16,000 spectators with gate receipts totalling £1,260, watched the Glamorgan v Lancashire match which featured England openers

Cyril Washbrook and Winston Place.

The 1949 match v Yorkshire surpassed all others. With seven England players on view, (including Yorkshire's England openers Len Hutton and Frank Lowson) huge crowds of 11,000 on day one and 10,000 on day two, with gate receipts of £500 and £450 respectively, watched the game



The 'Historic' Rodney Parade Ground



The Forties - 'After The War' : England 'Greats' Play at Newport

It was during the period immediately before and after the Second World War that two players, prominent in the history of Newport Cricket Club, came to the fore :-

Arthur Porter

Arthur Porter joined Newport C.C. as a 21 year old in 1935, having previously played League Cricket in Lancashire, before joining the Police Force and moving to Newport. After some impressive batting and spin bowling performances, he was called up by Glamorgan in 1936 to play against Worcestershire at Neath. Porter Captained Newport in 1938 and was appointed again in 1947, although he was forced to resign the Captaincy, as he got a new job as Personnel Officer at Whiteheads and had to play for the works team - he was replaced by John Berthon. He played for Glamorgan's 1st and 2nd XI in the late 1930's, whenever his police duties allowed. When Glamorgan regrouped after the Second World War, Porter secured enough leave to help the county out on a regular basis in 1946 and 1947. 1946 saw Porter produce his career-best performances for Glamorgan with 105 against Surrey and 4/25 against Gloucestershire. He made one appearance in 1948 and 1949. Porter continued his association with Newport Cricket Club, as an Umpire and Scorer until he died in 1994. Porter's two sons David and Derek were also Newport stalwarts, Derek Captaining the Club in 1979

Harry Jarrett

Harry Jarrett initially played county cricket for Warwickshire in 1932 and 1933, scoring 45 on his debut against the Indian tourists at Edgbaston. He then had a spell coaching/playing in Scotland, before moving to S. Wales where he became the professional with Newport Cricket Club in 1936. In 1938 Jarrett was chosen by Glamorgan to play against Sir Julian Cahn's XI in their friendly at the Rodney Parade ground, and on his home ground, Jarrett, bowling leg-spin, claimed a wicket with his first ball for the Welsh county. Jarrett re-appeared for the county in their wartime friendlies in 1944. Having succeeded George Relph as groundsman at Rodney Parade in 1938, he continued the role after the War, also Captaining the Club in 1949. In addition he edited "The South Wales Cricketers' Magazine" between 1948-1951. His son Keith Jarrett also played for Newport and Glamorgan in 1967 and won fame as a rugby player for Wales and the British Lions.

England 'Greats' Play at Newport

In the years immediately after the War, Cricket was popular and County Cricket featured regularly at Rodney Parade, with large crowds flocking to Newport to watch the countries leading players.

In 1946, 9,000 spectators turned out to watch Glamorgan's match against Essex.

In 1948, over 16,000 spectators with gate receipts totalling £1,260, watched the Glamorgan v Lancashire match which featured England openers Cyril Washbrook and Winston Place.

The 1949 match against Yorkshire surpassed all others. With seven England players on view, (including Yorkshire's England openers Len Hutton and Frank Lowson) a huge crowd of 11,000 on day one and 10,000 on day two, with gate receipts of £500 and £450 respectively, saw Yorkshire beat Glamorgan inside two days, to clinch a share of the County Championship title with Middlesex - the first time the title had been shared in 60 years.

1948, saw G.H Coates elected as Captain and 9 matches were won, 3 lost and 6 drawn. Harry Jarrett took 61 wickets (Av.11.5) which included 9 wickets in a match on 2 separate occasions. W. Lucas scored 350 runs (average 38.9) and A. North 390 (average 39.5). The 'Rabbits XI' again under the Captaincy of E. G. Armstead, further improved and remained unbeaten throughout the season.

Harry Jarrett was honoured with the Captaincy in 1949, a dry summer and he took 71 wickets (Av. 17.3) but received poor support from the other bowlers and only 8 out of 23 matches were won. E. C. Pullin scored 460 runs (average 27.1) and John Berthon started the season with successive scores of 51, 86n.o, and 53. He ended with an aggregate of 563 (Average 26.3).

Jim McConnon (Newport, Glamorgan & England)

McConnon was a tall and thoughtful Geordie who found his way into the Glamorgan cricket dressing-room as he was completing a professional football career with Lovells Athletic near Newport, having played wartime friendlies in 1944-45 for Aston Villa. He brought with him a knee injury, but that didn't stop him bowling fast for Newport during the summer of 1949 and attracting Glamorgan's attention. The NAC Annual Report stated 'An interesting newcomer to the Newport team in 1949 was J. E. McConnon. He came as a fast bowler and later played for Glamorgan and England. Oddly however, he was more distinguished as a batsman scoring 542 runs at an average of 49.3, including 115 against Cheltenham'.

Glamorgan C.C.C. (1st XI)

The War years were difficult for cricket and no County Championship matches were played between the end of 1939 until the start of the 1946 season. During the War Years Newport's Arthur Porter played for Glamorgan in First Class matches. Other Newport players - Harry Jarrett, Billy Lucas Alf North appeared for Glamorgan CCC. in non First Class matches.

Newport Cricket Club Captains (1940 - 1949)

1940 : A. E. Hodges	1941 : N. W. Abraham
1942 : N. W. Abraham	1943 : J. F. Rust
1944 : N. W. Abraham	1945 : A. S. North
1946 : A. J. Archer	1947 : P. H. J. Berthon
1948 : G. H. Coates	1949 : H. H. Jarrett

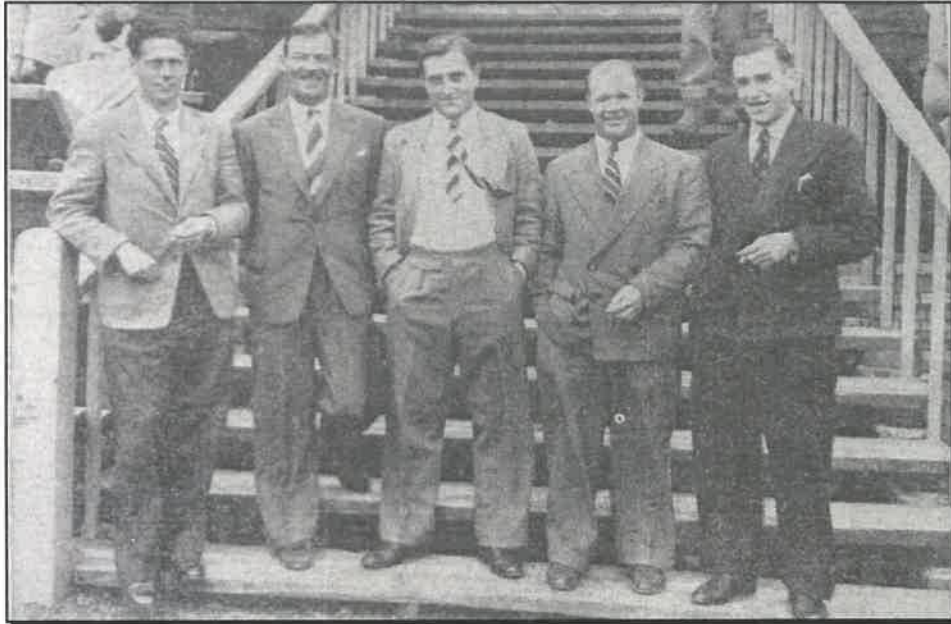




England Players at Rodney Parade (1940's)



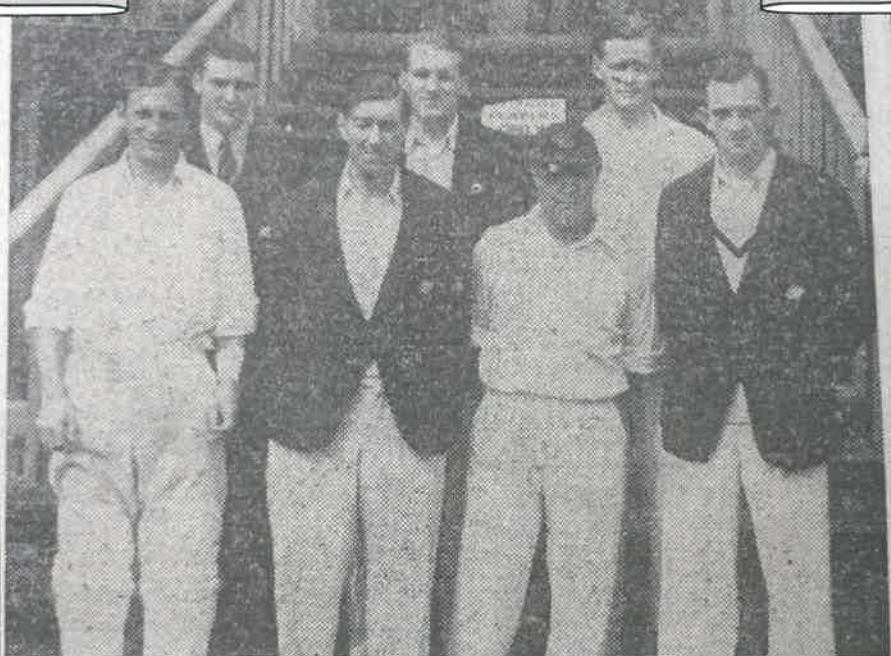
Five England Test Players On Parade



Glamorgan v Essex at Rodney Parade, Newport. . August 19th, 21st & 22nd, 1950

Five England players who are playing in the Glamorgan and Essex game at Newport Athletic Grounds to-day, Monday, and Tuesday. Left to right: Trevor Bailey (Essex), D. J. Insole (Essex), Alan Watkins (Glamorgan) and Gilbert Parkhouse (Glamorgan). Bailey and Parkhouse have been chosen to tour Australia this winter, and, with Insole, have played against West Indies this summer. Smith was a member of the last M.C.C. team to tour Australia, and Watkins toured South Africa last.

Seven Test Stars to Play at Newport



Glamorgan v Yorkshire at Rodney Parade, Newport. August 27th, 29th 1949

In the Yorkshire and Glamorgan teams playing at Newport are several men who have played for England in Test matches and for the M.C.C. touring sides. In the picture are Yorkshire players Yardley, Hutton, Close, Wardle, Coxon and Watson; with Alan Watkins of Glamorgan.