

Chapter 12

The Swinging Sixties

1960 - 1969



**Under the Captaincy of Ian Frost
Newport Cricket Club enjoyed two
'Invincible' Seasons in 1960 and 1967**

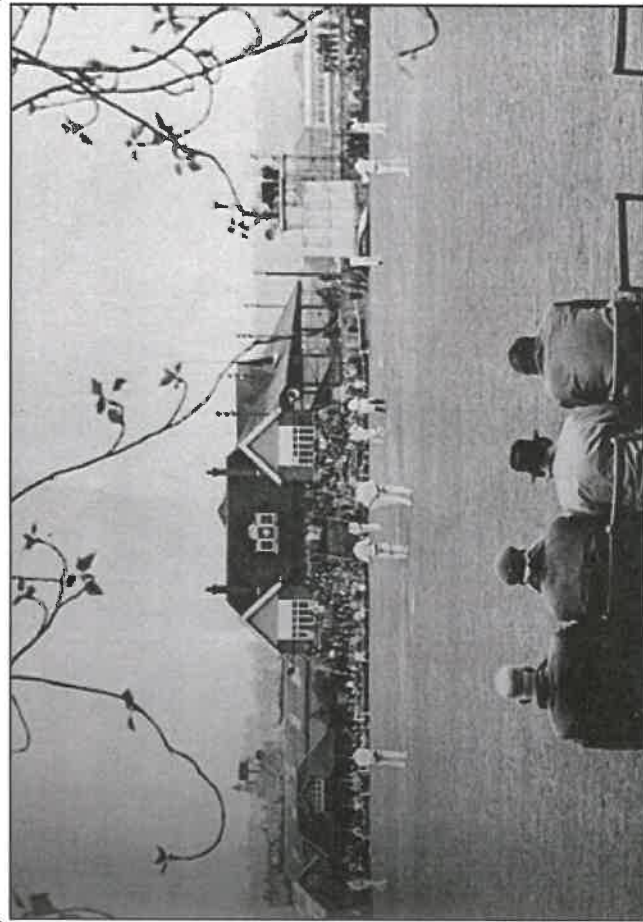
Rodney Parade in the Sixties



Rodney Parade in the Sixties

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Glamorgan experimented by staging the 1964 Gillette Cup match with Worcestershire at the ground, but the Championship match with Warwickshire in 1965 was the final First-Class game played at Rodney Parade until 3 Sunday League games were staged at the ground in 1988, 1989 and 1990, prior to the ground being sold.



Rodney Parade in 1961



The Ground staff at Rodney Parade in the Sixties
 Front (L-R) Nelson and Fred Cox (Head Groundsman)
 Back 2nd from left : Graham Reynolds (player)



The 'Historic' Rodney Parade Ground



'Cricket in the Sixties' The Decade Starts with an Invincible Season

1960 An Invincible Season

Under Ian Frost's Captaincy in 1960, the Club enjoyed an outstanding season, when for only the third time in their history, the Club recorded an invincible season, winning 10 matches and drawing the remainder. Frost led by example topping the batting averages with 35.0, closely followed by W. C. Jones. The bowling was shared by Dennis Richards, Fred Wangler and Mike Brickley, with Dennis Richards topping the averages with 10.96. A number of talented club stalwarts, namely Bill Jones, Fred Wangler, Willie Whitehill and Mike Brickley appeared in the side at this time, not to mention Dennis Richards.

Dennis Richards takes all 10 Wickets

Dennis Richards had moved to Newport from Machen in order to further his cricket. He repaid his former club by taking all 10 wickets in an innings (17 overs, 7 maidens, 10wkts, 25 runs) against his former club Machen on Sept 12th, 1966, in a Midweek match.

Willie Whitehill

Willie Whitehill was a prominent player in the early 1960's, having kept for Newport C.C. since his teens. In 1960 he was Glamorgan's reserve wicket-keeper and appeared in seven first-class matches, making his debut against Worcestershire at Stourbridge. He continued to play for the 2nd X1 until 1964, but did not play again for Glamorgan's first team. Over a 40 year period playing at Newport, Whitehill played for Wales Schools, Glamorgan CCC and the Wales Over 50's team - he is believed to be the only player to have represented all three teams.



Graham Reynolds makes his mark

A young player called Graham Reynolds was beginning to make his mark in Frost's 1961 team, playing the first of many outstanding innings for the Club, scoring 101n.o against Pontypridd in his first game of the season. He was second in the batting averages to Len Hill (29.42), with Gilbert Davies heading the bowling averages with (10.48). In 1962, under F. L. Wanglers Captaincy, Reynolds topped the batting averages with an average of 41.5, finishing 0.5 above Ian Frost. Fred Wangler who had been a stalwart for many seasons topped the bowling averages with 9.6 taking 56 wickets, followed closely by Gilbert Davies with 53 wickets (10.85).

W. K. Whitehill Captained the Club in 1963, in a very successful season, but Reynolds was once again the cricketer of the season, heading both the batting (42.0) and bowling (8.30) averages. Willie Whitehill continued as Captain in 1964, also captaining Monmouthshire and Len Hill played for Glamorgan. However, only 3 matches were won and 4 lost. At this time

Malcom Price takes charge of the Juniors

In the sixties Malcolm Price a Newport player and local school teacher was coaching the Juniors, a role which he completed with distinction until the 1980's. Many of Newport's home grown players at the time were coached by Malcolm Price.



Ted Armstead Still looking after the Kit

E. G. Armstead was still looking after the kit, an excellent record of continuous service over many years.

First Class Cricket at Rodney Parade Ceases

By the 1960's falling attendances at Newport led to a few questions being asked about the viability of the ground as a County venue. Glamorgan experimented by staging the 1964 Gillette Cup match with Worcestershire at the ground, but the following year, the Championship match with Warwickshire in 1965 was the final First-Class game played at Rodney Parade until Sunday League Cricket saw Glamorgan return to the ground for matches in 1988, 1989 and 1990.

1965 was regarded as possibly the poorest season the Club had had for a very long time, except that the 2nd X1 remained unbeaten throughout the season. John Phillips was Captain and Graham Reynolds headed the bowling averages with 12.21. H. Jenkins topped the batting averages and also played for Glamorgan.

Graham Kingston makes his Newport Debut

Graham Kingston, who would later go on to play for Glamorgan, began his Newport career as a very promising 15 year old, playing for Wales U15's. John Phillips was re-elected as Captain in 1966.



Ted Armstead – 'Newport Cricket Club Legend'



Ted Armstead



Club legend Fred Wangler, spoke very highly of his compatriot, in the following account :-

'Ted was an Edwardian Gentleman who believed that cricket was 'the only true religion'. He may well have been the best known cricketer in Monmouthshire. An unusual distinction for a man who spent most of his long cricketing life, which spanned some 40 years, playing for Newport 2nd and 3rd X1s'.

Born around 1900, Ted volunteered for the Services in the Great War, when under age in order that he could join a Scottish Regiment and wear the kilt. Having survived the Western Front in the later part of the War, he played his first game for the 1st X1 in 1921 v Gloucester City. He commented that 'he was not the youngest man on the field', a young 18 year old playing for Gloucester City scored a century, 'name of Hammond'.

To those who joined the Club after the 2nd World War in 1946 like Fred Wangler, Ted was not only an inspiration, but also the best possible net bowler. He'd arrive on his bike at 6.00pm and bowl until it was too dark. His very slow leg breaks were invariably straight with little deviation and perfect for developing footwork. 'Slogging' in the nets was frowned upon - we were encouraged to move the feet and play straight. Harry Jarrett was the worst possible net bowler, with a faster and lower trajectory, massive spin and numerous googlies, which were difficult to identify'.

Ted was not a committee person but he organised the Thursday X1 and the Tuesday evening Rabbits X1. He arranged the fixtures, selected the teams, chose the Captain and later umpired. As an umpire he was a bowlers delight - he forestalled the DRS system by many years. Following a match at Stinchcombe when he officiated with an umpire of like mind, Bill Jones announced that more LBW's were given that day at Stinchcombe, than in the whole nine First Class games played the previous day!

In 1949, Jim McConnon arrived to play Football for Lovells Athletic. McConnon also played cricket for Newport, before joining Glamorgan and being selected to play for England. Ted and Jim had an amazing friendship, on Sunday afternoons in the winter, they met in the old gymnasium at Newport Athletic Club and batted and bowled to each other on the wooden floor - the England Off Spinner, bowling to a 50 year old Newport 3rd team opening batsman, but it was here that Jim McConnon practised the ball which ran away from the right hand batsman. Ted's practice ball is on display in this Museum.

Family holidays were invariably at Cricket Festivals - Scarborough, Bournemouth, Weston and Cheltenham where Ted and his sons would spend the week watching County Cricket. Like most of his generation Ted idolised Jack Hobbs. When he needed a new bat he would take the train to London and go to Jack Hobbs' shop in Fleet Street. It is likely that after such a visit he wrote to Jack Hobbs to thank him for his courtesy and help in choosing a bat. One of the many letters in Ted's collection (displayed in this Museum) is the reply Ted received from Jack Hobbs.

In spite of 40 years of practice, Ted was unable to bowl a googly, so he sought advice from Doug Wright, probably the best googly bowler in the world and holder of the record number of hat tricks - seven. This prompted a four page letter from Doug Wright offering instructions and field placings - the letter is also displayed in this Museum.

In 1948, at the age of 48, Ted found himself in the 1st X1 v Gloucester City along with an 18 year old schoolboy - Ian Frost who was making his debut for the 1st X1. Ted took many wickets that day, possibly eight, helped by three brilliant catches by the schoolboy, Frost. On the following Monday, Ian received a thank you letter from Ted and a gift of a leather wallet - Ted was a Leathersmith. The match ball (on display in this Museum) was retained by Ted and was positioned at the centre of the hall stand until he died.

In later years, Ted looked after the club kit and would often be found in the home changing room, utilising his Leathersmiths skills, repairing old pads and buckles and putting studs in players boots. On Friday afternoons he would collect the team kit from the Cricket pavilion in his van and take it to Newport Station, so that the players could put it on the train to go to their matches on the Saturday.

Ted Armstead - A Newport Cricket Club Legend.





The 'Historic' Rodney Parade Ground



'Frost Leads Newport to Another Invincible Season'

Another Invincible Season in 1967

The Club's fourth Invincible season duly arrived in 1967 again under the leadership of Ian Frost, who topped the batting averages with 48.00 in 21 innings. Fred Wangler topped the bowling averages with 10.45. Graham Kingston played for Glamorgan against Worcestershire and Keith Jarrett, the Wales Rugby International and son of the old Club professional Harry Jarrett, scored 113n.o v Gloucester. The team won fourteen matches and drew six.

Fred Cox the Newport Athletic Club Groundsman, who was born in the groundsman's house at Rodney Parade and spent his entire life at the Athletic Club, believed the 1967 team that represented the club, was the best that he had seen. With four specialist Bowlers (Phillips, Brickley, Wangler and Richards), top quality batsmen (Frost, W. C. Jones, Jenkins), plus Graham Reynolds, Graham Kingston and Keith Jarrett who all played for Glamorgan, it was a fantastic team. Willie Whitehill (ex-Glamorgan w/k) didn't play in 1967 as he was working in the West Indies, so Ian Frost kept wicket.

A measure of the quality of the Newport bowling attack in the 'Invincible Season' can be gauged by the fact that a 'claim to fame' for 3 of the Club's bowlers could include dismissing some of the greats of the game :-

- J. B. Phillips got the wickets of Keith Miller and Ritchie Benaud (4-69) v Australians whilst playing for Oxford University in 1956. Phillips also played First Class cricket for Kent in 1955.
- Graham Reynolds bowled Gary Sobers whilst playing for Glamorgan v Nottinghamshire in the Sunday League in 1969
- Fred Wangler dismissed Viv Richards who was playing for Lansdown against Newport in 1973.



Club stalwarts

(from Left) : Willie Whitehill, Ian Frost and Fred Wangler at the Club's 'Legends Day' in 2015. All three were key figures in the successful Newport teams of the 1960's.

W. D. & H. O. Willis, Van Dyke Award scheme

Under the Captaincy of Graham Reynolds, 1968 was notable with the Club receiving an invitation from Messrs. W. D. & H. O. Willis to participate in their Van Dyke Award scheme - Fred Wangler won the Bowling Award and Ian Frost the Batting Award, with a number of other club members winning tins of cigars. The 1st XI only lost 1 match, with Ian Frost again topping the batting averages with an average of 50.06 in 17 innings and Graham Kingston topping the bowling averages with an average of 11.01.

Reynolds Bowls Sobers

W. C. Jones Captained the Club in 1969 and Graham Reynolds headed the Club's Batting (55.11) and Bowling (10.52) averages. Whilst playing for Glamorgan during the 1969 season, Reynolds claimed 5-37, including the wicket of Garfield Sobers, bowled for 9 in a 40 over John Player Sunday League match against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge.

Achievements/Milestones of Newport Cricket Club (1960- 1969)

1960 The Club enjoyed a third Invincible Season under the Captaincy of Ian Frost

1965 First Class Cricket at Rodney Parade comes to an end

1966 Denis Richards takes all 10 wickets in a friendly v Machen (his old Club)

1967 A fourth Invincible Season, again under the Captaincy of Ian Frost

1968 The Club took part in the W. D. & H. O. Willis, Van Dyke Award scheme - a number of players won tins of cigars.

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

During this era, many of the Club's players played for Glamorgan 2nds with - Jim McConnon, Willie Whitehill, Keith Jarrett, Len Hill, Graham Kingston and Graham Reynolds all appearing for Glamorgan CCC. in First Class matches.

Newport Cricket Club Captains (1960 - 1969)

1960 : I. B. Frost *	1961 : I. B. Frost
1962 : F. L. Wangler	1963 : W. K. Whitehill
1964 : W. K. Whitehill	1965 : J. B. Phillips
1966 : J. B. Phillips	1967 : I. B. Frost *
1968 : G. E. A. Reynolds	1969 : W. C. Jones

* Signifies an unbeaten season





Newport Cricket Club 1st XI 1967



Invincible Season

Facts about Newport Cricket Club 1st XI 1967 (Captain - I. B. Frost) 1st XI Playing Record : Unbeaten throughout the season. Captain Ian Frost topped the batting averages with 48.00. Fred Wangler topped the bowling averages with 10.45. Graham Reynolds and Graham Kingston both played for Glamorgan. Keith Jarrett (abs from photo) the Wales Rugby International and son of the old Club professional Harry Jarrett, scored 113n.o v Gloucester.

Back L - R : Les Nicholls (Umpire), Harvey Jenkins, John Cox, John B. Phillips, Gilbert Davies, Graham Kingston, M. Doody.
 Front L - R : Bill Jones, Fred Wangler, Ian Frost (Capt.), John Berthan (Chairman), Graham Reynolds, Dennis Richards.

