

Ickenham Cricket Club's First Tour 1949

By Brian Hebbert – President - Ickenham Cricket Club

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Since 1949 Ickenham Cricket Club has been going on an annual tour to the New Forest area of Hampshire. The first tour was the brainchild of the then president, Brigadier E.W.C (Ted) Flavell and one or two other senior members.

On that first morning of the tour, on Sunday 3rd July 1949, we all assembled at the village pump in Ickenham, outside the 'Coach and Horses', at 8:30 am. In those days very few members had cars, but somehow we all managed to pile into the few that were available, complete with our cricket gear and clothes for the week.



Sunday Morning – Leaving for Tour – 08:30am 3rd July 1949 - 'Coach and Horses', Ickenham

We arrived at the 'Anglesea Hotel', Lyminster at about twelve o'clock, where we were booked to stay for the week.



Arriving at the Anglesea Hotel, Lyminster – Arthur Gorham unpacking one of the few cars

To our horror, it turned out to be a temperance hotel (unlicensed premises)!! We had a certain amount of trouble with the landlord because, of course, we brought in our own beer

The first game was against Highcliffe, as it still is today, fifty-two years on. The photograph below shows John Hall and Brian Hebbert going out to open the batting on this first afternoon



John Hall and Brian Hebbert opening the batting against Highcliffe in the first game of the first tour

Match Synopsis:

Ickenham CC won by 157 runs

Ickenham CC 235 – 9 dec. (John Hall 73; Bill Parkins 42) (J. Shippey 3–23)

Highcliffe CC 78 all out (Harry Nutt 7–13)

The second game (Monday 4th July) was against Lymington C.C. The photograph below shows some of the Ickenham C.C players and members of the tour party watching the game. Two of these players, 'Doc' O'Connor and Brian Hebbert were later destined to become President's of the club



'Doc' O'Connor, Sid Jones, Archie Baylis, Ken Timperley and Brian Hebbert

Match Synopsis:
Ickenham CC won by 73 runs
Ickenham CC 171 all out (John Hall 52; Bill Parkins 47) (Bryan 6-40)
Lymington CC 98 all out (Alec Warner 7-40)

The next day (Tuesday 5th July) we played Boldre and District, which at that time had no pavilion, just a disused air raid shelter which was used for changing. We went down the road to the local pub, the 'Fleur-de-Lys' for tea and for a drink after the game.



The 'Fleur-de-Lys' for tea with Wally Sumner, Brig. Ted Flavell & Ken Timperley in the lead



The cricket ground at Boldre - Tuesday 5th July 1949

Match Synopsis:

Match Drawn

Boldre CC 135 all out (S. Sanderson 5-53)

Ickenham CC 105-8 (John Hall 39) (Young 5-16)

On Wednesday 6th July, we played Southampton Wednesday C.C on the number one ground of the Southampton Sports Centre. One or two of the Southampton players also played football for Southampton F.C. One of their team, Jones, was a Welsh international who played for Spurs

Match Synopsis:

Southampton Wednesday CC Won by 8 wickets

Ickenham CC 207-2 dec. (Bill Parkins 93; John Hall 74)

Southampton Wednesday CC 230-2 (A.Floyd 136n.o; B.Badrington 56)

On Thursday 7th July, we played an eleven from R.A.F Beaulieu. The ground was fairly rough and the outfield was covered with 'cow pats'. Hurdles had been placed around the outfield to keep the cows and ponies off the playing area. It was really just a fun match and we played in appalling weather conditions in order to save the opposition from having to go back to camp and duties!!

Match Synopsis:

Ickenham Won by 1 Wicket

R.A.F Beaulieu CC 78 all out (Sid Bowden 4-29; Harry Nutt 3-21)

Ickenham CC 86 all out (Tripp 5-17)

The highlight of the week was the game on Friday 8th July, against Deanery C.C. They were far and away the best club side in the South Hampshire area. They had the benefit of being able to call on upon any county player who was not playing for the County side that day. On this particular occasion, a county bowler named Charlie Knott, was playing for the Deanery as he was recovering from injury. At the crease were John Hall and Alec Warner, who was Ickenham's full time

groundsman, who had been invited to join us on tour. Knott had bowled eight overs when our groundsman walked down the wicket and asked John Hall when this chap Charlie Knott was coming on to bowl. John replied, "He's been bowling to you for the last eight overs". Warner was so amazed that he went back to his crease and was bowled next ball. The photographs below were taken at the game and show the group of Ickenham players.



Between innings on Pitch 1 Southampton Sports Centre v Deanery CC – Friday 8th July 1949



From the left Alec Warner (our groundsman), Brian Hebbert, Brigadier Ted Flavell - I.C.C President (scoring) and Nicky Stacey

Match Synopsis:

Ickenham CC Won by 3 Wickets

Deanery CC 177 all out (R.Haskell 47) (Sid Bowden 4-62; K.Makepiece 3-3)

Ickenham CC 188-7 (Doc O'Connor 72; Alec Warner 32; Brian Hebbert 27)

On the Saturday of the first tour we played the last match of the tour on the S.R.D.E Christchurch ground, to officially open it. This was an establishment where Wally Sumner, one of our members,

had worked on tank design during the war. We were offered use of the ground during subsequent tours. This game brought our first tour to an end



Opening of the ground – S.R.D.E Christchurch – Saturday 9th July 1949

Match Synopsis:

Ickenham CC Won by 12 runs

Ickenham CC 107 all out (John Hall 26; Sid Bowden 21)

S.R.D.E CC 95 all out (Harry Nutt 4-26; Sid Bowden 4-39)

Everyone agreed that the tour had been a great success, having won most of our games, and thoroughly enjoyed by all. It was unanimously agreed that we would return to the New Forest area again the following year

Special mention should be made of a guest player on the tour, by the name of Bill Parkins, a very fine bat who played a few games for Leicestershire. He scored a lot of runs for us and made a significant contribution to our success. Another person who helped to arrange fixtures for us on this first tour was Jimmy White, the landlord of the “Bugle Inn”, in Lymington. He followed our progress with great interest.

Another club touring the area at the same time as us was Smethwick from the Midlands. They were staying at the Londesborough Hotel and we promised to play them one year, but we never did.

Because of the good reports we took back to Ickenham, the 1950 tour attracted even stronger support. Again it was both successful and enjoyable. The highlight of this tour was the match



against Deanery on the County Ground at Northlands Road, where Doc O'Connor scored 102 not out in a partnership of 100 with Brian Hebbert, who came in to bat when the score was 1 for 1. The next photograph shows the side for that game

I.C.C v Deanery – July 1950

This photograph shows a young Sid Bowden, character of tours to come and of Ickenham C.C



Sid Bowden at the Hampshire County Ground – July 1950

It is truly remarkable that, after more than fifty years, Ickenham Cricket Club are still carrying on the tradition of an annual tour to the New Forest. This must be, in no small part, due to the friendships made and the hospitality shown by the clubs we have played.

Long may it continue.....

**Written by:
Brian Hebbert
President – Ickenham Cricket Club
July 2001**

Editors notes:

One evening last summer, on one of his last visits to the club, I promised Brian, that if he wrote an account of I.C.C's first tour, I would make sure it was published on the Internet. The text above is his account, and the pictures are from his own album, of that first tour – I have edited the text very little from the handwritten script he passed to me, before his untimely death

It was my great privilege to know, play cricket and socialise with Brian over many years at Ickenham Cricket Club. I miss him greatly

**Chris Sims
May 2002**