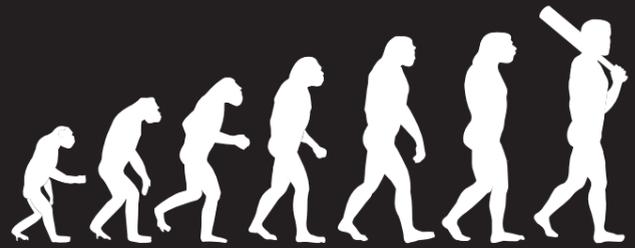


A brief history of cricket in Winchester



The history of cricket in the city of Winchester closely mirrors the changes in its evolution. At the time that Robert Matthew wrote his poem in 1647 which refers to Winchester's College pupils playing on St Catherine's Hill, it was a casual sport played by boys.

By the 1770s, Winchester was regularly fielding adult cricket teams: it is recorded that in 1774 Winchester refused to allow Bishop's Waltham to finish a match on Twyford Down although only six runs were needed. Rather than throw the match away, the Waltham players stayed overnight and subsequently warned other teams against playing such unreasonable opponents.

In 1796 we know that a match took place between the tradesmen of Winchester and the tradesmen of Southampton, marking the shift in the game from a children's game to an adult's sport, popular with working men. Another match between local tradesmen was recorded in 1856 at Oliver's Battery when a team representing the town north of the High Street played against another from the south side.

As the game became more popular, its following among the gentry grew and this is reflected in the number of Winchester College pupils who rose to prominence in the sport. We take a look at some of these noted players...



Winchester College's cricketing legacy

Bishop Ken, a scholar of the College, recorded that he was fond of the game when he was a boy in the 1650s and 60s. In 1845, a College team was reputed to have been surprised when they played a Basingstoke team who won the match by using a catapult instead of a bowler. Regular matches between Winchester, Eton and Harrow began in 1825.



Douglas Jardine
(1900-1958)

As an English cricketer and captain of the England cricket team in the early 1930s, Jardine, an Old Wykehamist (the name given to Winchester College alumni) is perhaps best known for captaining the English squad during its 1932-33 Ashes tour of Australia.

His team employed the controversial 'body line' technique (where the bowler deliberately aimed the cricket ball at the body of the batsman), tactics employed to neutralise the opposing Australian batsmen, particularly Don Bradman, and which caused a veritable storm in the cricketing world.



The Ashton Brothers

'We thank thee, we praise thee, we bless thee O Lord, for Hubert, Percy, Gilbert and Claude,' - so goes the old Winchester College song, and for good reason. Sporting prowess ran in the Ashton family - all four brothers were Blues at Cambridge and also excelled in football. Gilbert, Hubert and Claude all captained the university team in the three consecutive seasons from 1921 to 1923.

Awarded the Military Cross in the first world war, Hubert (1898-1979) went on to play for Essex scoring more than 1,000 runs in both 1921 and 1922. He was knighted in 1959 in recognition of his services as an MP.

In 1923, Claude (1901- 1942, pictured above) succeeded Percy as captain of the university's cricket team amassing 916 runs and claiming 50 wickets with his medium-pace bowling, together with 21 catches. He played for Essex between 1934 and 1938, his career cut tragically short when he died in a mid-air training accident during the Second World War.



Roger Winlaw
(1912-1942)

The decade after Claude Ashton left Winchester College, Winlaw became a high profile member of the Winchester College cricket eleven.

Between 1928 and 1931, he won the Public Schools Doubles with HJH Lamb, the first Wykehamist pair to do so. He captained in his last two seasons, heading the batting and bowling averages in 1930. Winlaw went on to play for Cambridge University and later Surrey and, like Ashton before him, also played football for Corinthians. In a final tragic coincidence, Winlaw died in the same fatal plane crash that took the life of Claude Ashton who was piloting.



Hubert Doggart OBE
(b.1925)

Hubert Doggart was educated at Winchester College and King's College, a Cambridge blue in five different sports and captain in four.

He taught at Winchester College (1950-1972) while maintaining a successful amateur cricket career for Cambridge University and Sussex Cricket Clubs. Doggart went on to represent England in two Test matches in 1950 and has held many offices in sports administration, such as President of the MCC (1981-1982).



Mansur Ali Khan 'Tiger' Pataudi (b.1941)

Born into an Indian royal household, Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi completed his education at Winchester College after inheriting the titular dignity of Nawab of Pataudi upon his father's death.

After playing for Oxford, he went on to captain the Indian national side at 21 and played 310 matches, scoring 15,425 runs, his highest being 203 (not-out). Mansur Khan made his Test debut against England at Delhi in December 1961. Following his retirement, Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi became the Indian national cricket coach (1974-75) and later refereed ICC matches.

'And when the game's o'er, and our fate shall draw nigh (for the heroes of cricket, like others, must die), Our bats we'll resign, neither troubled nor vex'd, and give up our wickets to those that come next.'



THE ROSE BOWL

When Hampshire County Cricket Club looked into renovating Southampton's old County Ground in 1987, it was agreed that the demands placed upon the pavilion and grounds had outgrown the facilities. Thirteen years and £24m later, The Rose Bowl opened.

The Rose Bowl has been home to many international cricketers since the move from the old County Ground in 2001. The legendary Shane Warne played with Hampshire from 2000-2007. Club captain for four years, Warne was joined by fellow Australian internationals Simon Katich, Shane Watson and Stuart Clark.

Hampshire also has a strong history of developing England players: the likes of Robin Smith, Shaun Udal, Chris Tremlett and Dimitri Mascarenhas have all represented their country. After joining Hampshire in 2004, Kevin Pietersen broke into the England set up, leading to a controversial period as captain of the national side.

In 2006 The Rose Bowl hosted the Twenty20 international against Sri Lanka and, following a successful planning application, was awarded Test venue status by the England and Wales Cricket Board. It will host its first Test match, England vs Sri Lanka, in 2011 to a crowd of up to 25,000 people.

For more information, including forthcoming music and sporting events, please visit www.rosebowlplc.com.

Cricket clubs in and around Winchester

Winchester City Council has two venues available for cricket hire. These are King George V and North Walls Recreation Ground. Both sites offer two cricket pitches with pavilion provision.

For more information telephone 01962 848 231 or visit: www.winchester.gov.uk

To see local clubs in action please contact the organisations direct. For a full listing of all local clubs simply contact Winchester & District Cricket Clubs Association on 01264 390 100 or visit: www.sporthampshireiow.co.uk

Bishop's Waltham Cricket Club
01489 877 670
www.bishopswaltham-cc.co.uk

Chawton Cricket Club
01420 855 19

St Cross Symondians
contact@stcrosscc.co.uk
www.stcrosscc.co.uk

Hambledon Cricket Club
cdemellow@aol.com
www.hambledoncricketclub.com

Old Alresford Cricket Club
01962 733 612

West Meon Cricket Club
01730 829 689
www.westmeon.org.uk

Wickham Cricket Club
01329 834 398

Winchester City Council's tourism service would like to thank the following individuals and organisations for their help in producing this leaflet: Graham Scobie, Winchester City Council's Historic Information Officer; Dave Savage, Winchester City Council's Sports Facilities Officer; Charles Inglis; Guy Ashton; Penny McPherson and her colleagues at Winchester College; the marketing team at The Rose Bowl. The two excerpts from a poem featured on the front cover and in the Winchester College feature are taken from a work written in 1776 by The Reverend Reynell Cotton (1717-1796) School Master of Hyde School, Winchester and President of the Hambledon Club in 1773 and 1774.

CRICKET

Trace its evolution in Winchester and Hampshire's countryside



'Let's join in the praise of the bat and the wicket, and sing in full chorus the patrons of cricket...'

Games akin to cricket have been played on the fields of England since the middle ages, but a game called 'creeket' first appears in 1598.

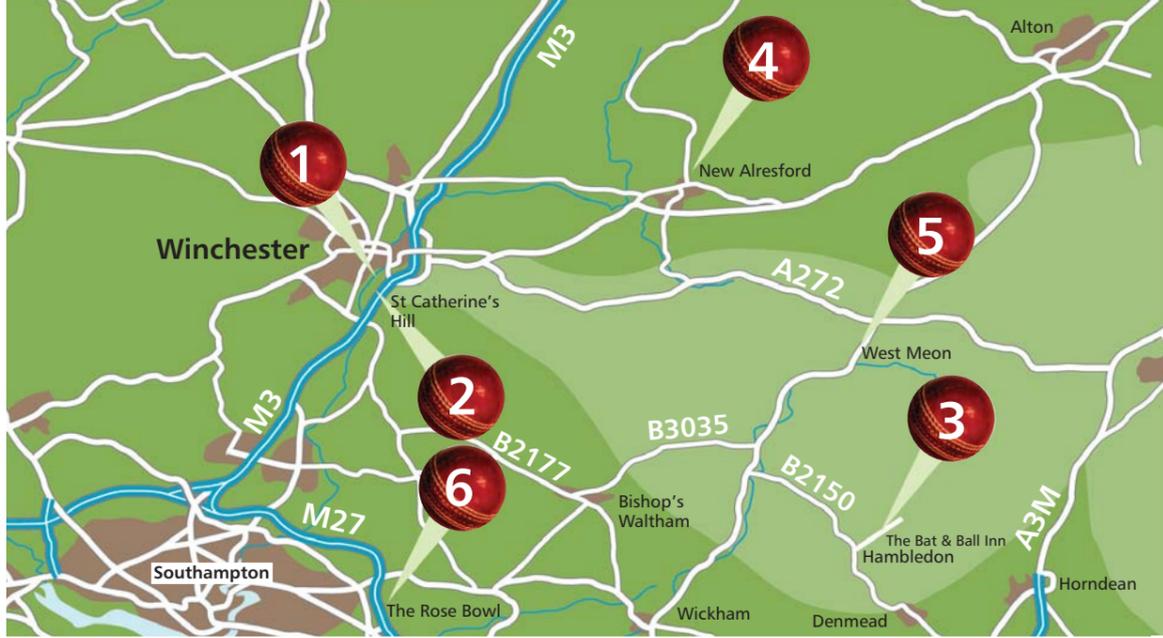
Hampshire's own cricketing history owes much to the legacy of the Hambledon and Alresford cricket clubs and the pre-eminent players educated at Winchester College.

This leaflet offers you an opportunity to trace the history of the development of the sport across the county. Why not make Winchester your base as you uncover the fascinating landmarks of cricket dotted across Hampshire?

How to plan your visit to the cradle of cricket

The map shown on the right is designed to help you plan your visit to Winchester and district and is numbered to sequence the developments of the sport chronologically. It's up to you how you plan the itinerary of your personal homage to cricket. You'll notice strong links between inns and the game - offering you a legitimate opportunity to explore some of Hampshire's oldest and finest hostelries from The Bat & Ball in Hambledon to The Thomas Lord in West Meon, a thriving restaurant showcasing the best of local food.

And there's also an opportunity to visit Winchester and stroll up St Catherine's Hill (site of a cricket match between College boys in 1647) or take a tour of Winchester College itself where so many cricketers, including the controversial Douglas Jardine, honed their skills. As Hampshire is now the county of The Rose Bowl, this strong tradition is clearly continuing with pride - in fact Test matches will be played here from 2011, if you're interested...



It is the place where a simple country pastime finally left its origins behind and showed signs of becoming a national sport.

Excerpt from a framed tribute to Hambledon in The Bat & Ball Inn.

The Hambledon era

1750s: Formed as a private club by noblemen and country gentry, Hambledon Parish Club grew in prominence and Hambledon Cricket Club was founded in the 1760s. The actual players were hired professionals from Odiham, Alresford, Farnham, Alton and Sussex - teams generally played for five hundred guineas a side (plus travel expenses) - a fortune at the time. Bets taken at the grounds added to the high financial stakes at play.

Hambledon remained the focal point of the game from the 1770s to the 1790s. Between 1772 and 1796 the club met 'All England' in 66 matches and won 38 of them.

In its heyday, Hambledon Cricket Club was run by Richard Nyren, landlord of The Bat & Ball Inn (see map). By 1771 Nyren moved to The George Hotel where the club held its meetings.

Hambledon remained the pre-eminent club until the formation of Marylebone Cricket Club and the opening of Lord's Cricket Ground in 1787. Although not the first great cricket club in England, the Hambledon is the earliest of which we have substantial knowledge, thanks to the recollections of John Nyren (see picture), Richard's son, entitled *The Cricketers of my Time*.

1782: Early matches were played on Broadhalfpenny Down. By 1782 the site of play had moved to Windmill Down, then the site shifted again between 1808 and 1875 when Ridge Meadow (a level field between Broadhalfpenny Down and Windmill Down) came into use. The club still plays here today.

Rules and regulations

1760-1771: During the period of Hambledon's primacy, several rule changes occurred that turned the sport into its modern recognisable form.

Bowling: Delivery of the ball changed from a fast, underhand bowl all along the ground, to an overarm bowl where the ball pitched up before the batsman. This was finally ratified in 1864.

Wicket: The third (middle stump) was introduced in 1775. Before this if the ball passed through the two stumps the batsman was deemed not out.

Bats: The original bats had been of crooked or 'hockey-stick' design but evolved into a flat-faced type to cope with the new bowling style. In 1776 the width of the bat was defined as 4 1/4 inches. But noted cricketer 'Shock' White emerged onto the pitch one September day with a bat the full width of the wicket.

This unsporting behaviour led the Hambledon Club to minute: 'In view of the performance of one White of Ryegate on September 23rd that four and quarter inches shall be the breadth forthwith.' The ruling was accepted by most other clubs elsewhere and recognised in the Code of 1774.

Early days

1622: The first record of cricket ever being played is in a legal case in Boxgrove, Surrey. Two men were accused of playing cricket in the church grounds. The churchwardens stated that it was 'contrarie to the seventh article (Sabbath) and for that they use to breake windowes with the ball'. Their defence was that the game they were playing 'was not cricket', hence the origins of the phrase 'it's not cricket'.

1647: A Latin poem by Robert Matthew contains a reference to a cricket match involving Winchester College pupils on St Catherine's Hill. Although cricket was certainly played earlier in the county, this is the first written record of a game in Hampshire.

1654: During Oliver Cromwell's Protectorate the playing of cricket was prohibited on the Sabbath, and in this year the penalty fine was doubled to two shillings.

1660s: The Restoration of the monarchy in England lifted the sanctions although the church continued to disapprove of the playing of the game on Sundays.

- 1 Winchester College**
Visit the college to find out more about where Douglas Jardine, the famous Ashton brothers and Hubert Doggart himself all learned to play cricket - and see for yourself the immaculately kept grounds overlooking the water meadows where they played. For more information, or to book a guided tour call 01962 621 209 or email enterprises@wincoll.ac.uk.
- 2 St Catherine's Hill**
A Latin poem refers to a match played on this unspoilt beauty spot overlooking Winchester in 1647. The view of the city has changed over the centuries, but remains breathtaking. For information on self-guided walks that include St Catherine's Hill go to www.visitwinchester.co.uk or call 01962 840 500.
- 3 Hambledon**
Visit The Bat & Ball Inn whose famous landlords have included Robert Nyren who ran Hambledon Cricket Club, and Andrew Freemantle, a player who Nyren himself admired. Cross the road and you'll see a statue and the cricket pitch that was once home to the famous pavilion. Call 023 9263 2692 to book a table. Postcode: PO8 0UB.
- 4 Alresford**
In the 18th century the noted cricketer Thomas Taylor was landlord of The Globe on the Lake in Alresford. Why not walk the well preserved Georgian town's circular river trail? Alresford's cricketing connections continued to recent times - The Old Sun on East Street was once home to legendary commentator John Arlott. Enquire about lunch bookings at either The Globe on the Lake (SO24 9JB - see www.cricketingwinchester.co.uk for contact details), or The Cricketers Inn in nearby Easton (SO23 1EJ), 01962 779 353.
- 5 West Meon**
Thomas Lord, founder of Lord's Cricket Ground, retired to West Meon in the Winchester district. The Arts and Crafts public house in the village was renamed 'The Thomas Lord' in 1955 to mark the 200th anniversary of his birth. Today it's a Hampshire Hospitality Award-winning eatery that serves 99% local produce to its clientele. View Lord's tombstone at the local church to complete the experience. To book a table at The Thomas Lord call 01730 829 244. Postcode: GU32 1LN.
- 6 The Rose Bowl**
It seems Hampshire is not going to give up its reputation as a centre of cricketing excellence. The multi-million pound stadium will start playing host to Test series in 2011. Visit www.rosebowlplc.com to find out more about the events taking place here. Postcode: SO30 3XH.

This leaflet shows only a selection of the public houses in the district that have a cricketing background or theme. See www.cricketingwinchester.co.uk for more details or www.visitwinchester.co.uk/site/things-to-do/food-and-drink to find a wider selection of eateries to suit every taste.

If you would like this leaflet in a larger format please contact the tourist information centre on 01962 840 500 or e-mail tourism@winchester.gov.uk



HAMPSHIRE CHRONICLE

Portsmouth and Chichester Journal.
SURREY, AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

The Alresford Connection

According to John Arlott, (see far right), Alresford Cricket Club was one of the strongest cricket teams in England, standing 'higher in cricket than any town its size has done in the history of the game' between 1770 and 1795.

Alresford's excellent cricketing reputation was well deserved and fiercely protected by the players. In 1774 *The Hampshire Chronicle* reported that when the team appeared to be losing a match against the united parishes of Alton and Chawton the Alresford players were not keen to continue play the next day on the same ground as was generally the practice. According to the newspaper this was because, 'not having lost a match the whole summer, they were determined to preserve their fame entire throughout the season.'

Alresford's Hambledon Players

Thomas Taylor (1753-1806) This famous English cricketer and Alresford resident played for the Hambledon Club and is regarded as one of the most outstanding players of the 18th century. Taylor was another cricketing innkeeper. He was the landlord of The Globe on the lake in Alresford (see map, left) and was buried in Old Alresford in 1806.

Richard Aubrey Veck (1756-1823) Born in New Alresford, Veck made 35 known first-class appearances for the Hambledon Club between 1776 and 1784. Veck was a regular Hampshire player for nine seasons until 1784, but then left the game at age 28, apparently to set up a business in Bishop's Waltham, where he died in 1823.

Andrew Freemantle (1768-1837) Born in Bishop's Sutton, just outside Alresford, Freemantle made his mark for Hampshire during the Hambledon era. His debut was in the 1788 season and by 1810 he had made 136 known major match appearances. His brother John Freemantle was also a Hambledon player and their families went on to play for the Alresford club for generations. Andrew took on The Bat & Ball Inn in Hambledon in his thirties.

John Arlott (1914-1991)
The cricket broadcaster and commentator John Arlott lived in Alresford between 1961 and 1981. Alresford Town Partnership and council have organised the erection of a plaque to mark his residence at 52 East Street (The Old Sun), celebrating its unveiling with a commemorative cricket match in the New Alresford Ground.

The Lord legacy (1755-1832)

Thomas Lord, founder of Lord's Cricket Ground in London is buried in the church yard of St. John's Church in West Meon. He retired to the village in 1830 - an award-winning Arts and Crafts inn has been trading there as The Thomas Lord public house and restaurant since 1955.

Originally from Norfolk, Lord moved to London to bowl for the White Conduit Club. He met the 9th Earl of Winchilsea, George Finch and the future Duke of Richmond, Charles Lennox, who offered him the financial backing he needed to build his first cricket ground off Dorset Square. When the lease ran out on this, Lord purchased two fields in St John's Wood, and a ground was completed there in 1809. In 1813 plans were agreed to transect this site with the Regency Canal so the ground was moved again to its present site where it opened in 1814.

www.cricketingwinchester.co.uk

