



A BRIEF SUMMARY OF EVENTS IN EASTON'S EVOLUTION

By Nigel Greenwood

“The placename ‘Easton’ dates from Saxon times and means simply the ‘the eastern village’ and refers to its geographical relationship to Winchester.

Martyr Worthy is the easternmost of four placenames suffixed ‘Worthy’ from a Saxon word meaning ‘place’ or ‘hamlet’, (Headbourne Worthy, Kings Worthy and Abbots Worthy). How the prefix ‘Martyr’ came to be chosen seems uncertain, though records tell of a John La Matre having links with this place in the 13th Century.”

These are some of the opening words from a book solely dedicated to Easton and Martyr Worthy Cricket Club “published” in 1993 entitled “*Easton and Martyr Worthy Cricket Club – A Complete Record of Saturday League Cricket plus other information (1973-1992) by Nigel Greenwood.*” I say “published” because less than a dozen copies of this 83 page book were ever produced. One copy still exists in Easton’s archive cupboard, and this copy also benefits from some further updates through the 1996 season.

The genesis of the project came in October 1992 when I was asked by Dave Purse for assistance in compiling an honours board and to help identify photographs for the Clubroom walls. As far as I was aware, the only information that we had was the honours list detailed at the front of the fixture book. I was duly directed to George Mann who, in conjunction with Jamie Summers, in the mid 1980’s had attempted to detail every match played by Easton right back to the oldest surviving scorebook (1954). Having reached 1969, not surprisingly they gave up!

My idea for writing a book was twofold. Firstly, I had been involved in writing a number of articles for ‘Spur’ a football fanzine that was popular in those days. A few years before I had bought “Spurs – A Complete Record, 1882-1988” which contained everything you would ever need to know about Tottenham Hotspur, including a season by season summary. I thought that this format would work well for Easton. Secondly, I had graduated that summer but was still unemployed – remember that this was during the depths of the last U.K.

recession – and would remain indisposed till the following Spring. Thus, I had plenty of time on my hands. During that winter, after every weekend indoor match, several players would congregate in the bar at the River Park Leisure Centre and I would regale them with tails from Easton’s past that I was gradually uncovering.

The book was completed by the Spring of 1993. It was never intended to be a proper historical analysis, which would be as much a social history, as a cricket record. (I think that I will write *that* book one day...). But, here is a summary from the book of some of the research that I did conduct:

“The impression that I have got is that Easton do not have as prosperous a pre-war history as some other local clubs. Evidence from people still living becomes more difficult with each passing year, whilst to search through newspapers, parish records and documents of other clubs would be painstaking work.

There is no record in the Hampshire Chronicle of any cricket in the District during the summer of 1945. The earliest mention of Easton C.C. comes on Saturday June 22nd 1946, a home game versus Micheldever British Legion! Micheldever made 142-6; we made 20 in our first innings and 55 in our 2nd – thus we lost by an innings and 67 runs. From humble beginnings....

After another defeat against Eastgate, victory came against Brown Candover:

Easton 46 & 96 (T. Fullick 32)

Brown Candover 34 & 53 (V. Hobbs 2-15, Gray 6-0)

The first match report to mention Easton and Martyr Worthy came in an away match at Old Alresford on July 13th 1946. [This day was celebrated 50 years later with a match between the two clubs at Easton on July 13th 1996].

Clearly the effects of war and improved transportation, plus the accelerated decline in need for farm hands required a rationalization of village cricket clubs. Later in 1946, Easton and Martyr Worthy played Itchen Valley, yet by 1951, with the demise of Itchen Abbas and Avington, Easton and Martyr Worthy were the only cricket club of the Upper Itchen Valley.

Still in 1946, a mention of a fixture versus Sparsholt was made – result unknown. The following year, the Winchester Cricket Association was formed by 12 clubs, Easton and Martyr Worthy being one of the founders. In addition, the Tichborne Trophy was created and

the Easton field was presented to the Club for the sole use of cricket by David Roth. With the exploits of Compton & Edrich so prevalent that summer and the great Australian side led by Don Bradman to come in 1948, the stage was set for the game of cricket to rise again.”

By chance, in 2003 I did come across a short note in the regular Hampshire Chronicle “100 years ago column” which made reference to a gentleman that was captain at Easton Cricket Club. Clearly there is much more to find out about Easton’s past.

In the meantime below is a summary of key known events that has been partially updated to the present day:

- 1946 First record of Easton and Martyr Worthy; an away match at Old Alresford on July 13th
- 1949 John Guest joins the club from Micheldever Village
- 1950 Oldest surviving fixture card dates from this year
- 1951 With the demise of Itchen Abbas and Avington, E&MW become the only cricket club in the Upper Itchen Valley
- 1954 Debut of Derrick Fullick
Oldest surviving scorebook dates from this year
- 1955 D. Winshurst, first to take 100 wickets in a season
First club dinner, attended by 15 male guests, at the Chestnut Inn
- 1956 First record of Tichborne Trophy in the scorebook
- 1958 Debut of Dave Purse
John Guest takes 9-28 v Twyford
- 1959 John Guest reaches 1000 wickets for Easton (probably achieved by 1956)
- 1960 Winners of the inaugural Igglesden Trophy
- 1961 Debuts of Tony Budd and Mick Marsh
- 1962 First proper century by an Easton player, 104* by E. Sankey v Appleshaw
- 1965 Debuts of Tosh Whitear and Chris Green
Tosh Whitear scores 110 v Castle
- 1966 Derrick Fullick becomes the first player to 1000 runs and 100 wickets in a season
Tony Budd takes club record 9-19 v Fratton Trades
- 1967 Dave Purse becomes Club Captain
Derrick Fullick creates club record of 141 wickets in a season
First appearance in Tichborne Trophy Final - lose narrowly to Eastgate
- 1968 Derrick Fullick creates club record of 1598 runs in a season. He also scores 130 v Chandlers Ford, a club record until 1975.
- 1969 First of many tons by Chris Green - 120 v Portsmouth Rovers
- 1970 Hat-trick of wins achieved in the Evening League
Debut of Nigel Wilmott
- 1971 Subs £1

- 1972 Club enters the newly formed National Village Knockout
- 1973 Winners of the first ever Conder Cup
Club enters the newly formed Hampshire League and finishes 3rd in Mid Hants Division
Debut of Martin Hall
- 1974 The Golden Treble. Club wins all WDCCA cup competitions
Debut of Mick Neville
Chris Green hits 84 sixes in just 37 innings
- 1975 Derrick Fullick sets new highest score of 141
First discussions about a new pavilion commence
The "Dave Dingo Affair" - Dinner & Dance act fails to appear and thus forces Dance to be cancelled
- 1976 Club enters side into newly formed indoor league
- 1977 Promotion secured from South West I
Clive Padwick takes club league record of 9-46 v Lyndhurst
Chris Green established run records of 683 runs at an average of 62.09 plus 44 wickets
Colts section established
- 1978 Lowest ever 1st XI league score - 41 versus Falkland
- 1979 County Division III Champions
- 1980 "If one had to select the outstanding club of the decade (1970's), the choice would no doubt go to Easton and Martyr Worthy - a truly village side - with strong loyalties, sound administration and a splendid playing record. " F. Blackburn, Chairman, WDDCA Handbook
Remarkable 228 scored in 20 over Tichborne Trophy game v Sparsholt
- 1981 2nd XI entered for Indoor League
Subs £5
Commencement of Village Hall extension
- 1982 Relegation from County Division II
2nd XI established - WDCCA week end league
- 1983 New pavilion in usage for the first time
County Division III Champions again
Relegation from Evening League Div 1
- 1984 Promotion from Evening League Div II
Mark Mellett scores 1st XI league record 144* v Lyndhurst
3rd XI entered into Indoor League
- 1985 Promotion from Country Division II
2nd XI win Winchester Wiltshier League
First Club tour - Worcestershire
- 1986 Relegation from County Division I
23 successive 2nd XI wins ended at Wickham
- 1987 2nd XI joins the Hampshire League in South West II
Mick Neville scores his first league duck in 87 innings since 1980

- Lowest 2nd XI score - 38 at Downton
- 1989 “SINGS” incident - pitch vandalised by local youths
 2nd XI promoted from South West II
 John Guest made first Life Member
 Roy Paramor becomes Chairman
- 1991 Subs £15
 County Division II Champions
 2nd XI promoted from East II
- 1992 2nd XI promoted from East I
- 1993 Club wins Hampshire Section of National Village Knockout for first time
 Astro turf laid on square
 3rd XI formed - competes in Wiltshier League
 Club History Published
- 1994 Winners of the Iggleseden Trophy for a record 12th time; competition format changed
- 1996 50th anniversary match played against Old Alresford
- 1998 New square laid; no matches played at Easton
- 1999 Death of Dave Purse
- 2002 1st XI achieves best ever league placing of 2nd in Southern League Silver Division
 3rd XI wins Hampshire Combination Central Div
- 2003 Ben Collins scores league record of 167 playing for 2nd XI at Liss in record score of 338-5
 Last Club Tour
- 2004 1st XI relegated from Southern League Div II for Colts reasons
 3rd XI folds through lack of players