

OXFORD UNIVERSITY CRICKETERS 1827 TO 2020

Between the 1970s and the early 1990s, the ACS published booklets giving brief biographical and statistical data for all players who had represented each English or Welsh county in first-class cricket, and for those who played for Cambridge University. The absence of an equivalent booklet for Oxford University has been a regretted omission, and as recently as 2015 the Association's AGM reaffirmed its wish that such a publication should be produced.

At that time it was suspected that the days of university cricket having first-class status were numbered. When it became clear that the loss of that status was imminent, work began in earnest to produce not just a small booklet detailing Oxford University's cricketers throughout its period in the first-class spotlight, but a more substantial publication giving fuller details of those cricketers – including identifying the Oxford colleges which they attended, where possible noting the principal activities of each player after he left Oxford, and generally providing more detail on each player than had been possible in the earlier booklets.

Producing this publication has involved huge amounts of work over a long period by a small team of researchers led by Graham Bullock, with Graham Searle and Roy Telfer also playing leading roles, and with additional assistance in particular from Philip Defriez. Special thanks are due also to Brian Cowley, whose own list of Oxford cricketers was invaluable to this project. We are greatly indebted to these five people, and indeed to all those who contributed in any way to the project.

Cost limitations mean that the fruits of their research cannot be published as a hard-copy book. Instead it is being placed online on the ACS website, where it is freely available to one and all.

This present initial draft has two main components. The first consists of a single alphabetical list (produced as four separate files, listing players by surnames A to D, E to K, L to R, and S to Z) containing details of -

- A Oxford University Blues (i.e. those representing Oxford University in the annual match against Cambridge University)
- B First-class players for Oxford University who did not win a Blue
- C First-class players who attended Oxford University and played for Oxford Universities, Oxford UCCE and Oxford MCCU

A word of explanation is called for in respect of Category C.

In preparation for a scheduled reform of university cricket in 2001, Oxford played mostly under the title Oxford Universities in the 2000 season, with students from Oxford Brookes University, formerly Oxford Polytechnic, now eligible to play for the Dark Blue team, though not in the University match itself where the team was still designated Oxford University. In 2001 six University Centres of Cricketing Excellence (UCCE) were then established under the aegis of the England and Wales Cricket Board in partnership with the British Universities Sports Association. The six centres were Oxford (which covered both the University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes University), Cambridge, Durham, Loughborough, Cardiff and Bradford/Leeds. When MCC took over responsibility for the UCCEs in 2010, Oxford UCCE was redesignated as Oxford MCCU (Marylebone Cricket Club University). The University match team continued to be designated Oxford University.

In these lists, details of appearances for Oxford University, Oxford Universities, Oxford UCCE and Oxford MCCU are given separately.

To fill out the picture of first-class cricketers with a connection to Oxford University, separate lists are also given of

- (a) cricketers who studied at Oxford Brookes University and represented the Universities, UCCE and/or MCCU side at first-class level between 2000 and 2020 but who were not eligible to be selected for the 'Oxford University' side;

(b) the cricketers who represented the Oxford University Authentics on their first-class tour to India in 1902/03, not all of whom played cricket for the University side as such; and

(c) the many cricketers who studied at Oxford and went on to play first-class cricket elsewhere, but never represented the University side while at Oxford.

A few facts and figures relating to Oxford University first-class cricket and cricketers are given in a final listing.

We would greatly welcome comments from anyone on the content and presentation of these lists. We would be particularly grateful to receive any additional or corrected information about individuals that will allow this record to be updated and kept as accurate as possible. Please send any such comments to contact@acsricricket.com. Thank you.

Keith Walmsley
Project editor - Latest revision March 2023

Explanatory Notes

Given Names

Where players were usually known by their second or later forename (or an established diminutive of it), this name is underlined. Names in parentheses are nicknames, or less common diminutives, by which the player was widely known.

Blues

The exact years in which cricketers appeared in the University match are given. Thus an entry such as '1935-37' means the player appeared in 1935 and 1937 only. If he had played in all three years, this would be shown as '1935-36-37' or, if these were the only seasons in which he played any first-class cricket for the University, as 'Blue all three years' following the dates of his cricket career at Oxford.

Cricket Archive Numbers

These are given to the right of the player's name, and provide swift access to player profiles in Cricket Archive.

Placenames

The places of players' birth and death are in England unless stated.

Places of education

The places of secondary education of cricketers before they studied at Oxford are given where known. It is likely that several of the 19th-century cricketers for whom no such details are given were educated privately, and this is noted where it is known to be the case. The abbreviations A (Academy), C (College), CS (Comprehensive School), GS (Grammar School), HS (High School), S (School), and U (University) are used in the names of places of secondary education, or of tertiary education other than at Oxford. The names of the college/s to which players were attached during their studies at Oxford are given in full.

'Matches'

Unless otherwise indicated, all references to 'matches' are to first-class matches, and all references to appearances for Minor County sides are to matches in the Minor Counties Championship (MC). Appearances for county second elevens are only noted where the player in question did not represent that county at first-class level. Many county second elevens appeared in the Minor Counties competition over the years, but appearances for counties in the later Second Eleven Championship (SEC) are distinguished from those in the Minor Counties competition where appropriate.

Family relationships

In general, only the closest relationships to other first-class cricketers – fathers, sons, brothers – are shown, though exceptions are made when some slightly more distant relation may be particularly widely known.

Sources

The principal sources used in the compilation of the player biographies have been the following:

Books, magazines etc

<i>Australian Dictionary of Biography</i>	
<i>Collins Who's Who of English first-class cricketers</i>	Brooke 1985
<i>The Coming Storm: Cricketers killed in The Second World War</i>	McCrery 2017
<i>The Complete Who's Who of Test Cricketers</i>	Martin-Jenkins 1980
<i>Cricket: A weekly record of the game 1882-1914</i>	
<i>The Cricketer 1921 to date</i>	
<i>Crockford's Clerical Directory</i>	
<i>Fifty Years of Sport at Oxford[and]Cambridge etc</i>	Croome 1913
<i>Final Wicket: Cricketers killed in the Great War</i>	McCrery 2015
<i>From Sammy to Jimmy: History of Somerset CCC</i>	Roebuck 1991
<i>History of the O.U.C.C.</i>	Bolton 1962
<i>Men-at-the-Bar: A biographical hand-list</i>	Foster 1885
<i>Oxford and Cambridge Cricket</i>	Chesterton & Doggart 1989
<i>Oxford and Cambridge Scores and Biographies</i>	Betham 1905
<i>Oxford Memories</i>	Pycroft 1886
<i>Oxford Men and their Colleges 1880-1892</i>	Foster 1893
<i>Oxford University List of Members 1972</i>	
<i>Oxford versus Cambridge</i>	Abrahams 1931
<i>Playfair Cricket Annual, various years</i>	
<i>Scores & Biographies</i>	Haygarth 1862 onwards
<i>Silence of the Heart: Cricket suicides</i>	Frith 2001
<i>Who's Who of Cricketers</i>	Bailey et al 1984
<i>The Willow and the Cloth</i>	Gray 1999
<i>Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 1864 to date</i>	
<i>Wisden on the Great War</i>	Renshaw (ed) 2014

Websites, and web-based material

<i>Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians</i>	acscricket.com
<i>County Cricket: Sundry Extras</i>	Jeater 2020 (on the ACS website)
<i>Cricinfo</i>	espncricinfo.com
<i>Cricket Archive</i>	cricketarchive.com
<i>Kent County Cricketers 1806-1939</i>	Carlaw 2020 (on the ACS website)
<i>Oxford Brookes University website</i>	brookes.ac.uk
<i>Oxford University CC website</i>	cricketintheparks.org.uk
<i>Register of Oxford University Alumni 1500-1886</i>	on the Ancestry website (ancestry.co.uk)
<i>Rhodes Scholars database</i>	on the Rhodes House website (rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk)
<i>Wikipedia</i>	en.wikipedia.org

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