

## 1892-1922 30 years of Abergavenny Cricket

*Adapted from the records of Sidney White*

In **1901** the President was RW Kennard of Llwyndu Estate, the Hon Captain was Dr F.Erskine Paton M.B. & C.M.Edin., L.R.C.P. & S.Edin. surgeon, First X1 Captain –JR Jacob. Montague Harris appeared in the side and was a tower of strength with his dashing batting, steady bowling and ability to hold every catch within his reach. On Whit- Monday there was aa lot of fielding at Penarth who scored 355-6. HE Morgan (130) and Hubert Alexander (94) had a great partnership until JH Addie broke it with an underhand skittler.

Vice Captain AL Tatham played several good innings, his best being (86\*) against the bowling of John Keane\* the ex Surrey bowler, but the chief honours went to PC Phillips who averaged (50) Dr Tatham scored many centuries with his stroke play and thrilling style

*\* John William Keane born 1873 played for Surrey in 1897. Worcestershire 1903-05 and Scotland in 1907*



*P.C.Phillips & Dr Tatham*

Against OJ Brown's X1 Phillips hit (186), the highest score ever recorded for the Club, and at Crickhowell had another great knock for (125). Crickhowell had a very good leg break bowler in Arthur Davies, the hero of many fine performances against Abergavenny in the past, but Phillips hit him all over and many times out of the ground and the rest of the team took courage and did likewise, so poor Arthur had a really bad afternoon.

### Player who Lost the Match

Clive Phillips hit up a dashing (85) against Usk, who won by the quite unintentional efforts of one of our own players. Who when he came in to bat, promptly ran out one of our men who was well set for runs, made a duck and later going behind the stumps missed 5 catches and gave away 29 byes.

JR Jacob again captained the First X1 and had a very good century against Usk in **1902** and during the season scored 358 runs, but a new player FW Barnes just beat him in the averages.



J.R.Jacob



F.W.Barnes

Montague Harris took on the role of Secretary with Mr Henry Pryer as Treasurer

FR Britton took on the role of President, JR Jacob continued as Club Captain Sidney White took over as Secretary. Abergavenny were ambitious in **1903**, arranging fixtures with the full strength of Newport, who in those days gave their professionals talent money if they scored a century, and the story goes that when Arthur Silverlock and Diver heard the games had been arranged promptly called on the Treasurer and asked for their talent money in advance. They were good judges of their capabilities as Diver scored (126) at Newport and Silverlock knocked up (145) at Penypound. Silverlock in his innings hit the first 5 balls to the boundary and then politely remarked to the unfortunate bowler, “ You will pardon me mentioning it, Mr Harris, but I fancy you are a trifle overpitching” “Monty” had the last word as later in the innings he had the extreme satisfaction of getting out both Silverlock and Diver with successive balls.

### **A Minor Sensation**

Newport had a great fast bowler in Dick Steeples, who once caused a minor sensation by playing for Derbyshire and Monmouthshire in successive matches. SMJ Woods in his cricket book rated him as one of the best bowlers in the country.



SMJ 'Sammy' Woods



Dick Steeples

Derbyshire (1897) Monmouthshire (1897-1908) Todmorden (1910)  
Monmouthshire (1896-1905) Players of Glamorgan(1899) Minor Counties(1901)  
S.Wales (1905-06)

At Penypound Steeples was bowling to a left handed batsman who was stonewalling and successfully keeping the “South Wales Express” from the right handers. After bowling several maidens Steeples changed his tactics and sent down a series of balls wide of the wicket in the hope of a catch in the slips, but the left hander missed every ball whereupon the bowler exclaimed in disgust, “ Its no use bowling to you sir. You are not EVEN playing well enough to get out”

In **1904** WL Thomas took over as President and remained in that role until he died in 1930, Abergavenny in games had little help from either Dr Tatham or PC Phillips, and the playing record suffered accordingly.

Montague Harris was top of the batting averages and shared the bowling honours with FHS Perkins.

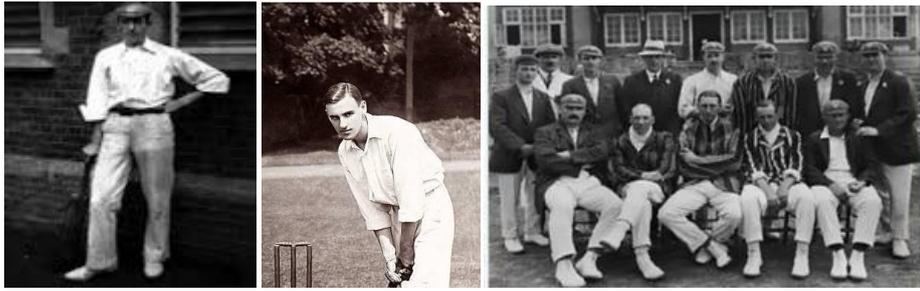
### **Small Fly Took a Hand**

In **1905** the following season, JR Jacob headed the batting followed closely by Tatham, who scored (109\*) against Cardiff YMCA. Harris and Perkins again did most of the bowling.

At Newport Abergavenny declared with their score at 215-8 but Leslie Phillips (77) and Maurice Stratton (76) hit so fiercely that but for a very small fly we should have been beaten. It lodged in Shrubsole’s eye at the critical moment of the game and just frustrated the homesters’ great bid for victory- 209-3

The club had a very average season in **1906** and their best innings was 206 against Usk, W.Llewellyn (61\*)

The great event of **1907** was a game against Chas. Williams’ X1. They scored 211 for the first wicket, EG Arnold aged 30 years, the Worcestershire and English Test player getting (119) and RT Crawford of Leicestershire (95), whilst for Abergavenny the Worcestershire cricketers Pearson and Cuffe scored (34) and (25) respectively.



Pictured above- L-R-EG Arnold, RT Crawford **Worcestershire C.C.C. - 1914** Cricket - 1914 season - Worcestershire County Cricket team group Back (left to right): Lane, J Brown (Umpire), Frank Chester, Christopher Collier, Fred Bowley, **John Alexander Cuffe**, Ernest Bale, Arthur Conway. Front: Robert Burrows, Alfred Cliff, William H. Taylor, Maurice K. Foster, **Frederick Pearson**.

In **1908** Sidney White went to live in Cardiff and his appearances from then on at Penypound were very infrequent.

### **Dr. Tresawna's Brilliant Debut**

Dr. Tresawna made a brilliant debut for the club in **1909** and spectators flocked to the ground to enjoy his delightful batting. He scored (75\*) against Usk and later in 1912 (114\*) and he never looked like getting out on either occasion.

In **1910** the Club staged its first County match and it was most successful, Arthur Silverlock pleasing an enthusiastic crowd with a characteristic innings of (146) against Carmarthenshire.

This was the one of only a few occasions that White saw CP Lewis play, and towards the end of the match the grand old veteran hit Silverlock for six. Cornwall played at Penypound during the following season (1911) and in a low scoring game, Dr Tresawna hit up (93\*) for his native county.

Penarth had a great drubbing in **1912** as after HA Gilbert (1886-1960) of Oxford and Worcestershire fame, had skittled them out, Tresawna flogged their bowling without mercy. He looked certain to beat PC Phillips' record, but at (169) JS Staines caught him on the boundary.

### **Great Fight against Cardiff**

In **1913** I brought up the Cardiff 1st X1 and despite the comparative failure of Tresawna the Club put up a great fight, and it was only a fine not out century by Norman Riches, then at his best, that saved us



NVH Riches 1883-1975

In the return game Cardiff scored 328-5, JR Tait (120) and Norman Riches (99) making 234, the record for the Cardiff first wicket.



JR 'Jock' Tait 1886-1945

Cloudesley Henry Bullock Marsham (CHB Marsham), the ex Kent Captain and Dr Tresawna made a fine stand against the bowling of WW Odell, of Leicestershire fame, but failed to save the game. Odell loved to bowl against class batsmen and he told me he thoroughly enjoyed his game against Abergavenny



William Ward Odell 1881-1917

At the **1914** AGM in April Dr W S Tresawna vacated the Captaincy to be succeeded by J.R.Jacob . In **1915** with the war which started in July 1914 the AGM was mostly a debate about whether to continue with the activity of the cricket club, given the circumstances. The conclusion was that the club would continue

The Club was successfully restarted in **1919** and still had that great sportsman and gentleman Mr. W.Lloyd Thomas as our President, who not only subscribed generously to our funds, but often attended the matches and took the chair at the General Meetings with charming dignity. He bought Ty Du and renamed it Tredilion in 1845

### **“Liveliest and Curliest” of bowlers**

His son Hugh, occasionally played for the Club (he once turned up with Francis Alfred Tarrant (1880-1951), the famous Middlesex player, who was coaching at Tredilion) but this brilliant young man was more at home in the saddle than at the wicket. He was only 49 when killed whilst racing in February, 1938.

We had two most dependable bats in Wyndham Lewis and Jim Jonathan. Both of them had scored centuries for the Club, Jim accomplishing the feat on two occasions and it is a matter of curiosity that all three centuries were scored at the expense of Panteg.

Dr Tresawna was still a force to be reckoned with and scored (107\*) against Ebbw Vale and (105) against Crickhowell whilst ‘Dukie’ Griffiths was the “ wiliest and curliest “ of bowlers.

### **Tall Boy Who Became Famous Bowler**

**1921** was a most interesting season. Cardiff visited Avenue Road and Norman Riches made the record score both for Cardiff and also the ground, (201\*) When his score was (140) he was palpably caught at the wicket, but the Abergavenny umpire gave him in, remarking afterwards that everyone was enjoying Norman's batting.

It was hard luck for HG Symonds who was holding the previous record with (195) against Swansea. Abergavenny lost 4 quick wickets to Nash who at that period was meeting with much success in first class cricket, and then saved the game in great style, JR Jacob playing the innings of his life for (69\*)

Dr Tresawna got (102\*) against Malpas and (71) against Abertillery.

### **T.G's Broad Smile**

The Married had an innings of 319 against their Single opponents, and one afternoon TG Cule hit up a very good century. His bat seemed very wide that afternoon but it was not so broad as the smile on T.G's face when he returned to the pavilion.

Sidney White's last season was **1922**. Abergavenny scored 209-3 against Newport YMCA, Tresawna (88\*) and Jacob (53\*), both players being not out. In his last game which was played at Chepstow the Abergavenny total was 204-6. WH Robinson (70). All the old players had now dropped out with the exception of JR Jacob, who still looked good for a few more seasons.

Now in 1946 it is pleasing to hear that the game is being carried on with great enthusiasm by a team who are playing the game in a manner quite worthy of the highest traditions of the Club. Long live cricket in Abergavenny!