

1952

A decade that began with a large tribe of Rowland's, ended with smaller clans consisting of Haines, Perts and Bosley's. A decade of under prepared pitches, single figure batting averages and lower bowling averages. Hardly the gentleman's game of the Edwardian era, but there was a more gentle, naïve even, nature to the cricket. Compared that is, to the confrontational nature of the game now. A lot quieter too, no shouts back then of well bowled coming from the wicketkeeper as the batsmen taps another half volley back to the bowler. The pampered era of the modern club batsmen just couldn't be visualised by this shell shocked generation of post war cricketers. In this year, Challow averaged 66 runs per innings, our opponents ... 66 runs. A cigarette paper for the journalists, or two decimal places for the mathematicians. Whichever way you looked at it, the margin between defeat and victory often just a few runs. The runs per over a grim indicator of the intensity of it all, one game saw a total of 57 runs in the match and 39 overs bowled. Dour stuff and yet a relaxed approach that saw most matches starting nearly 30 minutes later than scheduled. A decade where the home wickets were sometimes prepared after dark (this might explain the low scores!) and proper changing facilities never existed. A cold water tap considered something of a luxury.

1952 Batting Averages

Name	Mch	Inn	N O	Runs	H S	Av
B.Rowland	18	18	3	227	46	15.13
J.Simpson	21	21	3	260	53*	14.44
R.Pike	23	23	0	191	37	8.30
L.Meers	23	21	0	125	27	5.95

1952 Bowling Averages

Name	Mch	Ov	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	Best	Av
D.Rowland	12	117	33	51	225	8--13	4.41
M.Rowland	11	52	11	26	121	7--12	4.65
B.Rowland	18	164	49	63	299	7--9	4.75
L.Meers	23	145	26	54	469	8--33	8.69

Coaches were hired for some games and my Uncle Bert posted £5 for the first player to score a fifty. A huge amount back then, but he wasn't as reckless as you may think. 50 was a competitive score for the team to score, a half century probably related to a batsman scoring at least 150 now. Bert Rowland was on 49 and seeing £5 in his back pocket and two weeks free boozing just a single run away. Uncle Bert had other ideas, conveniently umpiring at the time, he sent the unlucky Rowland packing L.B.W and saved himself a fiver. Naturally enough, the first player to win the £5 was Aubrey Haines. He did it against Hungerford and even then he was dropped seven times! Umpires had a much more avuncular nature it seemed. Harry Bennett turned down several confident appeals against a number 11 batsman. Feeling that someone of his wretched ability would be bowled soon enough. And with an hour to go, time enough for Challow to clinch a comfortable win. 60 minutes later, 8 emphatic appeals and the game ended in a draw. A few weeks later, maybe to redress his earlier benevolence, Harry Bennett gave Ian Lomax out L.B.W. Nothing special about that you might think, except that he was a county player and considered something of a God in the company of mere rural mortals. This considered opinion was his own of course, so most of us would probably think that being sawn off by a provincial umpire, had a natural justice about it somehow. This same player turned up one afternoon and felt it appropriate to bat in his brand new Oxford brogues. Proceeded to score fifty and spent the rest of the afternoon polishing them.

Highlights included Dennis Rowland's 8 for 13 and Bert Rowland's took 63 wickets and topped the batting averages.

1952 Match Review

Date	Opposition	Result	Score	Opp	B/Batting		B/ Bowling	
19-May	Milton	lost	51-10	91-10	B.Rowland	20	B.Rowland	3-8
24-May	Stanton Harcourt	lost	48-10	54-10	B.Rowland	15	L.Meers	4-20
1-Jun	East Garston	won	72-10	54-10	B.Rowland	20	B.Rowland	7-16
7-Jun	Ellendune	won	75-10	35-10	J.Simpson	18	L.Meers	6-17
14-Jun	Clanfield	lost	24-10	67-10	B.Rowland	11	L.Meers	8-33
15-Jun	Denchworth	won	107-4	52-10	B.Rowland	46	B.Rowland	5-22
21-Jun	Long Wittenham	lost	36-10	126-10	R.Pike	10	L.Meers	3-32
22-Jun	Denchworth	lost	49-10	57-10	J.Simpson	12	D.Rowland	6-26
29-Jun	Hampstead Norris	lost	73-10	167-10	H.Betteridge	22	B.Rowland	6-38
05-Jul	Stanton Harcourt	won	106-8	31-10	J.Simpson	53*	D.Rowland	6-13
06-Jul	Inholmes	drew	90--2	109--9	B.Rowland	39*	B.Rowland	5-30
12-Jul	Hanney	lost	26-10	64-10	M.Harding	12	B.Rowland	5-21
13-Jul	Long Wittenham	lost	49-10	90-10	B.Rowland	20	L.Meers	6-19
19-Jul	Abingdon B. L	won	47-10	11-10	K.Rowland	25	K.Rowland	5-5
20-Jul	East Garston	lost	21-10	43-10	J.Green	6	D.Rowland	6-13
26-Jul	Clanfield	lost	13-10	109-7	B.Culley	3	B.Rowland	3-22
02-Aug	Challow B. L	won	119-10	27-10	J.Simpson	41	J.Green	3-4
03-Aug	Swindon B.Rail	lost	59	94-10	R.Pike	37	M.Rowland	6-33
04-Aug	East Garston	lost	44-10	50-10	R.Pike	20	D.Rowland	8-13
10-Aug	Southern Electric	won	86-7	47-10	J.Simpson	31*	D.Rowland	6-19
17-Aug	Buckland	lost	50-10	62-10	L.Meers	13	A.Lines	4-15
24-Aug	East Garston	won	63-10	48-10	A.Lines	18	B.Rowland	5-22
30-Aug	Abingdon B.L	won	79-9	77-9	L.Meers	27	M.Rowland	5-41
07-Sep	Milton	lost	35-10	40-10	L.Meers	12	M.Rowland	7-12
14-Sep	Hampsted Norris	won	55-3	32-10	B.Rowland	23*	B.Rowland	7-9

1953

A much improved season compared the previous one, only 3 games lost and 1 draw. This solitary draw an obvious indicator as to the impulsive nature of the wickets. A noteworthy season for another reason, indeed an appropriate time to mention an individual here. A famous year, notable for the debut of one of the clubs true heroes. Longest serving member by several years, champion batsman and the clubs leading wicket taker. Aubrey Haines made his first appearance at the tender age of 15 on June the 20th of this year. He scored 4 runs and bowled one over for one run and took one wicket. A modest start to a career that ended some 32 years later. He finished the season with best bowling figures of 7-26 and figured in the batting averages as well, took 5 wickets in an innings 5 times. On the 17th of July, he top scored with 25 and took 6 wickets, it's a tough game for some people, but not Aubrey evidently!

1953 Batting Averages

Name	Mch	Inn	N O	Runs	H S	Av
A.Lines	12	11	6	186	29*	37.20
J.Simpson	9	7	2	142	50	28.40
A.Haines	12	11	3	101	25	12.63
T.McGregor	21	18	2	166	32	10.38
R.Pike	17	16	2	126	28	9.00

1954 Bowling Averages

Name	Mch	Ov	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	Best	Av
D.Wise	21	210	61	78	349	6--15	4.47
A.Haines	22	201	51	75	411	7--16	5.48
B.Rowland	9	105	32	30	170	5--19	5.67

But much more from Aubrey later. I found a pointer of the sedate nature of the travel arrangements back then. On a slip of paper in that seasons score book, a team sheet and the instructions below. East Hendred away, 2.30 start, leave the Goodlake at 2.15 sharp! It was always a 2.30 start, inevitably most games never got underway until 2.50 at the earliest. Perhaps this was an inbuilt defence mechanism to help the games last a little longer, an illusion of course. And another little local difficulty for anyone compiling averages and match summaries. When chasing a low score, it wasn't uncommon for the side batting second to bat on after passing their opponents score. Never any indication in the book of course as to when the game actually ended. For the sake of convenience, whenever this situation arose, I have made the second innings the first. This corner cutting operation may be considered a sacrilege by the purists and I apologise now.

Of those playing this year, Tony McGregor, a fine centre half for Wantage and a decent cricketer. Aubrey himself, Oxford City and Wantage, his football neat and tidy, just like his cricket. We had our own Dennis Wise, unlike the ex Wimbledon and Chelsea crackpot, no behavioural problems. Just a steady bowler who took nearly 200 wickets in 74 games over 7 seasons. Only one Rowland features, best bowling figures of 8-1 against Ellendune for Michael Rowland.

1953 Match Review

Date	Opposition	Result	Score	Opp	B/Batting		B/Bowling	
5 Jun	Wantage	Abandoned		58			A.Haines	7-26
7 Jun	Ellendune	Won	107--8	27-10	J.Simpson	50	M.Rowland	8-11
14 Jun	East Garstion	Abandoned	36--1	55-10	T.McGregor	14*	A.Lines	6-18
20Jun	Wantage Y.C	Won	63-10	21-10	R.Pike	28	A.Reid	3-2
21Jun	Inholmes	Abandoned		29-3			D.Wise	2-14
27Jun	Buckland	Won	38-10	33-10	A.Lines	11*	D.Wise	5-13
28 Jun	Alan Lines X1	Won	73-10	52-10	H.Betterige	22	D.Wise	6-17
5Jul	Denchworth	Won	124-10	30-10	D.Rowland	43	K.Rowland	5-13
11Jul	East Hendred	Lost	51-10	57-10	R.Pike	13	K.Rowland	6-14
17Jul	Alan Lines X1	Won	58-10	38-10	A.Haines	25	A.Haines	6-10
18Jul	Faringdon	Won	41-10	19-10	A.Reid	9	M.Rowland	7-6
19Jul	East Garston	Won	68-9	37-10	A.Lines	27*	A.Reid	6-19
26Jul	Abingdon B.L	Won	58-5	43-10	T.McGregor	17	M.Rowland	5-18
1Aug	East Hendred	Lost	59-10	78-10	A.Reid	17	A.Haines	6-27
2Aug	Swindon B.R	Lost	47-10	78-10	J.Simpson	16	M.Rowland	4-40
3Aug	East Garston	Won	55-10	34-10	A.Reid	19*	D.Wise	4-2
5Aug	East Garston	Drawn	65--9	105-10	A.Lines	22*	A.Reid	5-37
9Aug	Buckland	Won	125--4	70-10	J.Simpson	44*	T.McGregor	5-23
15Aug	Wantage	Won	103-5	100-9	T.McGregor	32	A.Lines	4-40
22Aug	Ellendune	Won	60-8	20-10	T.McGregor	28*	A.Reid	6-12
30Aug	Wantage Y.C	Won	85-7	19-10	H.Richens	18	D.Wise	6-5

1954

My cousin Danny Vandervell's debut season and this gives me a nice lead into the story about my Uncle Titch (Danny's dad). Local cricket worked something like conscription or national service in those days. Any village man under the age of 50 would get the call to play when numbers were tight. His one and only game ended in a concussion and immediate retirement from the game. No cricketer at all, he had to bat on a flier and sure enough he was hit smack on the temple. Most people would have took that ball somewhere between the solar plexus and the shoulder. But as befits a stable lad (short even by their standards) he copped it. He turned slowly around three times, before slipping into unconsciousness. History has a habit of repeating itself, in 1974 Danny copped one when he was playing for Goring against us. Although not rendered unconscious, he had a fat lip for a fortnight. Aubrey split his eyebrow later on in the year. Rushed to Wantage hospital where a casualty service still operated. (halcyon days!!!) Unfortunately the nurse was not only Scottish, but Presbyterian too. Upset by the fact that Aubrey was playing cricket on the Lord's day she proceeded to berate this heinous sin as she stitched him up. Relentlessly telling him the error of his ways, you know the line, the wages of sin, you'll burn in hell ect, ect, ect. Despite the fearful bollocking, our injured player had his pads back on within half an hour. We can all guess what happened next, three balls into resuming his innings, Aubrey got smacked in the same place.

The earlier encounter with the nursing profession had a profound effect, Aubrey declined the offer of a lift back to the casualty department. Preferring a cricket ball in the face to a mad Scotswoman with a long needle ... and who could blame him.

1954 Batting Averages

Name	Mch	Inn	N O	Runs	H S	Av
A.Haines	22	22	2	317	50	15.85
J.Simpson	12	11	1	103	34*	10.30
D.Vandervell	17	16	0	140	32	8.75
T.McGregor	23	23	0	179	28	7.78

1954 Bowling Averages

Name	Mch	Ov	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	Best	Av
D.Wise	21	210	61	78	349	6--15	4.47
A.Haines	22	201	51	75	411	7--16	5.48
B.Rowland	9	105	32	30	170	5--19	5.67



If you look closely at the team photo, you'll notice Phil Lestor smiling away as proud as punch. Placed discreetly in the back row because he had green trousers on! Aubrey, now in his seventeenth year, bowled 200 overs, took 75 wickets and topped the batting averages. This season started the same day Roger Bannister broke the 4 minute mile. Before the race he dined on roast beef, Yorkshire pudding and potatoes. Dieticians – who needs them? The season ended with the death of the esteemed sportswriter Grantland Rice. His immortal verse went something like this, 'When the Great Scorer comes/ To mark against your name,/ He'll write not 'won' or 'lost,'/ But how you played the game.' Noble sentiment indeed, but do we agree with it? Answers on a postcard please.

1954 Match Review

Date	Opposition	Result	Score	Opp	B/Batting		B/Bowling	
22May	Harwell	Lost	87-10	99-10	C.Brown	16	B.Rowland	5-23
30May	Aston	Lost	37-10	107-10	B.Rowland	10	T.McGregor	3-15
5Jun	Long Wittenham	Tied	46-10	46-10	T.McGregor	14	D.Wise	6-19
6Jun	East Garston	Lost	37-10	45-10	A.Haines	5*	D.Wise	5-20
19Jun	Hungerford	Won	90-10	74-10	A.Haines	50	B.Rowland	4-23
20Jun	Marcham	Lost	39-10	55-10	R.Page	12*	D.Wise	6-15
26Jun	Ellendune	Won	92-10	57-10	A.Haines	26	B.Rowland	4-16
27Jun	Wantage	Won	123-6	56-10	J.Simpson	34*	D.Wise	4-16
3Jul	Aston	Won	104-3	33-10	A.Haines	36	B.Rowland	5-19
4Jul	East Garston	Won	96-10	65-10	J.Simpson	26	D.Wise	5-29
11Jul	Oxford Ramblers	Lost	28-10	41-10	J.Simpson	11	D.Wise	5-16
18Jul	C.B.C	Won	66-10	65-10	P.Lester	11	A.Haines	7-21
21Jul	Cumnor	Lost	42-10	71-10	A.Haines	14	D.Wise	5-19
24Jul	Clanfield	Won	72-10	65-10	T.McGregor	17	T.McGregor	4-21
1Aug	Swindon B.R	Won	88-5	67--6	A.Haines	40	D.Wise	3-22
2Aug	East Garston	Lost	34-10	46-10	R.Pike	13*	A.Haines	5-17
7Aug	Ellendune	Won	35-10	32-10	R.Pike	13	A.Haines	5-11
8Aug	Inholmes	Won	72-8	38-10	T.McGregor	27	A.Haines	5-13
14Aug	Broad Hinton	Won	53-3	15-10	A.Haines	24*	D.Wise	4-6
15Aug	Cumnor	Won	69-7	47-10	D.Vandervell	32	A.Haines	6-30
21Aug	Marcham	Won	53-10	37-10	A.Haines	22	L.Meers	6-18
22Aug	Ellendune	Won	57-10	55-10	R.Pike	14	D.Wise	5-16
29Aug	Challow B.L	Won	62-9	26-10	T.McGregor	15	A.Haines	7-16

1955

As Anthony Eden swept into number ten Downing Street, we had our own new boy. Don Pert's debut year – Donald Robert Pert, fresh out of active service in the jungles of Malaya, fighting for queen and country. Defending our empire from the rampaging communist horde. A patriot, combined services cricketer and fine drinking man. He burst onto the scene like a meteor. Here one second, gone the next. As a player I mean, not the long serving and loyal club member that he remained. As a cricketer it was a typical quick bowler's life, short and turbulent. 370 wickets in 5 seasons, 100 wickets in consecutive years, 1957 and 1958. If the true definition of an all rounder is having a bowling average lower than your batting average, then Don qualifies. Despite a batting average of just over 8, he took his 370 wickets at just over 4 each. A 21 year old in his first year, just 7 seasons later and he'd lost the cutting edge. As I said earlier, a fast bowler's life, short and merry and ripping through opposition. A good, quick bowler on some indifferent wickets, too much for everyone in the second half of this decade.

1955 Batting Averages							1955 Bowling Averages							
Name	Mch	Inn	N O	Runs	H S	Av	Name	Mch	Ov	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	Best	Av
A.Haines	17	15	2	386	68*	29.69	A.Haines	17	150	37	55	382	6--36	6.95
G.Shaw	10	10	1	129	41*	14.33	D.Pert	17	175	51	46	329	6--23	7.15
J.Bosley	8	8	0	104	34	13.00	T.McGregor	16	42	13	12	100	4--25	8.33
T.McGregor	16	14	1	141	49	10.85	D.Wise	16	55	10	11	178	3--17	16.18
D.Pert	17	13	2	92	14	8.36								
R.Pike	13	13	1	100	20	8.33								

Despite his wickets this year, Aubrey topped both batting and bowling averages, a veteran of 18 now, two 50's an average of 29 (unheard of then) and 55 wickets. Chalk and cheese, Donald a profane, hard drinking fast bowler, Aubrey, a moderate man, classic batsman and a subtle, highly flighted off spinner. I've never seen Aubrey lose his temper, curse or bemoan his luck either on a cricket pitch or away from it. Never seen him worse for drink, a gentleman on and off the field. Donald however is a different story ...

Donald and Aubrey, two of the four cornerstones of the club in position. The remaining two still to make their debuts. Talking of first appearances, another debutant this year. Maurice Bosley, the stylish left handed batsman had a much quieter introduction than Donald's. The 16 year old played 8 games and never set the world alight ... but he soon would.

1955 Match Review

Date	Opposition	Result	Score	Opp	B/Batting		B/Bowling	
30Apr	Faringdon	Lost	40-10	79-9	D.Pert	14	C.Timms	4-2
15May	Eynsham	Won	51-6	44-10	G.Shaw	10	A.Haines	5-27
21May	Clanfield	Drawn	115--7	62-5	A.Haines	68*	D.Pert	3-21
4-un	Denchworth	Lost	76-10	82-8	G.Shaw	21	D.Pert	3-17
5Jun	Inholmes	Lost	96-10	133-10	C.Bosley	24	D.Pert	3-15
11Jun	Harwell	Won	76-8	73-10	A.Haines	15	D.Pert	4-16
12Jun	East Garston	Lost	78-10	86-9	R.Pike	20	A.Haines	5-28
19Jun	Marcham	Abandoned	29-1	82-10	A.Haines	20	A.Haines	6-36
25Jun	Marcham	Lost	90-10	94-9	A.Haines	49	T.McGregor	4-25
26Jun	Buckland	Won	135-8	82-10	J.Simpson	37	AHaines	5-27
2Jul	East Garston	Won	101-10	49-10	A.Fidler	26	AHaines	5-18
3Jul	Stanton Harcourt	Abandoned		116-10			A.Haines	3-14
10Jul	Oxford Ramblers	Won	76-9	71-10	C.Bosley	21	D.Rowland	5-22
16Jul	Clanfield	Won	104-6	89-10	A.Haines	43	D.Pert	6-23
17Jul	Buckland	Won	139-4	85-10	T.McGregor	49	A.Haines	3-8
24Jul	Welford Park	Won	98-10	72-10	A.Haines	28	B.Rowland	6-30
30Jul	Harwell	Won	140-4	59-10	A.Haines	65*	A.Haines	4-39
31Jul	Eynsham	Lost	66-10	73-10	D.Pert			

1956

The invincibles, the untouchables, roll out the banner headlines because they went not only undefeated this season, they won every game except for the tied one against Buckland. 19 win's on the trot after this tied game. Winning the first ten matches of the next season made 29 winning games on the bounce. What a run, I can imagine the feeling after that defeat when it eventually came on the 29th of June that next season. Winning is addictive and losing when it does make its eventual transitory visit, becomes a bitter pill to swallow. 13 months undefeated, indomitable indeed. Sporting brilliance can be but a brief, flickering moment in time. Who can remember Ray Booty? Ray Who? In 1956 the headlines read "Booty the IncomparableBooty the Indomitable". What was it that this super man had done? He was the first man to cycle 100 miles in less than four hours. I can't see how he could have done it. It took me nearly that long to mend a puncture.

1956 Batting Averages

Name	Mch	Inn	N O	Runs	H S	Av
A.Haines	17	17	1	261	40	16.31
D.Pert	18	16	2	101	32*	7.21
T.McGregor	20	20	3	117	19	6.88
P.Lester	20	20	0	114	24	5.70

1956 Bowling Averages

Name	Mch	Ov	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	Best	Av
D.Pert	18	160	67	72	199	7--21	2.76
D.Wise	15	33	12	19	59	6--2	3.11
B.Rowland	10	76	25	35	139	7--6	3.97
A.Haines	17	92	21	34	165	6--5	4.85
T.McGregor	20	46	10	15	106	5--15	7.07

Later that same year and Anthony Eden sent the troops into Egypt and immediately Donald got called up again as a reservist. Mary bid him a tearful farewell at Challow station. Fearing the worst, only for him to return two days later, crisis over and the troops all stood down. Challow's main strike bowler safe and sound, ready for another season. Military call ups avoided this time, but Aubrey was about to get the call and begin his National Service. His appearances over the next three seasons became fitful as the tough Army life seemed to entail swanning around on the beaches of Cyprus. Lots of gaps in this years score book, but Donald still struck at 4 wickets per innings, finishing with 72 in 18 games. Remarkable by anyone's standards. Aubrey topped the batting averages. Against Great Hasely, Bert Rowland bowled 7 overs, 4 maidens, 6 runs and 7 wickets, in all he took 206 wickets in this decade. 18 years later and he had a few games up at the new ground and still bowled tidily whenever asked. A closer inspection of the said scorebook and we see one E.J.Clarke who took 7 wickets for us against East Garston. Surely this can't be the same E.J.Clarke, the one that played for our mortal enemies from the next parish? Loathe as I am to mention the name of Denchworth in this narrative, it has to be said that this is indeed the same Bill Clarke. Biliious Bill the much respected, three fingered umpire and supplier of fine willow to the batmaking fraternity. Donald viewed anyone from Denchworth (sorry!!) much like you'd view a dog owner picking a dog turd up with his bare hands. The next time I meet the much loved Bill, the question must be put to him... who gave him the invitation to play for us?

1956 Match Review

Date	Opposition	Result	Score	Opp	B/Batting	B/Bowling
6-May	Eynsham	Won	43-10	32-10	A.Haines 15	A.Haines 6-5
20-May	Buckland	Tied	74-10	74-10	A.Meers 32	B.Rowland 3-27
26-May	Great Haseley	Won	85-10	20-10	A.Haines 40	B.Rowland 7-6
2-Jun	Denchworth	Won	54-10	41-10	B.Rowland 16*	D.Pert 6-7
3-Jun	Denchworth	Won	58-10	38-10	A.Haines 9	D.Pert 6-5
10-Jun	Ellendune	Won	91-10	22-10	C.Bosley 29	B.Rowland 7-14
23-Jun	Stanton Harcourt	Won	77-10	22-10	R.Spicer 22	B.Rowland 5-13
24-Jun	British H&C	Won	75-10	27-10	J.Pike 18	B.Rowland 6-5
8-Jul	Inholmes	Won	43-7	42-10	A.Haines 17	D.Pert 4-14
14-Jul	Ellendune	Won	45-10	44-10	A.Haines 15	D.Wise 5-12
15-Jul	East Garston	Won	56-10	47-10	A.Haines 31	A.Haines 6-24
21-Jul	Marcham	Won	104-6	44-10	D.Pert 32*	D.Wise 6-2
22-Jul	Welford Park	Won	111-8	86-10	A.Haines 27	D.Pert 6-26
28-Jul	Denchworth	Won	33-2	32-10	A.Haines 25*	D.Pert 6-7
4-Aug	Cumnor	Won	36-9	35-10	D.Pert 13*	D.Pert 5-8
6-Aug	Brightwalton	Won	49-5	48-10	G.Shaw 14	T.McGregor 5-15
7-Aug	East Garston	Won	57-10	43-10	P.Lester 13	E.Clarke 7-27
10-Aug	East Garston	Won	61-6	24-10	P.Lester 24	E.Clarke 4-7
17-Aug	Buckland	Won	84-8	82-10	T.McGregor 19	D.Green 4-9
18-Aug	Brightwalton	Won	52-6	51-10	AHaines 32	D.Pert 5-15
21-Aug	Welford Park	Won	59-9	58-10	T.McGregor 17	D.Pert 7-21

1957

The Russians launch a dog into space and we had to play most of the season without Aubrey. Maurice Bosley stepped seamlessly into the breach and mouths began to water at the prospect of the two batting together. Donald was cursing, he had fought tooth and nail to prevent the ravages of communism in Malaya and guess what happens ... two years after Donald leaves Malaya, the red menace swept to power and they gain independence. Unfortunately, this didn't happen closer to home though, despite Anthony Eden resigning. Harold Macmillan took over and promptly told us we'd never had it so good. Bad news politicians, but at a more parochial level, bad news of our own to digest. We lost a game of cricket at Sunningwell that brought to an end the longest winning streak in the clubs history. Donald shook off the trouncing in Malaya and took 105 wickets at under 4 each, 5 wickets in an innings 14 times. Best bowling, once again Bert Rowland's 8 for 16, expensive by his standards don't you think?

1957 Batting Averages						
Name	Mch	Inn	N O	Runs	H S	Av
M.Bosley	18	18	3	240	52	16.00
J.Bosley	18	15	4	111	29*	10.09
R.Pike	19	18	2	151	30*	9.44
P.Lester	23	22	3	120	21	6.32
T.McGregor	25	25	3	123	23	5.59

1957 Bowling Averages							
Name	Mch	Ov	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	Best	Av
D.Pert	24	277	93	107	397	7--10	3.71
A.Haines	7	29	10	10	47	5--16	4.70
D.Rowland	7	72	20	29	140	6--14	4.83
B.Rowland	8	96	33	37	180	8--16	4.86
R.Spicer	20	54	15	20	114	5--19	5.70

A word here about the Rowland's clan. Brothers and cousins from Childrey, despite the collective success they gained at cricket, it was football that always caught the eye. Winning a couple of six-a-side tournaments and in amongst the clan, a couple of truly outstanding footballers.

Another debutant, third pillar of the club, played three games this year. Ian (Weed) Pert younger brother of Donald. Soon to turn into one of the two best wicketkeeping batsmen in the clubs history. Fearless hitter, acrobatic keeper and gentleman on the pitch. Famed off the pitch for his skilful farm management and financial prudence. Rumours of his many financial accumulations being buried at the bottom of the garden are simply not true.

Maurice Bosley scored the first of his many fifties and Bert Rowland's 8 for 16 the stand out bowling performance.

1957 Match Review

Date	Opposition	Result	Score	Opp	B/Batting	B/Bowling
18-May	Cumnor	Won	30-7	26-10	B.Rowland 7*	B.Rowland 5-14
19-May	East Garston	Won	53-8	51-10	E.Jonson 27	D.Pert 6-18
25-May	Compton	Won	72-0	32-10	M.Bosley 16	D.Pert 6-15
26-May	Buckland	Won	47-10	38-10	T.McGregor 12	D.Pert 4-16
1-Jun	Wroughton	Won	47-2	46-10	M.Bosley 30*	D.Pert 5-12
2-Jun	Hanney	Won	66-6	64-10	M.Bosley 21	B.Rowland 6-29
8-Jun	Stanton Harcourt	Won	79-10	43-10	P.Lester 21	B.Rowland 8-16
15-Jun	Welford Park	Won	79-8	78-10	M.Bosley 21	B.Rowland 5-36
16-Jun	Inholmes	Won	103-8	63-10	A.Charman 23	D.Pert 6-23
23-Jun	Denchworth	Won	70-10	46-10	C.Bosley 17	D.Pert 7-25
29-Jun	Sunningwell	Lost	61-10	72-10	R.Pike 16	D.Pert 6-21
30-Jun	Brightwalton	Won	85-9	36-10	D.Pert 16	D.Rowland 6-18
6-Jul	Denchworth	Won	32-10	30-10	M.Bosley 7	A.Haines 5-16
7-Jul	Steyning	Lost	53-10	87-10	R.Spicer 13	D.Pert 5-18
13-Jul	Buckland	Won	120-7	32-10	R.Pike 30*	D.Pert 6-9
14-Jul	Stanton Harcourt	Won	123-7	55-10	M.Bosley 52	D.Rowland 6-14
20-Jul	Marcham	Lost	44-10	45-10	J.Bosley 15	D.Pert 5-18
27-Jul	Welford Park	Won	48-9	47-10	C.Cornish 17	D.Pert 6-8
28-Jul	Hanney	Won	30-6	29-10	V.Charman 10	D.Pert 7-10
3-Aug	Wroughton	Won	131-7	39-10	M.Bosley 27	D.Pert 5-17
4-Aug	Denchworth	Lost	60-10	61-9	T.McGregor 23	D.Pert 6-31
5-Aug	East Garston	Lost	48-10	54-1	E.Clarke 11	D.Rowland 1-24
10-Aug	Abingdon Gpo	Abandoned	13-3	36-10	T.McGregor 5*	D.Rowland 6-17
18-Aug	Brightwalton	Won	29-3	28-10	M.Bosley 10*	D.Pert 5-7
25-Aug	Compton	Lost	42-10	45-7	J.Bosley 8	D.Pert 4-29

1958

Bizarrely, both the highest and lowest match aggregate scores were against the same opposition. Welford Park on the 14 of June a match aggregate of 209 runs. Six weeks later a match aggregate of 24 runs as we bowled them out for 10 and Donald took 7 wickets for 7 runs. In fact in three games he took 21 wickets for 18 runs. The most batsmen (nine) scored over one hundred runs in a season. Donald took over 100 wickets again, taking most wickets in a match nineteen times. Aubrey hit the highest score by a Challow player, 67* against Denchworth as we drove them into the dust. Revenge came quickly for them as we got a drubbing on their world famous, hell hole of a wicket. Rumours that the square was used for artillery practice during the war abounded. To continue the myth, minesweeping royal engineers were urgently dispatched to El Alemain before they could remove all unexploded bombs from the square. We scored 40 which was probably an above par score, they took 37 overs to win the game. E.J.Clarke not out 24, including 22 singles. Dour stuff, but a match winning effort as none of his team mates registered double figures and they limped home by 1 wicket.

1958 Batting Averages

Name	Mch	Inn	N O	Runs	H S	Av
A.Haines	18	17	1	263	67*	16.44
M.Bosley	20	20	3	253	53	14.88
D.Vandervell	20	20	1	181	47	9.53
D.Pert	29	24	5	155	21	8.16
R.Pike	28	27	1	192	29	7.38
J.Bosley	28	24	7	112	19	6.59
T.McGregor	31	27	2	117	17	4.68

1958 Bowling Averages

Name	Mch	Ov	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	Best	Av
D.Pert	29	290	115	105	347	7--3	3.30
A.Haines	18	121	23	48	281	7--10	5.85
B.Rowland	15	94	23	27	174	5--5	6.44
P.Lester	21	38	11	14	106	3--10	7.57
T.McGregor	31	128	23	35	305	3—4	8.71



Time for a fond memory. A player, hapless by today's demanding standards, one who insisted on keeping his cigarettes in his pocket for a quick drag at the fall of a wicket. He also persisted in using smokers matches (not the safety ones) because you could strike them against your boot, stump, forehead, anything really. One day as he rumbled around the boundary chasing a lost cause as it turned out, his matches – it was a full box, spontaneously combusted. A cloud of smoke that took on the same shape as a plume from a nuclear explosion developed above this man's head. Followed by a brief, but vigorous flame, then a blood curdling scream. It all resulted in third degree burns and a discrete change to safety matches.

1958 Match Review

Date	Opposition	Result	Score	Opp	B/Batting		B/Bowling	
4May	Peasmore	Lost	48-10	49-9	B.Rowland	10	B.Rowland	5-27
11May	Inholmes	Won	49-7	48-10	T.McGregor	14	R.Spicer	4-5
17May	Buckland	Won	91-10	64-10	A.Haines	19	G.Barnes	3-7
18May	East Garston	Won	144-5	48-10	V.Charman	47*	D.Pert	7-8
24May	Compton	Drawn	23-9	39-10	T.McGregor	12	D.Pert	4-12
25May	Marcham	Lost	37-10	38-4	D.Pert	9*	D.Pert	2-9
26May	Aldbourne	Drawn	65-6	125-10	M.Bosley	19	A.Haines	4-45
31May	Wroughton	Won	37-10	31-10	R.Pike	8	D.Pert	7-7
1Jun	Hanney	Lost	66-10	79-10	D.Pert	21	D.Pert	3-15
7Jun	Stanton Harcourt	Lost	37-10	53-10	P.Lester	10	D.Pert	4-20
8Jun	Shrivenham	Lost	41-10	77-10	R.Pike	16	A.Haines	3-12
14Jun	Welford Park	Won	136-8	73-10	M.Bosley	53	P.Lester	3-10
15Jun	Inholmes	Lost	74-10	108-10	A.Haines	28	A.Haines	4-28
21Jun	Sunningwell	Drawn	82-9	73-7	J.Bosley	19	A.Haines	5-32
22Jun	Buckland	Abandoned		33-5			A.Haines	3-5
28Jun	Peasmore	Won	45-6	44-10	M.Bosley	12	D.Pert	4-4
29Jun	Brightwalton	Won	108-9	87-10	D.Vandervell	47	D.Pert	5-15
5Jul	Denchworth	Won	113-5	37-8	A.Haines	67*	D.Pert	4-4
6Jul	Beeding & Bramber	Won	96-10	56-10	A.Haines	15	D.Pert	4-16
13Jul	Stanton Harcourt	Won	55-10	44-10	R.Pike	29	D.Pert	5-14
19Jul	Wroughton	Won	87-7	85-10	A.Haines	22	D.Pert	5-16
20Jul	Brown & Knight	Won	109-8	15-10	R.McCail	23	A.Haines	7-10
26Jul	Welford Park	Won	14-2	10-10	G.Barnes	5*	D.Pert	7-3
27Jul	Hanney	Abandoned	14-0		D.Vandervell	7*		
2Aug	Hendred	Lost	78-10	115-10	A.Haines	21	D.Pert	4-21
3Aug	Denchworth	Lost	40-10	46-8	C.Bosley	17	D.Pert	4-19
9Aug	Wantage	Won	54-10	36-10	M.Bosley	16	D.Pert	5-10
10Aug	Sunningwell	Drawn	56-7	83-10	C.Bosley	21	D.Pert	4-18
17Aug	Brightwalton	Lost	35-10	42-6	M.Bosley	17*	D.Pert	3-13
31Aug	Aldbourne	Won	49-10	42-10	A.Haines	24	B.Rowland	5-5
7Sep	Harwell	Abandoned	77-5	7-1	D.Vandervell	29	D.Pert	1-2

1959

The last year, a chance to indulge myself and ramble on about a time long gone. Parking meters were introduced and Philip Mead died. A few words about Mead, the highest scorer in county crickets' history, he played for Hampshire at a time when they were captained by the Honourable Lionel Tennyson, grandson of the poet. Tennyson, an old Etonian, a true amateur and someone who despised Mead's professionalism, the captain simply couldn't abide dull cricket. On one occasion with Mead slowly approaching another 100. Tennyson sent his footman down to the local post office to dispatch a telegram. 30 minutes later a postman walked out to the wicket and handed Mead the message which read, 'Mead ... too slow, get out now.' Tennyson said that, 'I have never liked travelling light and with the amount of kit I arrived with, always causes a degree of resentment. But I was quickly forgiven by my team mates when they found out that it included a case of champagne.'

I mention this only to point out that many local teams had a symbolic toff leading them. We had a painter and decorator called Pert. But there was a local cricketer called Doug Keene who was the Phil Mead of local cricket. He would bat in the manner more suitable to a timeless test. He played for us in the 60's when he appeared to all intent and purposes, to be in his 70's. On a quick outfield, as the ball passed Doug, we would pray for a boundary knowing that the batsmen would run 6 or 7 as Doug tracked the ball like an ancient bloodhound on mogadon. I gave him out caught behind once (I'm the world's worst umpire, one reason for me never criticising that breed) when I returned to the pavilion there was Doug, berating me. 'That wasn't an edge, it flicked my bracers on the way through you know.' I had to agree that could be a possibility, you could always see the offending bracers underneath his wafer thin, ancient cricket sweater.

1959 Batting Averages

Name	Mch	Inn	N O	Runs	H S	Av
M.Bosley	11	11	1	256	54	25.60
D.Vandervell	10	10	0	197	47	19.70
T.McGregor	11	11	0	148	38	13.45
D.Pert	12	11	1	133	27	13.30
J.Bosley	14	14	1	108	35	8.31

1959 Bowling Averages

Name	Mch	Ov	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	Best	Av
J.Legge	7	22	8	10	52	4--30	5.20
D.Pert	12	107	24	40	253	8--27	6.33
T.McGregor	11	63	14	23	170	5--30	7.39

An abbreviated score book for this year, only 11 games but we saw Donald's best bowling figures, 8 for 27. He'd captained on and off for a couple of seasons by now and an example of the way he operated best demonstrated by a players meeting prior to the season. Re-elected as captain, he duly thanked all for coming, wished newly elected officers the best of luck and also his full support before declaring, 'Oh by the way, we haven't got a ground for this season, it's away games all the way I'm afraid.' Like all the best spin doctors, he picked the most opportune time to bury bad news. The decade finished with Donald playing exactly 100 games, taking 370 wickets. Accompanied by Aubrey's extravagant all round achievements. We've seen a decade of spectacular batting collapses, epic bowling and the slow evolution of a cricket club. The unholy trinity of Hanney, Hendred and Denchworth gave us local derbies to rival anything nationally. These fierce battles against next door parishes had intensity that contradicted the rather genteel nature of most of the other games. As we move onto the next decade, we'll see the team improve beyond all recognition. Local youngsters and one who landed in the parish from far flung Kent drove the standards up. We say goodbye to the relaxed and peaceful 50's, 70% of games won and less than 30% lost. A successful time by anyone's standards ... roll on the sixties.

1959 Match Review

Date	Opposition	Result	Score	Opp	B/Batting	B/Bowling
10May	Inholmes	Lost	73-10	74-9	T.McGregor 22	J.Legge 4-30
17May	Buckland	Lost	15-10	20-0	M.Bosley 4	T.McGregor 0-3
17May	Kiddington	Won	68-10	62-10	D.Vandervell 23	D.Pert 8-27
23May	Compton	Won	166-5	62-10	M.Bosley 51	T.Terry 4-13
24May	Marcham	Won	145-9	76-10	M.Bosley 54	T.McGregor 4-16
30May	Wroughton	Drawn	100-6	117-9	M.Bosley 31	D.Pert 4-27
1Jun	Hanney	Lost	40-10	43-6	T.McGregor 8	D.Pert 4-9
6Jun	Hendred	Won	81-4	80-10	D.Pert 27	D.Pert 4-24
7Jun	B&Knights	Won	72-4	70-10	V.Charman 41	D.Pert 6-17
13Jun	Oxford Nalgo	Lost	73-10	141-6	M.Bosley 27	J.Legge 3-10
14Jun	Inholmes	Lost	82-10	113-10	I.Pert 16	D.Pert 4-19
20Jun	Sunningwell	Won	101-10	73-10	D.Vandervell 25	D.Wise 5-36
21Jun	Buckland	Won	111-8	38-10	T.McGregor 38	T.McGregor 4-11
27Jun	Peasemore	Won	137-9	74-10	P.Lester 25	T.McGregor 5-30

Aggregate batting/bowling averages 1950 – 59



Aubrey Haines

Batting Averages – qualification 500 runs

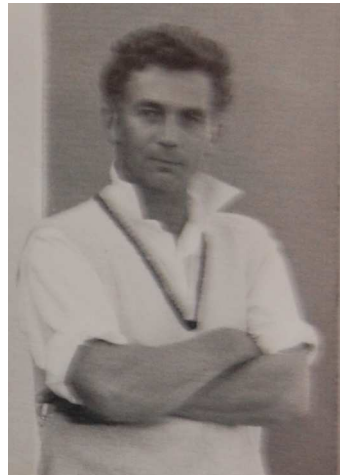
Name	Mch	Inn	N O	Runs	H S	50s	Av
A.Haines	93	89	10	1347	68*	4	17.05
J.Simpson	47	44	7	543	53*	2	14.68
M.Bosley	70	67	8	825	54	4	13.98
D.Vandervell	56	53	1	568	47		10.92
D.Pert	100	83	15	548	32*		8.06
R.Pike	117	114	7	853	37		7.97
T.McGregor	147	138	11	991	49		7.8
J.Bosley	99	88	15	513	35		7.03

Catches Summary

Name	Mch	Ct	Total
T.McGregor	147	62	62
R.Pike	117	33	33
A.Haines	93	27	27
D.Wise	76	25	25
D.Pert	100	24	24

Wicket Keeping Summary

Name	Mch	Ct	St	Total
A.Fidler	52	41	10	51
J.Simpson	26	12	11	23
D.Vandv'll	16	8	2	10



Donald in his pomp

Bowling Averages – qualification 50 wickets

Name	Mch	Ov	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	Best	Av
D.Pert	100	1009	350	370	1525	8--27	4.12
M.Rowland	19	115	32	59	249	8--11	4.22
D.Rowland	26	231	67	94	460	8--13	4.89
B.Rowland	66	569	166	206	1062	8--16	5.16
D.Wise	76	448	123	164	910	6--2	5.55
A.Haines	93	679	160	260	1477	7--10	5.68
T.McGregor	147	401	83	124	940	5--15	7.58
L.Meers	35	173	35	65	517	8--33	7.95

1950-1959 Summary

Matches	178			
Won	109			
Lost	50			
Drawn	8			
Tied	2			
Abandoned	9			
Runs For	11921	For 1427 Wkts @	8.35	
Runs Against	10138	For 1658 Wkts @	6.11	
Highest Inns Total For	166-5	vs	Compton	23-May-1959
Highest Inns Total Against	167 a/o	vs	Hampst'd Norris	29-Jun-1952
Lowest Inns Total For	13 a/o	vs	Clanfield	26-Jul-1952
Lowest Inns Total Against	10 a/o	vs	Welford Park	26-Jul-1958
Highest Match Aggregate	240--20	vs	Hampst'd Norris	29-Jun-1952
Lowest Match Aggregate	24--12	vs	Welford Park	26-Jul-1958
Most Runs	1347	A	Haines	
Highest Score	68*	A	Haines	
Most 50s	4	A	Haines	
	4	M	Bosley	
Most Overs	1009	D	Pert	
Most Wickets	370	D	Pert	
Best Bowling	8--11	M	Rowland	
Most 5-Wkt Inns	33	D	Pert	
Most Catches	62	T	McGregor	
Most Wk Catches	41	A	Fidler	
Most Stumpings	11	J	Simpson	

