

I hope that this new way of getting the VW to you works.....

And still no sponsorship deal on offer from VW

In normal years along with Easter, we would have the latest Wisden, the opportunity to catch up with friends and family and also county cricket to look forward to. This year how strange it was that the new Wisden was possibly the one thing that gave us just a small sense of normality.

Lancashire, Somerset, Yorkshire, Middlesex, Notts and Sussex were all due to host matches - the University sides would have already been involved in various pre-season friendlies; my two closest friends in the world, who have only ever met each other once, were due to arrive in Buckden on different days (evenings) for food and lots of drinking and Easter Sunday would have involved an egg-hunt for 'children' aged 15, 18, 19 and 22.

Abbey, the 22-year-old Easter-Egg hunting equivalent of Stokes at Leeds would have smashed her way to victory, the opposition left in disarray and the Cadburys kit bag bulging with other peoples aspirations....but it wasn't to be.

Abbey and Libby did have an Easter-Egg hunt, Abbey did win, but in the spirit of isolation they shared the treasure.

We did have lunch with our friends, using a thing called Zoom which every other member of both families knew how to sort out...I was busy making sure the bottle of Pinot Noir I found in M&S last week was adequate, so I didn't waste my time with menial Betamax/Zoom type stuff.

Last night Lorraine convinced that because she had chatted ('chatted up' more like) the refuge collectors (is the term bin-men just an old northern/Liverpudlian term?) then all 300 bags of 'stuff' needed to be put out...well, they came at 6.30 am and we still have 300 bags of stuff outside. I did not dare say, 'I told you so.'

Libby asked me to do a father-daughter challenge with her yesterday. Apparently the young 'uns (who are so used to social distancing owing to them being permanently glued to communicating via mobile phone) came up with the idea of a father and daughter drinking a pint each together and whilst there is no first prize or winner (I blame years of competition being eroded at school) I was determined to do my best. Once done the idea is to then challenge someone you know and they carry it on. Well I managed to drink my pint, Libs managed to lift the glass to her mouth, then it went downhill, the same path the pint took.

Next Easter we will look back and talk about how we got through this Easter, how odd, strange, un-nerving it all was...but the key to the sentence is the first bit...'how we got through'

Bill

furmedgefamilly@btinternet.com

furmedgefamilly1864@btinternet.com

07966 513171

Peter Ackerman gave us this little challenge - Name your world XI with the batting order in alphabetical order of surnames, it must be a plausible batting order, I.e. you cannot have J Anderson to open. Also, it can start at any letter in the alphabet, but must then be consecutive letters. Thank you to everyone who sent in a selection, so many to choose from, but I have narrowed it down...Once you have had a look through, Please choose your favourite and let me know.

A:

Alan Newman

Greenidge
Haynes
Kallicharran
Lloyd
Richards
Stokes
Streak
Taylor
Walsh
Warne
Waqar Younis

B:

Graham Downey

Atherton
Cook
Cowdrey
Dexter
Fletcher
Pietersen
Pringle
Russell
Statham
Trueman
Underwood

C:

John Ashworth

Gavaskar
Hobbs
Ikin
Jardine
Kohli
Lehmann
Miller
Noble
Oldfield
Pollock (P)
Qadir

D:

Jonathan Cousins

Cook
Denness

Edrich
Fetcher
Greig
Hooper
Iqbal (Asif)
Johnson (Mitchell not Graham)
Knott
Lee
Marshall

E:

Trevor Bedells

Boycott
Cook
Duleepsinhi
Edrich (Bill)
Fry,
Gower
Hirst
Illingworth
Jessop
Knott
Larwood.

F:

Hilary Richardson

Alma
Boon
Bradman
Compton
Grace (W.G.)
Hammond
Knott
Rhodes
Sobers
Walsh
Younis

G:

David Rapson

McCabe
Nourse
O'Neil (N)
Ponting
Qadir
Richards (sir V)
Stewart (A)

Trueman
Underwood
Vaas
Walsh

H:

Brian Armstrong

Jayasuriya
Kirsten
Lara
Morris
Nurse
O'Neill
Pollock
Qadir
Russell
Steyn
Trueman

I:

Peter Ackerman

Atapattu
Boycott
Bradman
Ponting
Ramprakash
Sangakara wk
Stokes
Swan
Tait
Warne
Willis

J:

James Dewar

Atherton
Brown (WA)
Cook
Dravid
Engineer (wk)
Foster (RE)
Greig
Hadlee
Johnson (M)
Kumble
Laker

K:
Giles Falconer
Atherton
Brown (Bill)
Cowdrey (Colin)
Dravid
Edwards (Ross)
Faulkner (Aubrey)
Gilchrist
Hadlee (Sir Richard)
Khan (Imran)
Johnson (Mitchell)
Kumble

L:
Andrew Fraser
Boycott
Cook
Dexter
Edrich (W.J. or Bill)
C.B. Fry
Gilchrist
Holding (Michael)
Imran Khan (counts, like
Intikhab as an 'I' in Wisden
index)
Johnson ('Mitch')
Kapil Dev
Laker

M:
**Nick Giligrass (Combines Eng/
Australia XI)**
Atherton
Boycott
Cowdrey
Dexter
Edrich (Bill)
Flintoff
Gilchrist
Hughes
Illingworth
Johnson (M)
Kasprowicz

N:
Martin Pether (an Essex XI)
Bailey

Cook
Douglas
Eastman
Fletcher
Gooch
Hobbs
Insole
Jenkinson
Kortright
Lever

O:
Richard Newton
Amla
Boycott
Bradman
Chappell
Dexter
Gilchrist
Khan (Imran)
Kapil Dev
Lindwall
Vettori
Willis

P:
Neil Nelson
Edrich
Fredericks
Graveney
Hammond
Inzaman
Jayasuriya
Knott
Lillee
McKenzie
N'tini
O'Reilly

Q:
Al Pycroft
Gooch
Haynes
Inzamam
Jayasuriya
Kallis
Lara
Moin Khan (wk)

Nash
Olonga
Pollock
Abdul Qadir

R:
Simon Stamp
Ama
Boycott
Bradman
Grace (W.G.)
Hammond
Khan (Imran)
Knott
Sobers
Stokes
Trueman
Warne

S:
Bill Holmes
Grace (W.G.)
Hammond
Richards (sir Vivian)
Smith (Steve)
Weekes
Kallis
Knott
Lindwall
Marshall
Qadir
Trueman

T:
Chris Stiles:
Amla
Atherton
Bradman
Grace
Hammond
Khan (Imran)
Knott
Larwood
Lillee
Verity
Younis (Waqar)

Now for a little challenge that came out of this one - Choose your World XI but it must be players that you have personally seen play (live, not on TV, radio etc) and it must be in batting order. I fully appreciate that there will be a complete mixed-bag, but to kick it off here is mine -
Atherton, Gooch, Kohli, Smith (Steve), Lloyd (Clive), Botham, Stokes, Khan (Imran), Hegg (Warren), Holding, Warne.
Looking forward to seeing what comes in.

Mark Grey posed the following question, 'What could Wisden 2021 contain if we had no cricket at all until November.' I will be honest, if that is the case and there is no cricket until November then I do not envy the task of Lawrence Booth and the Wisden team. The over-riding sense from WCC members was actually sadness. When asked to contemplate no cricket at all, even a hypothetical situation, it became obvious that we desperately want to see some cricket played. Even if it was behind closed doors and only on TV.

The following are a number of suggestions received, in the awful event of no cricket.

****Content will depend on what happens between November and publication, but as a way to fill the English section how about: Mr. Booth chooses the best single year in each county's history. All championship fixtures are reprinted, scorecards and match report. The introduction is a review by Mr. Booth on what made it a great season. Maybe what happened to players in the years following. This could also be done to a lesser extent for the schools (Tom Parkinson).**

****Invite a panel of cricket writers (please not just former players) to pick a selection of great matches from 1946 to present day. Print them in full. Each writer could introduce with a reasoning as to their choice. A hundred great matches!! (Jim Reynolds).**

****A comprehensive view on collecting Wisdens. I don't think the almanack has tried such a venture. (Brian Kennedy)**

****How about looking in-depth at the history of each county's overseas players. Biographies, feats, great matches. Nowadays people just see a lot of overseas players as short-term journeymen, but that is definitely not the case when you look at the 1960's, 1970's, 1980's or 1990's.**

****A decade by decade review of Wisden. I know that The Wisdener has done this. How about Wisden doing it too? Tie it in with a price guide for collectors maybe.**

In one of my introductions I gave a description of what my wife Lorraine thought about cricket . Apparently she is not alone. Here is one reply I received:

Bill,
My wife has a similar outlook to yours BUT, I have taken her to a few matches. During a previous life my employer's Insurers used to invite us to have a day at the Canterbury Festival, everything included! Mind you, as we lived in Middlesex I had to drive a hundred miles each way and book a couple of nights in a hotel so the "free" tickets were damned expensive.
I didn't take a tie and they had to lend me one so that I could go in the dining room (lucky they had my size!). I stood behind Deadly Derek in the lunch queue.
Anyway, the point of my story was a bit later - 1992. Middlesex were on the verge of winning the Sunday League and they were playing Yorkshire at Uxbridge (only about 7 miles from where we lived). None of my usual cricketing buddies could make it so I coerced the wife. The one thing I remember is her saying, when the Middlesex openers were coming out, "I don't know how you can tell them apart when they're wearing those helmets." I said, "Well Carberry's the white one and Haynes is the black one!". Still, in her very short cricketing days (probably three) she saw a 19 year old Tendulkar making 47, Ramps swearing at a supporter (he was suspended so Wisden tells me), Beefy hitting a four first ball and getting out next and Graeme Hick stroking his way to a 50.
Terry Smith.

Leaves from the Past

One of the most popular features of The Wisdener is our Leaves from the Past feature. Richard Lawrence has been putting this together for me and for that I am so grateful. For those of you who are new or have not yet seen what Richard puts together, then he reflects on a match, a quirky incident, a feat, a particular occurrence - in my opinion, his writing is wonderful and the feature continues to be entertaining.

If sending the VW out in this way works then Richard and I have a plan to reprint every article from Leaves from the Past and many unpublished ones and offer them all to read in a format similar to this.

I will be honest. This is a big task. It is the same as putting a 100-page book together and I am determined to do it. It will be completely free. That decision was an easy one, to make it free, but I know that Richard's writing deserves a respectful and appreciative audience and you are most certainly that.

It is being worked on and as soon as I can, it will be sent to you all...I am (again) really really hopeful that this new way of sending the VW works and that will mean sending you the Leaves from the Past book viable.

Your patience is appreciated

I have tried, for The Wisdener, to find quirky, odd stories that are a little different. The one below was one of the first I come across. It is true...awful, but true.

'...Cold, calculating and evil...'

A retired businesswoman and property owner hired a contract killer to eliminate the woman she saw as a rival for the affection of the man she loved. Fifty-seven-year-old Kathleen Calhaem lived in Cheddar, Somerset. She harboured an obsessive love for her solicitor, Kenneth Pigot. She became jealous of the wife of Pigot's best friend, fellow solicitor, Hugh Rendell. Pigot and Shirley Rendell were involved in a long-standing affair. Calhaem saw Shirley Rendell as a rival and resorted to following Pigot and spying on him.

Pigot and his law firm were commercial supporters of Somerset CCC and throughout the summer of 1982 he was a frequent spectator at Taunton. Calhaem followed him to many matches and even took out a county membership. In October 1982 Calhaem hired a private detective to follow and report on Rendell. Julian Zajac was a twenty-nine-year-old foundry worker who in his spare time using the name Julian Jones ran a detective agency.

In due course Calhaem told Zajac that she wanted to get rid of Shirley Rendell. She agreed to pay him £10,000. Half up-front and the rest after completion of her wishes. On February 23 1983 Zajac stole a car from his employer and drove to the Rendell house. He had prepared the way by telephoning ahead to ensure Mrs. Rendell was alone. He sat outside the house consuming vodka in the car to steady his nerves. He then gained entry by pretending to deliver a package.

Armed with a shotgun, knife and hammer, he attacked Mrs. Rendell. Zajac murdered Mrs Rendell. Later he was apprehended when a mutual acquaintance came forward to tell the police that he had tried to enlist his help as an accomplice. Later, Zajac helped the police bring Calhaem to justice, saying "I feel she is such an evil person...she made me feel like a schoolboy." He was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Calhaem was tried at Winchester Crown Court in January 1984. She denied the charge. Zajac was the chief prosecution witness and he clearly implicated Calhaem. She did not give evidence. She was also found guilty and given a life sentence.

Somerset CCC terminated her county membership and from prison Calhaem wrote asking for a pro-rata refund of her fees.

(Wisden Cricket Monthly, County Gazette -1983, 1984)

The First Isolation Quiz (IQ 1) has finished. I apologise profusely to two WCC members, Peter and William, whom I could not find time to contact. A massive thank you to the 167 of you who took part. The results will be in the next VW.

It looks highly likely that we will continue to be isolating, so ideas are afoot to do another Isolation Quiz, and it will go by the amazingly unique and innovative name of IQ 2. Details to follow.

Thank you all and please contact me if you have any problems viewing this

Bill

furmedgfamily@btinternet.com
furmedgfamily1864@btinternet.com

07966 513171