

BRIARS FIRST COMPETITON CRICKET MATCH

(source: early history called "Ready Skill and Manly Courage")

Having just acquired a concrete wicket on Henley Park, Enfield, the great step was taken and a team was entered in C grade with the Western Cricket Association.

The first match was played on 30th September 1922, against Concord Juniors. Although, as now, two Saturday afternoons were reserved for each match, this match only required one, enabling our heroes to spend the afternoon of the 7th October, 1922, trying to solve the tragedy of the week before. Rather than prolong the agony, we quote these scores:-

BRIARS

	1 st Innings		2 nd Innings	
BLAIR M	b. Spurway	4	c. – b. Callaby	2
MURRAY P	run out	0	c. – b. Blunden	1
EVITT W	lbw b. Spurway	4	c. – b. Parkinson	10
STONE J	C. & b. Callaby	1	b. Parkinson	3
SMALL J	c. – b. Toohey	18	b. Toohey	8
McDADE E	b. Blunden	10	absent	0
SHEENAN J	b. Toohey	1	c. – b. Callaby	0
CLARKE R	c. – b. Blunden	12	c. – b. Parkinson	1
BONAMY A	not out	2	absent	0
PIERCE S	b. Blunden	0	not out	1
Meulman L	st. – b. Callaby	0	b. Callaby	0
Sundries		1		7
Total		53		33

CONCORD JUNIORS – 1ST AND ONLY INNINGS

WILLIAMS F	b. Small	34
CROWE A	c. McDade b. Clark	1
BLUNDEN B	C. Murray b. Clark	1
OWEN H	c. Meulman b. Stone	50
SPURWAY R	how b. Sheenan	7
CALLABY R	c. Sheenan b. Small	5
TOOHEY J	run out	12
WILLIAMS A	not out	4
HUNT S	b. Small	8
POCOCK E	c. Bonamy b. Blair	1
PARKINSON A	not out	0
Sundries		7

9 wickets for 130 (closed)

BOWLING

	Overs	Maiden	Runs	Wickets
MURRAY P	5	-	27	-
CLARK R	5	-	20	2
SHEENAN J	3	-	9	1
SMALL J	4	-	28	3
BLAIR M	2.2	-	21	1
STONE J	1	-	1	1

CONCORD JUNIORS WON BY AN INNINGS AND 44 RUNS

(Note: We realize the bowling figures are a bit out"Land"ish, but we can only go by records available. Apparently, some consciences-stricken bowler has subsequently erased a few 'fourers" from his analysis.)

However, the depressive influences of this defeat did not unduly perturb our warriors. In the very next match, they triumphed over their opponents after being behind on the first innings. The scores were Briars 90 and 150 and Soldiers 106 and 80. The victory was a result of splendid teamwork, each of the batsmen contributing a few whilst the fielding was exceptionally good, 11 out of the 19 opposition wickets which fell being caught and 3 others run out.

The winning vein, unfortunately, did not continue and the team finished up the season with only 3 wins out of 14 games. The highlight of the season took place on 13 February 1923, in a match against Mortlake No 2 when R. Clark (101 no) and J Small (69) put on 187 for the first wicket. Bob's century was the first scored for the Club in competition Cricket.

The season wound up with a Father's match played on turf wicket at Cintra. This was a most enjoyable function and something which will be resurrected in the near future when the second generation of Briars enters upon the scene. It is regrettable that the surviving records do not give any details of these matches. However, we have it on good authority that Mr Siddeley, who is such an ardent follower of our teams nowadays used to bowl a wicked ball of the slow and tricky variety (unlike son Eric who is a speed merchant). Perhaps that is why he is such a sympathetic listener to the hard luck stories told by contemporary spin-artists.