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## AN ALL-ENGLAND CRICKETER

Charlie was one of those boys who goes all out for the thing he loves. He was tremendously keen on cricket, and he was determined to do well at it. Upstairs in his bedroom at home there was a big wardrobe with a long glass. In front of it was a carpet with a seam down the centre. The way he argued to himself was this: If a man puts a dead straight bat every time in front of the ball, it must be impossible for the ball to hit the wicket. So he made it his first business to learn to play with a straight bat. Hour after hour he practised in front of that looking-glass, keeping his bat along the seam of the carpet. He used to be ragged for taking things so seriously, but he stuck to it.

Another dodge of his a little later on was to make sure that he had his eye in for the first ball he had to play. If he was next man, he would sit on the edge of the ground with his eyes glued to a spot on the grass about 22 yards in front, so as to have his eye exactly accustomed to the length of the pitch from the moment he was at the wicket. He never smoked, and would not even remain in the dining-room after dinner, lest the smoke should affect his eye.

The three brothers, who were commonly known by their initials, J.E.K. (Kynaston), G.B. (George), and C.T. (Charlie), were only together one year in the Eton XI. They made one notable score, in the match against Winchester, whom they beat by an innings. In Eton's first innings J.E.K. made 52, C.T. 53 and G.B. 54! Eton also beat Harrow that year.

While the three brothers were together, they started a Bible Class. It was attended by several other boys, some of whom became well-known Christians later on, such as Colonel Granville-Smith of the Coldstream Guards, and a former Bishop of Madras.

C.T. remained two more years at Eton, captaining the XI in his last year. They were lean years for Eton cricket, being beaten once by Harrow and drawing once; but this fact only made C.T.'s form stand out all the more. Thus the report of the Eton-Harrow match of 1879 said: "Incomparably the best cricketer was the Eton Captain, C.T. Studd. He should make a great name some day." Another report placed him, together with C.F.H. Leslie, the Rugby Captain, as the best all-round Public School player of that year.

Before he left he also distinguished himself at racquets and fives:

"The final match for the singles Racquets came off on Monday [wrote the *Eton Chronicle*] in the presence of a densely crowded and exceedingly noisy gallery. Eastwood was generally the favourite, though Studd's form in the preceding match had made it pretty certain that he would not be easily beaten. As it happened, he won with comparative ease. We heartily congratulate him on his victory, which, considering his comparative inexperience of the game, was a very striking performance."

Later with J.D. Cobbold he represented Eton in the Public Schools Racquets Challenge Cup. They reached the final, where they were beaten by Rugby by four games to three, there being a difference of only one in the total aces, 88 against 87. C.T. also won the Eton House Fives.

When leaving, his housemaster, Mr. Cameron, wrote of him:

"Perhaps he might have done more in work, but it is hard for the Captain of the XI, and he has done no little good to all who have come under his influence. I think the secret of the

charm of his character is that he thinks for others rather than for himself. We shall miss him terribly and it is sad parting.”

Charlie’s own comment was that he learnt a great deal more through cricket than through books!

He went up to Trinity College, Cambridge. As a Freshman he was given his Cricket Blue, and he made 52 in the second innings of the ‘Varsity Match. The next year the three brothers were together in the ‘Varsity XI, and C.T. began to fulfil the promise of the brilliant future which had been prophesied of him. He not only played for the ‘Varsity, being second in the batting averages with an average of 42 and third in the bowling with an average of 16, but he also played for the Gentlemen v. Players.

*Lillywhite’s Cricket Record* for the year said:

“Very few players have a finer style: brilliant leg hitting and driving, with a very hard wrist stroke in front of point, a real straight bat, and a resolute nerve make together a batsman whose back bowlers are very glad to see.”

It is interesting to note that his bats were specially made with the handles one inch longer than most. His wrists were so strong that he could manage the extra weight.

In one match, Cambridge v. The Gentlemen of England, J.E.K. and C.T. made 267 out of 362 runs, the former scoring 154, the latter 113. In another match the three brothers made 249 out of a total score of 504.

But it was in 1882 that C.T. reached the height of his form. Though only a third-year man at the University, he rose to the very top of the cricket world, amateur and professional alike. It is doubtful whether any other undergraduate in the history of cricket has done such a thing. *Lillywhite’s Annual* said that year

“Mr. C.T. Studd must be given the premier position amongst the batsmen of 1882, and it would be difficult to instance three finer innings played by so young a cricketer against the best bowling of the day than his three-figure scores

against Australia and the Players.”

In the three matches referred to he made 118 v. Australia, 100 for the Gentlemen v. Players at Lord’s, and 126 not out v. The Gentlemen of England.

In bowling, only one in all England, a professional, Peate, had taken more wickets, and was ranked before him.

Only two matches of the year can be referred to in detail. Both created a sensation. The Australians were paying their third visit to England and had never yet beaten them; but this year they had sent over a very strong team, which included such famous players as Murdoch, Massie, Boyle, and the “Demon Bowler” Spofforth, whom some think the greatest bowler there has ever been.

G.B. Studd was Captain of Cambridge that year, and when the Australians asked that a match should be arranged with the University, he readily agreed. The President of the Club, an old Cambridge Don, cricketer and clergyman, was very indignant at the idea, for he thought, as most people did, that the University would get a sound beating and disgrace themselves. G.B.’s reply was that it would not matter anyhow, as everybody expected that result. So the match was arranged. The Australians were an unbeaten side when they came to Cambridge.

“The weather was all that could be desired and there was a larger attendance than ever seen before at the University ground. When Murdoch won the toss, I heard one or two people say, ‘Cambridge are in for a day’s outing,’ and so most people thought. Bannerman and Massie began the Australian innings to the bowling of C.T. Studd and Ramsay. At starting runs came at a great pace, Massie drove Studd three times for four and Ramsay twice. Then, just as he had begun to look dangerous, he failed to get quite hold of a ball from Studd and was neatly caught at third man.”

Then followed a quick and surprising collapse, ending in the whole side being out for 139, C.T. taking five wickets for 64

and Ramsay the other five. J.E.K. and G.B. began the Cambridge innings. J.E.K. was soon out and three wickets were down for 55.

“C.T. then joined his brother and commenced a most remarkable innings. The cricket while the brothers were together was admirable. At 89 Spofforth clean bowled G.B. for a brilliant but somewhat lucky innings of 42. Bather now became C.T.’s partner and a most determined resistance was offered to the Australian bowling. The 100 went up amidst cheers, and then Studd made a splendid on-drive for four, the ball almost pitching on the ring. Runs were put on very rapidly, and there was a perfect roar of applause when the Australians’ total was passed. The bowling was several times changed without effect. Studd continued to bat in grand form and scored an enormous majority of the runs. No parting was effected up to the call of time, the score being 187 for four wickets. C.T. was not out 85 and Bather 20. Of course, Studd’s success was immensely popular, and he thoroughly deserved the enthusiastic reception which greeted him. Better and cleaner off driving has seldom been my lot to witness.

“Play was resumed on Tuesday. The attendance was, if anything, larger than on Monday. Excursion trains had been run down from London and other places, and these brought a lot of people to the match. Bather was soon bowled, and Spencer; then Henery joined Studd, who completed his 100 amidst enthusiastic cheering. The old Etonian then hit Spofforth twice for four. With one run added, Studd was given out, caught at the wicket, and his long and wonderful innings came to a close. I have always had a high opinion of Studd, but I must say I never thought him capable of such a great performance. Playing against bowling that was quite new to him, he never seemed at a loss to know what to do with it, and was never in any way nervous.”

The side was out for 266. This was followed by a second innings of 290 by the Australians, leaving the University 168 to

make to win.

“Opinions were greatly divided as to whether or not the runs would be obtained. The brothers J.E.K. and G.B. were the first pair of batsmen. Both men played in fine form in starting, and the score rose rapidly. There were loud cheers as each ten appeared on the board. When the 100 went up there was a tumult of applause. G.B. was then out. For these two young cricketers to put on 106 runs for the first wicket was a great performance and will long be remembered by lovers of cricket, as it practically won the match for Cambridge. C.T. later made the winning hit, scoring 15 not out, Cambridge thus beating Australia by six wickets.”

When Horan, one of the Australian team, had arrived at Cambridge for the match, he had said, “I hear they have a set of Studds in the Eleven,” and later he added, “We shall win if we can get them Studds out.” And he was right. They didn’t!

Incidentally it was *Punch* who gave them the nickname “The set of Studds,” and there was a banker who went one better than *Punch*. He had three gold studs for his evening-dress shirt engraved with the initials of the three brothers. Whichever made top score any day when all three were playing, went top in the shirt that night.

This match made C.T.’s name. Before the season ended he had added another century against the Australians, making two of the only three centuries scored against them that season. For it must be remembered that centuries were much rarer in those days when pitches were less perfect.

That year, with the three brothers playing, Cambridge also beat Lancashire, the champion county, and Oxford. Against Lancashire C.T. “showed by far the best batting in the match,” scoring 69 and 38. The finish was most exciting, Lancashire, with five wickets to go down, wanting only 22 runs to win. Thanks, however, to capital bowling and fielding, these five wickets fell for 7 runs. Four of the five wickets were taken by C.T. Against Oxford, who were beaten by seven wickets, G.B.

made top score in the first innings with a brilliant 120, and C.T. top score in the second with 69. In their second innings Oxford foolishly took chances with G.B. fielding at mid-off, and as a consequence had three men run out. He was the finest mid-off of his day.

The other sensation of the season was the historic Test Match when Australia beat England for the first time, and when the term Ashes came into existence. A few days after the match the *Sporting Times* published the following epitaph:

In Affectionate Remembrance  
of  
English Cricket,  
Which died at the Oval on  
29th August, 1882,  
Deeply lamented by a large circle of  
Sorrowing Friends and  
Acquaintances.  
R.I.P.

N.B. The body will be cremated and  
the ashes taken to Australia.

C.T. was a member of the English XI, which a well-known critic thinks as good as any England has ever put in the field. The other members of the team were W.G. Grace, R.G. Barlow, G. Ulyett, A.P. Lucas, Hon. A. Lyttelton, J.M. Read, W. Barnes, A.G. Steel, A.N. Hornby (Captain), E. Peate. The match was watched at the Oval by a record crowd of over 20,000.

During the Australians' first innings, C.T. ran one of them out by a very smart piece of fielding. The ball was hit between Hornby and himself at extra cover and cover-point. Hornby ran after the ball and C.T. ran after him, knowing that Hornby could not throw. The batsman, seeing it was Hornby and knowing that he could not throw, called for another run; Hornby picked up the ball, jerked it to C.T., who threw and ran the Australian out.

It seemed a certainty that England would win, for she had

only 85 left to make in the last innings, and 50 went up with only 2 wickets down. Then came the collapse.

C.T.'s own account of the end of the match was as follows:

"The weather was cold. We sat in the Committee Room, and the windows were shut because of the cold. Except that such strange things happen in cricket, none dreamed we should be beaten.

"We had made over fifty for two wickets (there were less than ninety required to win when our innings began); everything was over, as they say, bar the shouting; runs had come freely enough. Then came the time when the best English batsmen played over after over and never made a run. If I remember right, something like eighteen to twenty overs were bowled without a run, maiden after maiden. They got out, and Hornby on his own account began to alter the order of going in. He asked me if I minded and I said, 'No.' Then things began to change and a procession began. Of course Hornby told me he was holding me in reserve. So I went in 8th and saw two wickets fall and myself never received a ball."

C.T. was joined by Peate for the last wicket. Peate, who was no batsman, had been warned to be careful and leave the run-getting to Studd, but after hitting a 2, he lashed out at a straight one from Boyle and was bowled. Afterwards, when asked why he had done so, he made the famous witticism, "I could not trust Studd!" Australia won the match by 8 runs.

That winter C.T. was invited to go with the Test Team to Australia under the leadership of the Hon. Ivo Bligh, afterwards Lord Darnley, who remained his life-long friend. *Punch* called him "St. Ivo," and said that he was setting out on a pilgrimage to Australia to recover the Ashes. During the tour three matches were played against Australia, out of which England won two. After the third match, some Melbourne ladies put some Ashes into a small silver urn and gave them to Mr. Bligh. The urn had on it the following inscription:



When Ivo goes back with the Urn, the Urn,  
Studds, Steel, Read and Tylecote return, return!  
The welkin will ring loud,  
The great crowd will feel proud  
Seeing Barlow and Bates with the Urn, the Urn,  
And the rest coming home with the Urn.

This was the origin of the historic Ashes.

C.T. returned to captain Cambridge in his last year, 1883. Once again he was reckoned the leading all-round player in England, the *Cricketing Annual* saying:

“Mr. C.T. Studd must for the second year in succession be accorded the premier position as an all-round cricketer, and some years have elapsed since the post has been filled by a player so excellent in all the three departments of the game. His batting especially has been of the highest class.”

His Cambridge career has been described as “one long blaze of cricketing glory.” In his last year he topped both bowling and batting averages with 41.84 in batting and 14.65 in bowling. Indeed, through the previous half century of University cricket only four batsmen had had a better batting average, and only four a better bowling. A truly amazing record of all-round brilliancy, and one which ranks him as one of the greatest all-round players that the game has produced.

He also won the Cambridge single Racquets Match and represented Cambridge against Oxford. He was beaten by C.F.H. Leslie. He took his B.A. degree and came down from Cambridge in 1884.

Let it be carefully noted that C.T. was not just a “born cricketer,” nor was cricket to him just a pastime to wile away spare hours. He made a serious business of it, and he set himself to get to the top of the tree at cricket as thoroughly as the scholar sets himself to get a first class in his Tripos. C.T. never regretted that he played cricket (although he regretted that he had allowed it to become an idol), for by applying himself to the game he learned lessons of courage, self-denial

and endurance, which, after his life had been fully consecrated to Christ, were used in His service. The man who went all out to be an expert cricket player, later went all out to glorify his Saviour and extend His Kingdom.

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