

# Phili



A History of Philadelphia  
Cricket and Community Club  
1868 - 2018

John Yearnshire

# The History of Philadelphia Cricket and Community Club 1868 - 2018

By  
John Yearnshire



*Earliest team photograph of Philadelphia Cricket Club circa 1888*

## Acknowledgements

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Back Cover: Top – Members of the club walking towards another 150years

Bottom – Senior players with Austin Carney and Ian Stothard



## Foreword



It is an immense privilege and an honour to write the foreword to this book which chronicles the 150 year history of the club.

I have a lot to be thankful for in that my teacher at Shiney Row School, Jack Woodley, took a class to the ground for practice and to play neighbouring schools.

That was back in the early fifties and I joined the club probably when I was about 11 years old. I remember giving half-a-crown to stalwart Billy Miller as my first subscription and although I played junior cricket, I was never much good! However, my interest was sustained when I was appointed first team scorer. Believe it or not I had to be interviewed by the committee along with two other candidates. How times have changed!

The President was a very brave man by the name of Fred Gill, who had lost both legs at Cambria in the First World War. He was the boss of the National Coal Board office which adjoined the ground. One night when I was in the field, I was sent for by Mr Gill and I thought I was in trouble but he asked me where I wanted to work when I left school and when I told him I would like to be a junior clerk, he set me on when I was 15 – without an interview.

This set the scene for my administrative involvement in the club and on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1959 I took up my first official role. The following day I was sent for by Mr Gill who told me the annual meeting had been held the night before and I had been appointed assistant secretary. As an 18 year old I probably didn't even know the meeting was on, but in those days you didn't say no to your boss!

During the last 59 years I have filled every role. There have been high and low points on and off the field, just as there would have been in the previous 91 years but I think I can safely say that the club is now in a very good position both from a playing and financial point of view.

A major contribution to the health of the club came in 1978 when the then chairman, Jack Forrester MBE, negotiated the purchase of the ground for the princely sum of £18,000. Owning the freehold has allowed the club to move forward, obtaining grants that might not otherwise have been available. Not many members today will remember Jack but we should always be grateful for his insight.

Fifty-nine years is a long time to be associated with one organisation but Phili has been my life and most of the time I've enjoyed being involved. I don't think any club has achieved such a high level of success. Three Durham Senior League championships in four seasons in the late fifties and early sixties, eclipsed only by the magnificent record-breaking six in seven in the seventies under the captaincy of probably Phili's best-ever skipper Tom Clish.

With 10 teams currently playing and a sound financial base, Philadelphia is well equipped going forward. I wish those who succeed me every success – and enjoyment.

*Malcolm Pratt MBE DL*

## Introduction

Philadelphia was named by Newbottle colliery owner John Douthwaite Neasham as a result of the American Revolutionary War (1776-1783) to commemorate the British capture of the American city of the same name. The village cricket field is named "Bunker Hill", after another famous battle in that war. The exact date of the official opening of Philadelphia Cricket Club does not appear to be documented anywhere; however, numerous historical committee meetings refer to the number of years since the club was formed and from this evidence we can deduce that the year was 1868. This is not a definitive or complete history of cricket in Philadelphia; it can't be as so much has happened over the years. It is, however, an in-depth and thoroughly researched volume involving local and national newspapers across the generations. It shows how important and enduring cricket was to village life.



*Sunderland Echo September 2002*



*Philadelphia Lane, circa 1900*

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**D. BOOKLESS**  
 OLDEST PRACTICAL CRICKET OUTFITTER IN THE TRADE  
*(Established 24 Years)* is the Cheapest on the Globe for  
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 SPORTS FACTORY MIDDLESBROUGH.

*Cricket Advert from the Athletic News 20<sup>th</sup> May 1895*

# CRICKET.

## DURHAM COUNTY CHALLENGE CUP.—FINAL TIE.

After two postponements on account of the weather the final tie of the Durham Cup was played off at Norton on Saturday in fine though cold weather. In the first innings, concluded a fortnight ago, the visitors scored 80 to Stockton's 71. In the second innings Philadelphia put together 108 to the home team's 93, thus becoming the first winners of the cup by 24 runs. In the absence of Dr Kenton, the trophy was presented to the winning team by Councillor A. B. Crosby, Lee, the captain, responding. Scores:—

<b>PHILADELPHIA.—2nd innings.</b>	
J. Lee, c Kenton, b A. W. Welch.....	31
Dakers, run out .....	15
Young, c Heavisides, b A. W. Welch.....	9
W. H. Lee, run out .....	5
Blackley, b Wright.....	1
Sharp, b Wright.....	5
Harrison, c Potts, b Swenson .....	11
W. Laidler, lbw, b Swenson .....	13
J. Laidler, not out.....	3
Gales, b Wright .....	6
Stafford, b Wright.....	0
Extras .....	8
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>STOCKTON.—2nd innings.</b>	
W. Scott, b J. Lee.....	9
Kenton, b J. Laidler.....	0
A. W. Welch, b Young.....	10
F. H. Welch, run out .....	24
Wright, c Dakers, b J. Lee.....	13
Borrie, c and b J. Lee .....	0
Potts, b Young .....	15
A. Scott, c Harrison, b Young .....	3
Swenson, b J. Laidler .....	7
Heavisides, not out .....	0
Dowson, absent	
Extras.....	4
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>93</b>

*First trophy won by Philadelphia Cricket Club 'The Durham County Challenge Cup' 1888*

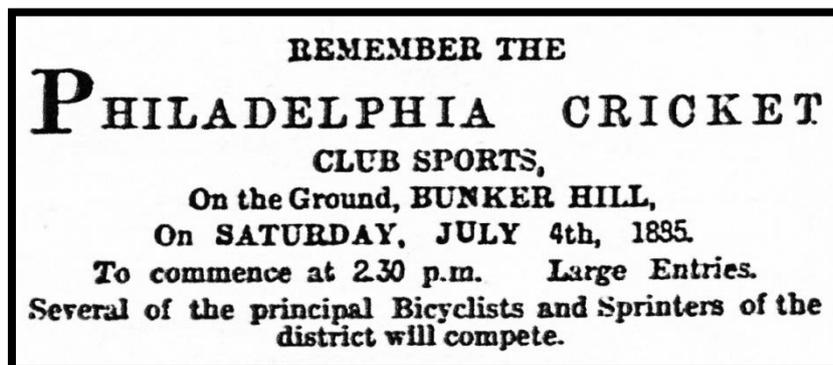
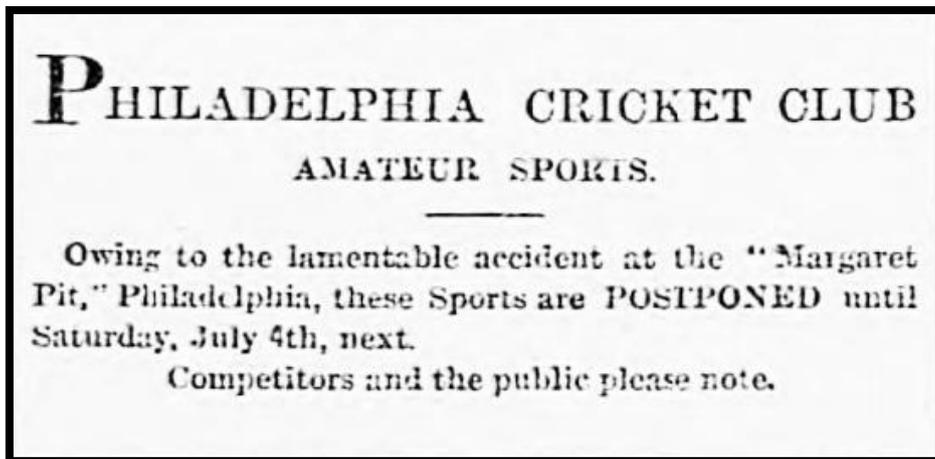
## A Philadelphia Cricketer

At the recent annual meeting of the Durham County Cricket Club, Mr John Young, of the Philadelphia Cricket Club (along with Mr H. Hutton, of Durham City, was the recipient of a handsome gold medal, presented to him by Mr Adamson in recognition of his excellent performance with the bat for his county during the past season.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 13<sup>th</sup> April 1892*

Whilst playing for Philadelphia between the years 1887-1897 John Young represented Durham County on 25 occasions. He played in 40 innings, his highest score was 110 not out and he scored a total of 760 runs for the county, which included (four not outs), three fifties and one century.

*100 Years of Durham County Cricket Club Brian Hunt 1983*



## Philadelphia C.C. Amateur Sports

These sports which were postponed owing to the accident at the Margaret Pit are now fixed for Saturday afternoon. What effect the postponement will have upon the success of the gathering we cannot foretell, but originally a large number of entries were obtained, and there was every promise of an interesting afternoon's entertainment. With fine weather, we think anticipations of that sort will be fully realised. The cricket ground is situated a short distance from Margaret Pit; recently it has been substantially enclosed, levelled, and is now undoubtedly one of the best fields in the district. It is within easy access by rail and road.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1885*

## **No League Cricket**

No league cricket was played in the County until the formation of the Durham County Senior League in 1891 under the auspices of the County Cricket Club. The clubs involved were left to arrange their own 'friendly matches' – and those that were not so friendly when side-stakes were raised. Most workers had to work Saturday mornings, and many all day Saturday, so cricket was not available to all. Moreover any match with a club outside a radius of five miles would have been regarded as a considerable adventure and involve much travelling time in the late nineteenth century. Improved transport facilities were crucial to any promotion of the game of cricket. South Shields, Sunderland, Durham City, Whitburn, Philadelphia and North Durham formed the northern division of the new Durham County Senior League.

*The Centenary of Durham Senior League 2002 Ray Pallister*

## **Unfavourable Weather**

Owing to the unfavourable state of the weather all cricket fixtures in the Philadelphia, Penshaw, New Herrington, and Houghton-le-Spring districts were cancelled on Saturday.

*Durham County Advertiser 11<sup>th</sup> August 1893*

## **Enlarge the Cricket Ground**

A special meeting of the members of Philadelphia Cricket Club was held on Tuesday evening when it was resolved to seek permission to enlarge the cricket ground, seeing that from the patronage the club was at present receiving, the accommodation for spectators was not sufficient. A committee of 15 was appointed to see the Earl of Durham's agent to ask permission to do it, and, in the event of obtaining it, to prepare the estimates, etc. and report to a future meeting. Mr Jacob Sharp presided.

*Durham County Advertiser 18<sup>th</sup> August 1893*

## **"The Pit Laddies"**

The officers of the Philadelphia Cricket Club (Durham Senior League) are pushing forthwith, the proposed scheme for the enlargement of the present cricket enclosure, and at a meeting on Monday evening the contract for the work was let to Mr Thos. Dixon, of Houghton-le-Spring, at a price of £120. The work consists of extending the south and west boundaries, the removal of the embankment in the south-west corner, levelling the same and relaying turf. When completed the ground will be one of the best in the north of England. The scheme originated last season, when owing to the increased patronage of the club matches the accommodation for spectators was quite inadequate. Steps were at once taken to secure the sanction of the Earl of Durham's agents, and practical aid was also forthcoming from the principal gentry of the district. The club, which has been in existence 25 years, ranks as one of the leading "amateur" clubs in the north. The team consists of *bona fide* working-men, "professionalism" being considered an insult, and the team locally known as "The Pit Laddies" are a credit to the county. It has supplied no less than six county men, at different periods.

*Durham County Advertiser 1<sup>st</sup> December 1893*

## Fixture Card

The Philadelphia Club have forwarded us an unusually neat little get-up in the shape of a fixture card. It is rather a useful little *brochure*, treating of cricket in general, for, besides a list of officers of the Philadelphia Club, and first and second eleven fixtures, there are all the rules of cricket, cricket records, county and other fixtures, the Australians' fixtures, county players averages in 1892, batting and bowling averages of the Australians in England since 1878, and champion counties since 1870. May the Philadelphians have a successful season say we.

*Durham County Advertiser 12<sup>th</sup> May 1893*

## Batting Record

Mr Jos. C. Harrison, of the Philadelphia C.C., by his score of 113 (not out) on Saturday last, not only established a record for Philadelphia, but also a record for the Durham League, and we find on looking over old score registers that only on two previous occasions has a player of Philadelphia Club come near it, 112 runs having been made by Mr Bradford, of Bunker Hill, when playing for Philadelphia 12 years ago, and Mr John Young credited himself with 102 five seasons ago. A rather strange coincidence is that upon each of the three occasions when a century has been exceeded the opposing team has been Whitburn. Saturday's century was not the first occasion on which Harrison has made such a large score, for when playing at Seaham Harbour, in 1887, batting along with Mr John Blanckley, of Peshaw, an old Philadelphian, each player scored 103 before being dismissed.

*Durham County Advertiser 7<sup>th</sup> July 1893*

## Respect Umpires

The officials of the Philadelphia Cricket Club have taken a step which all other leading clubs should follow. They have issued to the members and supporters the following appeal:- "The committee of the Philadelphia Cricket Club earnestly appeals to their supporters not to make any demonstrations in respect of the umpire's decisions at any match in which their club are engaged. The umpires are sole judges of the game, and it is expected that in accordance with the rules of the Durham County League, there may never be molestation or intimidation of the umpires whilst on the Philadelphians ground. Betting is also strictly prohibited on the ground. In conclusion, it is hoped that the good name of the Philadelphians towards their umpires in the past will be strictly maintained in the future."

*Durham County Advertiser 14<sup>th</sup> July 1893*

*Right, A typical umpire of the day*



## Typhoid Fever

From the latest returns we are glad to learn that the outbreak of typhoid fever in the New Herrington and Chilton Moor districts is abating. No fresh cases have been notified during the past few days. It is sad to record, however, that several cases have terminated fatally, including the death of Miss Haigh, head mistress of Chilton Moor Girls School, and Mrs Atchinson, wife of Mr John Atchinson, groundsman to the Philadelphia Cricket Club.

*Durham County Advertiser 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1893*

## **Opening of New Extension**

The executive of Philadelphia Cricket Club and members of the Durham Senior League have now almost completed the scheme of extending and relaying the enclosure, which has been enlarged to its southern and western boundaries 44 yards and 36 yards, and according to its dimensions has accommodation for 6,000 spectators. The cost of alterations amounts to £140, excluding land, which has been graciously given by the Earl of Durham. It is proposed to formally re-open the ground on May 5<sup>th</sup> when Mr R. H. Mallet esteemed county secretary has consented to a county eleven to oppose the Philadelphia team. Other attractions will be in vogue that day, it is likewise proposed to invite the attendance of patrons of the club to patronise the match committee also contemplate establishing athletic sports, which in all probability will be in July.

*Durham County Advertiser 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1894*

## **Philadelphia Cricket Club – Captain v. Vice-Captain Match**

On Saturday in splendid weather the annual inaugural match of the season took place on the Philadelphia Ground, which has just been renovated at a cost of £150, and now can rank in comparison both for size and pitch to any in the North of England. The match between Mr Jos C. Harrison (Capt.) and Mr Jacob Sharpe (Vice-Capt.) teams, and some exceptionally good cricket was witnessed. Saturday's game ended in a draw. Scores:- Mr Harrison's team, 226 for six wickets; Mr Sharpe's team 125 for five wickets.

*Durham County Advertiser 27<sup>th</sup> April 1894*

## **Improvement Fund**

On Monday evening, Mr Jos. Smailes (vice-president of Philadelphia League Cricket Club) and Mrs Smailes gave a tea at their residence, Success Terrace, Philadelphia, to the members of the club named, the proceeds of which are to be devoted (as in the previous "teas", given by Messrs Davison and Farrow) towards the Extension and Improvement Fund of the club ground. There was a good company present, and by this novel enterprise over £4 was realised. After tea, the remainder of the evening was spent in harmony, songs, etc., being contributed by the company. The next "tea" will be given by Mr Jacob Sharpe (Vice-Captain), and Mrs Sharpe, on Monday May 21<sup>st</sup>.

*Durham County Advertiser 27<sup>th</sup> April 1894*

## **Durham County League**

A meeting of the Northern Division County Cricket League was held at Sunderland on Thursday night last. There was a complaint by Mr Elliott, the North Durham umpire, with regard to the conduct of J. Young and J. Lee in the match between Philadelphia and North Durham, which took place at Philadelphia on July 7<sup>th</sup>, and also against the conduct of the spectators, who jeered at the Umpire and threw mud and ashes at him when the match concluded. He had given both Young and Lee out LBW, and it was against these decisions that the demonstrations took place. The committee decided that both players should be asked to apologise to Mr Elliott, and that the committee of Philadelphia club should be requested to send a letter to the committee of the Northern Division, expressing regret for what had occurred, and promising to prevent a recurrence of such conduct on the part of the players and spectators in future.

*Shields Gazette 21<sup>st</sup> July 1894*

## Amateur Dramatic Performance in Houghton

For some considerable time the Philadelphia Cricket Club has had in hand the extension and improvement of their ground, so as to admit of county matches being played thereon. Such work, it is needless to remark, involves great expense, no less than £160 being required. This club is one of the most prominent in local cricketing annals, and is in a flourishing condition, but the sum named is an item somewhat too heavy to be incurred by them unaided, and it was therefore with the object of assisting to pay off the liability that an amateur dramatic entertainment was proposed, and was carried to a successful issue on Tuesday night.

Dr H.L. de Legh, of New Herrington, was the prime mover in the matter, and with the valuable assistance of the surrounding gentry, he was soon in a position to insure a large sum for the club. The entertainment was held in the Town Hall, Houghton-le-Spring, the building being packed with the elite of the district.

*Durham County Advertiser 13<sup>th</sup> April 1894*

## Most Successful Season

Philadelphia Cricket Club have just concluded one of the most successful seasons in all the 26 years of the club's existence. In all, the first eleven took part in 19 matches, of which 9 were won, 8 drawn, and 2 lost, viz., Whitburn, at Whitburn (League), and Norton, at Philadelphia in the final for championship honours. The best performance of the team was against Sunderland, at Philadelphia, when they defeated last season's champions by 3 wickets and 27 runs. Another remarkable match is notable, viz., against Rockcliffe, at Whitley, ending after a very exciting game, in favour of the Philadelphians by one run only, the score being 26 and 25 respectively. In all the team scored 2,196 for 133 wickets, averaging 16.63 runs per wicket, against their opponent's score of 1,943 for 153 wickets, or an average of 12.7 runs per wicket, thus showing an average superiority of 4.61.

Mr John Young again tops the batting average with a splendid record of 33 runs for 14 completed innings, and 4 not outs, and is to be presented with a valuable time piece by Mr H. Lawson, of Hetton-le-Hole, addition to the club prize, at a social, to be held at the Rose and Crown Hotel, Herrington Burn. Mr Fred Simpson leads in the bowling department, with a splendid record of 9-28. The League record is, played 9, won 4, drawn 4, lost 1, – 3 points, not including the championship games, – draw at Norton, and lost at Philadelphia.

*Durham County Advertiser 28<sup>th</sup> September 1894*

**C**RICKET BATS, MATCH BALLS, &c., FOR SALE  
(cheap).—  
**HARRISON BROS.,**  
Office, 42, Fawcett-street.

*Local advert in the Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette for Harrison Bros., advertising cricket equipment for sale, from their shop in Fawcett Street*

## 2,500 Spectators at Bunker Hill

Philadelphia the "home", of the Northern Division Champions (cricket), has frequently during the now fast ebbing season, been the scene of many exciting and tough struggles, but never in the annals of the cricket club could it boast of such an exciting and popular event as that which took place at Philadelphia on Saturday last. Notwithstanding the lateness of the season, nearly 2,500 spectators assembled in the Philadelphia enclosure, when Miss Corbett, daughter of Mr V.W. Corbett, Unionist candidate for the Houghton-le-Spring parliamentary division, captained a team of 16 ladies, against a team of 11 "tall silk" gents., captained by Dr Morton, the conditions being that the latter should field and bowl left handed, and play with pick shafts instead of bats. The proceeds of the match, which will amount to a

substantial sum, are in aid of providing surgical appliances for the New Herrington Nursing Association, an institution which has demonstrated its value in the district many times of late. The interest and excitement in the encounter was as great as if the final for a national trophy was being played for. Miss Corbett won the toss, and decided to send the gents in to bat.

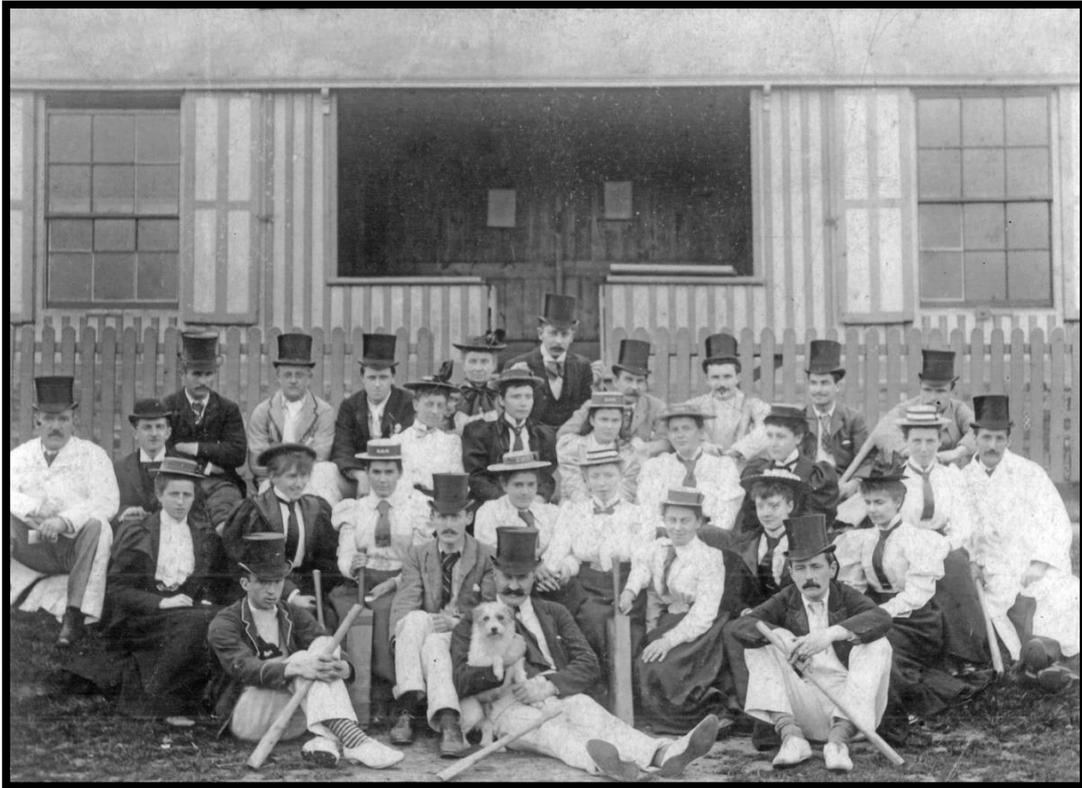
Dr Morton and Dr Housemen, facing the dangerous bowling, of Miss V. Ward and Miss K. Corbett. The gents made a poor display at first, losing 5 wickets for 36 runs. Gradually, however, the score rose. Mr C. R. Sutherland, evidently an expert with the "pick shaft", totalled 55 to his credit. With 133 for 8 wickets Dr Morton declared the innings closed. The ladies proceeded to give the gents, a term of leather hunting,

their scores Miss Young 23, Miss Corbett 2, Miss Tate 19, Miss K. Corbett 10, and Miss E. Corbett 10. Each lady played the game as it ought to be, and an exciting match resulted in a victory for the gents by 2 runs only.

*Durham County Advertiser 21<sup>st</sup> September 1894*

GENTLEMEN.	
Dr. Morton (capt), b Miss V. Ward.....	0
Dr. Houseman, o Miss K. Corbett, b Miss Ward .....	9
Mr T. A. Tate, o Miss Commelyn, b Miss Ward .....	1
Mr V. Gough, b Miss K. Corbett.....	16
Mr J. Park, b Miss K. Corbett ...	7
Mr R. Richardson, o Miss K. Corbett, b Miss Ward.	9
Mr C. R. Sutherland, not out.....	52
Mr E. G. Sutherland, o Miss Commelyn, b Miss Ward	6
Mr Black, not out.....	33
Mr C. Young, } did not bat.	
Mr W. Chatt, }	
Mr Bennett, }	
Extras.....	0
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>133</b>

LADIES.	
Miss Tate, c C. R. Sutherland, b Gough.....	19
Miss Milligan, run out.....	2
Miss Commelyn, o Young, b Gough.....	4
Miss K. Corbett, c and b Gough.....	10
Miss E. Sutherland, c Houseman, b Sutherland.....	5
Miss Corbett (capt.), b Gough.....	25
Miss Richardson, not out.....	9
Miss Sutherland, c Young, b Park.....	10
Miss E. Corbett, c Morton, b Chatt.....	6
Miss Young, c and b Gough.....	23
Miss S. Corbett, c Sutherland, b Young.....	4
Miss V. Ward, b Gough.....	2
Miss Croisdale, c E. Sutherland, b Young.....	1
Miss Morris, b Young.....	0
Miss Gilchrist, o Morton, b Young.....	0
Extras.....	11
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>131</b>



*Ladies and Gents teams pose outside the first cricket pavilion at Philadelphia (Gents players with their pick axe handles) September 1894*

### **First County Match Played at Bunker Hill**

Yesterday for the first time in the annals of county cricket, a two days engagement between Durham and Lincolnshire was commenced on the Philadelphia ground. The wicket was in grand condition, and the game was witnessed by a large attendance. Play commenced at 1.35pm Lincoln winning the toss, proceeded to the wicket C. Cheales and Pulleing facing the bowling of W.F. Whitwell, and R. Clarke. Runs came slowly, and after the first four overs Pulleing was splendidly caught in the slips by R. Clarke off W.F. Whitwell, T. Hedworth followed, and the first ball he sent to the boundary for four. With this exception runs continued to come slowly, thanks to the good fielding of the Dunelmians. With the score at 13, Hedworth was clean bowled by W.F. Whitwell for 8. A.E. Cheales now partnered his brother, and the scoring became swifter, but before twenty was telegraphed, no less than 10 maidens had been bowled. A.E. Cheales had made 22 when Nichol bowled him clean. The remainder of the Lincoln batsmen never reached double figures, and the innings closed for 79. At 3.45pm J. Young and C. Adamson took up their stand for Durham, facing the bowling of Woodley and Broadbent (an old Sunderland player), and before the pair were separated 50 runs had been made, Young playing splendid cricket for 26. With 32 to his credit, Adamson was beaten by Broadbent. Like their opponents the remainder of the eleven showed only a moderate display and the whole eleven were out for 91. Lincoln, at 5.40 pm, went again to the wickets, and at the call of time the score was 33 for the loss of two wickets.

*Durham County Advertiser 4<sup>th</sup> June 1895*

*(Durham went on to win this first county cricket match at Philadelphia by 10 wickets.)*

## The Shocking Fatality at Philadelphia

Yesterday Mr Maynard, Coroner, held an inquest at the Lambton Castle Hotel, Philadelphia on the body of a boy named Scorer Watchman (13), who was killed by being run over by a cricket ground roller. A boy named W. Churchill said he was present when the accident occurred. There were about 20 of them together. After the roller had been used for rolling the first team's wicket, they secured it for the purpose of rolling the junior's wicket, and in taking it down the field to replace it – shoving it forward – deceased attempted to jump on the frame, and in doing so slipped, and fell headlong under the roller, which passed right over him before they could stop it. In answer to the coroner he said the ground was on the slope. The deceased had been helping to push the roller, and had been told to get off the frame, or he would get lamed. There were two other lads on the roller, but they got off. There were about eight lads on the shafts, the others on being at the side. It was impossible to stop the roller. The deceased was picked up by Mr Dacres, but he did not think he was alive. James Churchill also gave evidence, and said the deceased was standing beside him when he tried to jump on the frame. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death".  
*Daily Gazette 16<sup>th</sup> May 1896*

**KILLED BY A CRICKET ROLLER.**  
While the cricket ground near New Herrington, Durham, was being rolled on Wednesday night, a lad named Scorer Watchman (14) fell under the roller and was crushed to death.

*Northern Echo 15<sup>th</sup> May 1896*



*Lambton Castle Hotel, Philadelphia the venue of Scorer Watchman's inquest in 1896*

## Philadelphia Powered to the Title in 1899

Philadelphia powered to the title in 1899 with slow bowler Jack Terry, ex-Nottinghamshire ground staff, as pro. Philadelphia's success provoked questions about illegal payments to players. These were days when the national press were using the word 'shamateurism' in relation to expenses paid to amateurs. The league held an enquiry; and asked clubs to fill in a questionnaire giving details of players, status and any monies received. All complied except Philadelphia. An extension was granted. But to no avail. Request became demand. Neither Philadelphia nor its questionnaire turned up at the January meeting. In their absence the Committee ruled the 1899 championship null and void. Furthermore, Philadelphia were exempt from the league in 1900. Stung by the slur, Philadelphia fought to clear their name. Tension rose in a summer heat-wave. Philadelphia canvassed sufficient support for an extraordinary meeting. The Committee insisted they had acted properly; said the decision was final. Philadelphia argued that six months had elapsed (five really) before the championship was declared void. The Committee said it was a question of whether they or Philadelphia ruled the league. Answer came swift. Philadelphia's motion was carried by 14 votes to 11 and the crown restored. The league's suspicions though never proven were probably well founded. Circumstantial evidence appears convincing. Philadelphia spent the previous year busily raising money.

*Cream Teas and Nutty Slack, Jack Chapman 2003*

CRICKET.							
DURHAM COUNTY SENIOR LEAGUE.							
Final Table for Season 1899.							
FIRST TEAMS.							
	P.	W.	D.	L.	Pts.	Per-	cent.
Philadelphia .....	16	10	5	1	9	51	31
North Durham .....	18	11	3	4	7	48	25
Tudhoe .....	12	6	3	3	5	33	27
Chester-le-Street .....	14	5	5	4	1	11	11
Burnmoor .....	20	7	7	6	1	7	33
Sunderland .....	14	4	6	4	0	0	00
Whitburn .....	10	3	3	4	-1	-14	28
Eppleton .....	16	5	4	7	-2	-16	16
Consett .....	12	4	2	6	-2	-20	00
South Shields .....	16	3	7	6	-3	-33	33
Durham City .....	12	2	4	6	-4	-50	00
Craghead .....	12	1	3	8	-7	-77	77
SECOND LEAGUE TEAMS' TABLE.							
Final for Season 1899.							
	P.	W.	D.	L.	Pts.	Per-	cent.
Philadelphia .....	15	10	3	0	10	100	0
South Shields .....	16	5	3	2	4	50	0
Craghead .....	9	5	2	2	3	42	3
Burnmoor .....	15	7	4	4	3	27	2
Sunderland .....	12	4	5	3	1	14	2
North Durham .....	14	5	4	5	0	0	00
Tudhoe .....	7	2	2	3	-1	-20	0
Consett and District .....	11	3	3	5	-2	-25	0
Chester-le-Street .....	12	4	0	8	-4	-33	3
Whitburn .....	3	2	0	6	-4	-50	0
Eppleton .....	13	2	3	8	-6	-60	0
Durham City .....	8	1	2	5	-4	-66	0

*Durham County Senior League Tables 1899*

## Marriage of Philadelphian Cricket Club Captain

Yesterday, at All Saints', Penshaw, the marriage took place of Mr Ralph Clement Harrison, captain of the Philadelphia Cricket Club first eleven, and Sarah Ann, third daughter of Mr Nicholas Haswell, of Coxgreen Village. Mr John Dixon, another Philadelphia cricketer acted as best man. The bridegroom and best man were formerly players, in the Sunderland Association Football Club's 'A' team.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 21<sup>st</sup> April 1899*

## Both Teams Secure League Championships

On Saturday the Philadelphians first and second elevens won the championship of both the senior and second teams League. The first eleven only tasted defeat once this season. Philadelphia seconds have even a better record, for they have as yet not been defeated. Every member of the Philadelphians teams, with exception of Jack Terry (pro.), is a working man.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 1<sup>st</sup> August 1899*

**PHILADELPHIA CRICKET CLUB (Durham County Senior League) — WANTED, for season 1901, PROFESSIONAL and COACH; good bowler; also act as groundsman, assistance given. — Apply, stating terms, qualifications, &c., to JOHN C. DAVISON, Bunker Hill, Fence Houses.**

*Advert published in the Derby Daily Telegraph 10<sup>th</sup> December 1900*

## Expelled from the League

On Friday, at a special meeting of the Durham League, the questions of the League champions, Philadelphia Cricket Club, not fulfilling the request to furnish a list of their players, in respect to alleged professionalism, was discussed. Mr Adamson, of Durham presided. Mr T. Potts represented Philadelphia and explained his committee's decision, and after discussion the chairman moved that they be expelled the League. Mr Elliott, of Sunderland, moved an amendment that they be not expelled. The voting resulted in a tie, and the chairman gave his casting vote against Philadelphia who were accordingly expelled from the League, both senior and second teams.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 7<sup>th</sup> May 1900*

## New Herrington Correspondent Writes

This extensive mining and industrial district has made its name in more ways than one, and this was, as it has established itself as a veritable cup holding district, as at present we are the purveyors of the following cups for championships:- Shiny Row Institute, Burrughes and Watts Billiard trophy for miners; Philadelphia Billiard and New Institute, Dr Houseman's Lambton Collieries League Cup; Philadelphia Cricket Club holders of the senior and second teams cricket league championship; Houghton Nomads Rugby Club, holders of junior cup; New Herrington Draught Club Winners of county draught cup, surely for workmen employed by the Lambton Collieries Ltd.

*Durham County Advertiser 18<sup>th</sup> May 1900*

## **A Record of 1,000 Runs**

On Saturday John Terry, the Philadelphia professional, completed his 1,000 runs for the club for the season, which is a record for any player in the history of the club. He has also taken 141 wickets.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1900*

## **Philadelphia and the League**

A special general meeting of representatives of the various cricket organisations associated with the Durham County Club was held at the Three Tuns Hotel, Durham last night. Mr M. Forster, of Bishop Middleham, presided over a large attendance. Mr A. Grundy (Whitburn) questioned the validity of the requisition of the meeting on the ground that it was not signed by 15 secretaries of clubs associated with the County Club. The Secretary intimated that the rule had been altered making a requisition valid when signed by 15 secretaries or subscribers. Mr Potts (Philadelphia) moved:- "That in the opinion of this meeting the League Championship of 1899, having been conducted in accordance with the rules of the competition, must stand good". They wanted to know, he said, whether there was a body who could declare a competition null and void after it had been duly competed for in accordance with the rules. The Philadelphia Club went through the League Championship of 1899 and had met most of the clubs in the league twice. No protest was raised against the qualifications of any of the players, though the rules provided that protest might be lodged within seven days after the conclusion of the competition. On the close of the competition a circular-letter was sent round asking the League Committee to make inquiries into the status of the members of the Senior League clubs. The League Committee held a meeting, and decided to send out to every Senior League club a letter asking certain questions relating to professionalism of players. Philadelphia received this letter, but on the ground that it was not in accordance with the rules, refused to answer the questions. The questions were again sent to Philadelphia and again they were returned unanswered. Subsequently the committee declared the competition null and void. Mr James Turnbull (Chester-le-Street) seconded the motion, and concurred, on behalf of the Chester-le-Street club.

Mr. A Grundy stated, as a member of the League Committee, that the committee decided that under the rules no club could have the championship that year. They did not take it away from Philadelphia or anybody else. Mr Potts did not consider that the League Committee had power to declare the competition null and void. The Secretary, in answer to an inquiry, read the minutes of the League Committee in which the decision was arrived at, stating the decision was come to in consequence of the professionalism of players.

Mr Potts: "When were Philadelphia charged with professionalism?" Mr E.G. Chatt, Gateshead, the secretary of the League Committee, gave a statement as to the matter, and said that, Philadelphia having refused to answer the questions, the decision to make the competition null and void followed. On a vote being taken 14 voted for the motion and 11 against, and therefore the motion was carried. The Chairman said that this expression of opinion would be embodied in the report to be put before the annual meeting.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 14<sup>th</sup> March 1901*

## Durham Cricket League

After one of the keenest contests on record, the Philadelphia Club have carried off the championship of the Durham County Senior Cricket League. It was a very near thing at the finish, as Philadelphia had to either win or draw their last match on the card to prevent North Durham securing the honour. They played up splendidly in the closing match, and won with ease. North Durham, make a good second. This was the twelfth season of the competition, and the list of champions is as follows:- 1891, Norton; 1892, Norton; 1893, Darlington; 1894, Norton; 1895, Sunderland; 1896, Whitburn; 1897, Tudhoe; 1898, Whitburn; 1899, Philadelphia; 1900, Burnmoor; and 1901, Philadelphia.

*Athletic News 16<sup>th</sup> September 1901*

## Rivals at Ashbrooke

“The rain it raineth every day” in one place or another, and on Saturday Sunderland was one of the chosen spots. It showered the whole of the morning, and local cricket was very doubtful until well on the fixed time for starting, Sunderland were visited by Philadelphia, and there was a crowd of over a thousand spectators at the Ashbrooke enclosure to witness the engagement. The clubs are keen rivals, and their meetings always prove interesting. The match was under Durham Senior League auspices, and the return engagement. The initial trial of strength took place at Philadelphia on May 31, when the game ended in a draw. Philadelphia being League leaders, an additional fillip was given to Saturday’s proceedings. Sunderland batted first, and going in at 2.25pm, they batted close upon three hours, and registered the highly satisfactory total of 205. They had hardly reached the pavilion when the rain descended in torrents, and continued more or less for half an hour. The umpires came out and inspected the wicket, but just as there was a prospect of play the wet came on again, and the game was subsequently abandoned, to count as a draw.

*Athletic News 4<sup>th</sup> August 1902*



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OR THROUGH ANY RESPECTABLE CRICKET DEPOT.

*David Reid and Co. advertising a new patented Cricket Net Tent*

## **Durham Senior League Championship**

### **Philadelphia v. South Moor**

On Saturday first the above teams, who are equal in points in the senior league tournament, will meet on the Chester-le-Street ground to decide the championship. The game will be of exceptional interest, as South Moor includes several Philadelphia and Burnmoor players.

The teams will be:-

Philadelphia – J. Lee (capt), A. Barker, F. Simpson, A. Stoner (pro), A. Newricke, J. Finch, R. Churchill, R. Harrison, M. Soppitt, G. Lee, and J. Dixon.

South Moor – A.W. Gowland, T. Welsh, J. Swinhoe, J. Combey, A. Lees, A.R. Jackson, W. Copeland, J. Freake, W. Rutherford, W. Bryden and J.G. Fairley.

Subjoined in the history of the League Championship since its formation:-

1891 Norton, 1892 Norton, 1893 Darlington, 1894 Norton, 1895 Sunderland, 1896 Whitburn, 1897 Tudhoe, 1898 Whitburn, 1899 Philadelphia, 1900 Burnmoor, 1901 Philadelphia, 1902 Philadelphia and South Moor (Equal).

*Durham County Advertiser 19<sup>th</sup> September 1902*

### **Philadelphia Cricket Club Dispense with Professional**

The committee of the above club have decided to dispense with the services of a professional and employ an amateur groundsman. Last season's pro. A. Stoner has been engaged with the South Shields Club. It is also stated that Messrs J. Kirtley the club wicket keeper, J. Freake, also members of the First XI., have transferred their services to Wearmouth Colliery Club. The Philadelphia Committee, however, have several promising second team players ready for the vacancies.

*Durham County Advertiser 30<sup>th</sup> October 1903*

### **Professional and Groundsman terminates his Engagement**

Our New Herrington correspondent writes:- On Saturday Mr A. Stoner, who for the past three years has acted as professional and groundsman for the Philadelphia Cricket Club, terminated his engagement. He has now obtained a more lucrative appointment with the South Shields Cricket Club and will appear in their ranks next season. The Philadelphians, for obvious reasons, have decided to run next season's team without a "pro" and the veteran, Mr John Atkinson, will resume the duties of groundsman.

*Shields Gazette 14<sup>th</sup> September 1903*

### **Durham Senior League Created**

The Durham Senior League was created in 1903. The original teams were Burnmoor, Durham City, Eppleton, Hendon, North Durham, Philadelphia, Seaham Harbour, South Shields, Sunderland, Wearmouth and Whitburn.

*Centenary of Durham Senior League 2002 Ray Pallister*

## **Walking Competition in the Cricket Ground**

Walking - Last night the second walking competition promoted by the Philadelphia Cricket Club Committee was brought off in the cricket ground before about 500 people. Out of an entry of 15 competitors, 13 toed the mark. Kelly of Houghton, and Halliday, of Chester, drew away at the start, and kept together until about the finish, when Halliday drew away and won by about 15 yards. The prizes were awarded as follows:-

Halliday, Chester ... .. 1 hour 18 min. ... £3 3 0

Kelly, Houghton ... .. 1 hour 19 min. ... £1 1 0

Rodger, Herrington ... .. 1 hour 19 min 30 sec. ... £0 10 6

Ritchie, Newbottle ... .... 1 hour 21 min. ... £0 5 0

The prize-winners were the only four that finished. The following had charge of the competition:- Starter, Mr A. Stoner; referees, J. Lee, W. Hunter and M. F. Pallister; secretary, Mr J.C. Davison.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 27<sup>th</sup> August 1903*

## **One Run Victory**

The most notable game on Saturday in which Philadelphia just managed to beat Eppleton by one run at Philadelphia. It was a sensational finish to an exciting game, in which the heroes were J. Dolphin, who got 75 runs for Eppleton, and J. Kirtley who put on 52 for Philadelphia. This was Eppleton's first defeat of the season, and they could not have been defeated by less. The game was stubbornly fought, and emphasised the fact that Philadelphia has not fallen to pieces after all.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 28<sup>th</sup> May 1904*

## **Miners' Hall**

Last night in the Miners' Hall a benefit concert, promoted for the assistance of Mr R. Lee a retired Philadelphia cricketer was given. There was a large audience present. Coun. Sam Tulip presided, and the following were the artists:- Miss M. Black (Batley), Mr A.T. Embleton, Miss Hind, Mr and Miss Kimmelt, Mr M.G. Mold, Mr J.G. Baggott, Miss Woodhouse, Master Orton, Mr Betson, Miss Brown, Mrs S. Edmonson, the Brothers McCarten, Miss Ella Stokoe, Mr Arthur Johnson, and Mr Geo. W. Wardle.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 17<sup>th</sup> May 1904*

## **Benefit for First Team Captain**

Last night, at a meeting of the Philadelphia Cricket Club it was decided to give the captain of the first eleven, Mr John Lee, a benefit. Mr Lee selected the home game against their local rivals Burnmoor, on Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, and the committee acquiesced.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 28<sup>th</sup> June 1904*

## **Lamentable Death of President**

Today, owing to the lamentable death of Mr C.W. Martin, of Pensher Manor House, the president of the Philadelphia Cricket Club, the club colours are flying at half-mast, and the match between the first eleven and Norton, at Norton was abandoned. The annual match between the Philadelphia Colliery officials and clerks was also abandoned, owing to the death of Mr C.W. Martin.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 28<sup>th</sup> June 1904*

## **Child Injured at Bunker Hill**

Last night, whilst the Philadelphia cricketers were engaged in practice in the cricket field, a child named Smith was injured by a passing cricket ball. He was rendered unconscious.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 10<sup>th</sup> August 1904*

## **Child Fatally Injured at Philadelphia**

On Tuesday morning, at the Lambton Castle Hotel (Mr Donald Beaton's) the headquarters of the Philadelphia C.C., Mr Coroner Maynard held an inquiry touching the death of a little girl named May Ruby Black, 1 year and 9 months old, the adopted daughter of Mr Henry Holmes, deputy overman at the Philadelphia Dorothea Pit, and residing at No 5. Shop Row, Philadelphia, who died on Sunday morning last from injuries alleged to have been received by being struck by a cricket ball in the Philadelphia Cricket Field on Tuesday evening last week. Mr Geo. Matson, of New Herrington was foreman. Henry Holmes said the deceased was his adopted daughter, its parents being connected with the Indian Army. He had the child some time, and it was sent out in charge of the servant on the night in question. Margaret Kelly said she had charge of the child, which was in a perambulator. They lived close to the cricket field, and when the accident occurred she was on the ground. The players were playing at the time, when a ball which she did not see coming, struck the child on the head. She then took the child home. John T. Smith, residing in Travers Street, New Herrington, said he was a member of the cricket club named, and was practising batting on the night in question. He saw the previous witness and deceased before the accident occurred, and the perambulator was then about 12 yards away. He told her to get further back, and he thought she had got out of danger. He then recommenced batting, and in driving a ball to leg, it struck the deceased in the perambulator. He had not the slightest idea the child was in the vicinity or he would not have played the ball. It was a pure accident. Dr Kelly said he practiced at Philadelphia, and was called to attend the deceased, and found it suffering from an injury to the temple caused by a blow, likely to arise from being struck by a cricket ball. He attended the deceased, who seemed to recover at first, but convulsions supervened, and the child died on Sunday morning, death being due to shock, brought about by being struck on the side of the head by the cricket ball. The Coroner, in summing up, said the affair seemed to be a pure accident, but he thought the club officials should exercise care, and not allow children in the field, especially at night time. He knew there was a difficulty, and the club was not alone to blame. Dr Kelly, as hon. member and a vice president of the club, said he quite acquiesced in the Coroner's remarks, and would certainly convey them to the club officials. The Jury expressed themselves satisfied that the affair was a pure accident, and returned a verdict accordingly, adding a rider endorsing the Coroner's remarks.

*Durham County Advertiser 19<sup>th</sup> August 1904*

## **Philadelphia Club Averages**

Total matches, 21; won 6, lost 9, drawn 6. Total runs, 2,632 for 170 wickets, average 15.48 against opponents' total runs, 3,081 for 173 wickets, and average per wicket 17.80.

League matches, 18; won 5, lost 8, drawn 5. Total runs, 2,251 for 149 wickets, average per wicket 15.10, against opponents' 2,566 for 143 wickets, and average 17.94.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 5<sup>th</sup> October 1904*

## Illness of a Veteran Durham County Cricketer

Our New Herrington correspondent writes:- Could it not be possible for the committees of the Philadelphia and Whitburn Cricket Clubs to make arrangements, and hand over the proceeds of the two games to be played between the clubs in the near future to the veteran Philadelphia and Whitburn Cricketer Mr John Young, who, after doing yeoman service for both clubs for many years, and also several seasons was one of the leading batsmen in the ranks of the Durham County XI., crediting himself one season with the batting championship, is now, owing to illness from which he has suffered for a long period, unable to follow his employment, and so as a fitting return for his yeoman services rendered, it would be a most charitable compliment to Mr Young and his wife and young children.

*Durham County Advertiser 16<sup>th</sup> June 1905*

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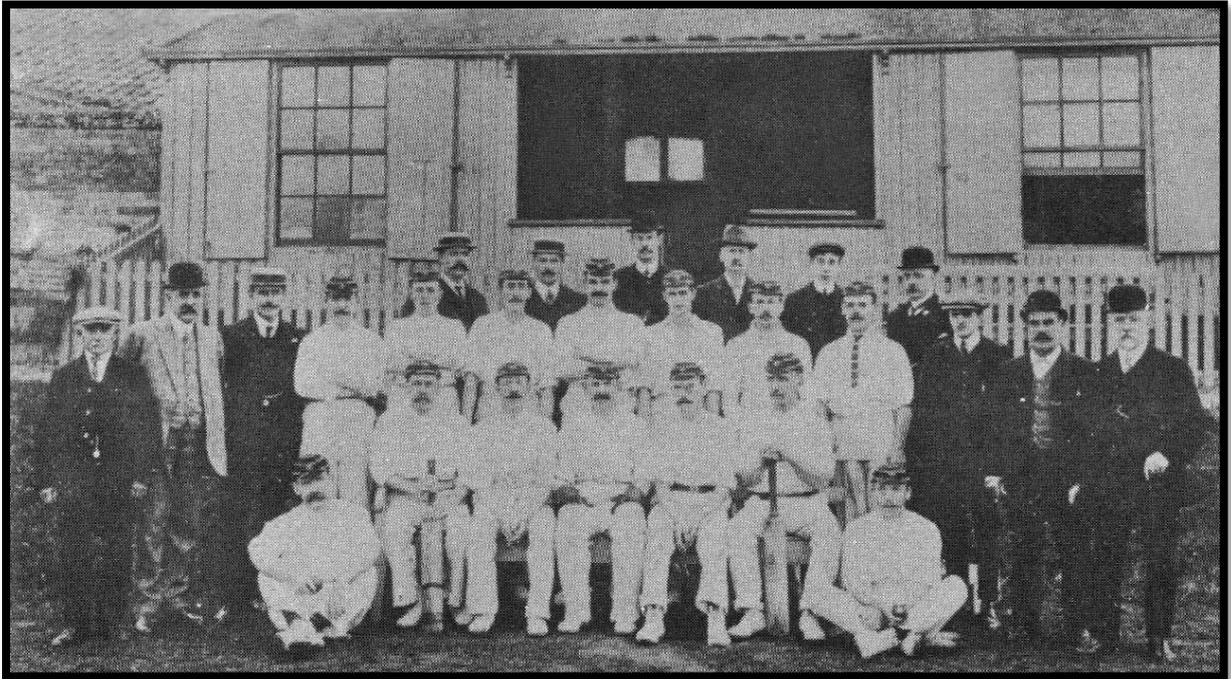
**COUNTY CRICKET WAREHOUSE,**  
**ELVET BRIDGE, DURHAM.**

*Advert in the Durham County Advertiser for cricket equipment in 1905*

## Cricket Match at Philadelphia

A benefit cricket match was played on the Philadelphia Ground on Tuesday night. The proceeds are to be handed over to Mr John Young, of the Whitburn C.C., who for many years was a member and player of the Philadelphia Cricket Club and the Durham County XI. The teams were captained by County Councillor George Davison (Herrington Burn), and Mr W.A. Dobson, Mill Pit, Shiny Row. An interesting evening's play ended in a victory for Mr Dobson's team on the first innings. The New Herrington Military Band gave their voluntary services, and rendered a choice selection of music.

*Durham County Advertiser 28<sup>th</sup> July 1905*



*Philadelphia First XI with Club Officials 1909*

### **Cairns Seven Wickets for Ten Runs**

Philadelphia, were the home team, and compiled 230 runs then dismissed Seaham for a paltry 47. R. Cairns played havoc with the Seaham wickets, taking seven of them for just ten runs.

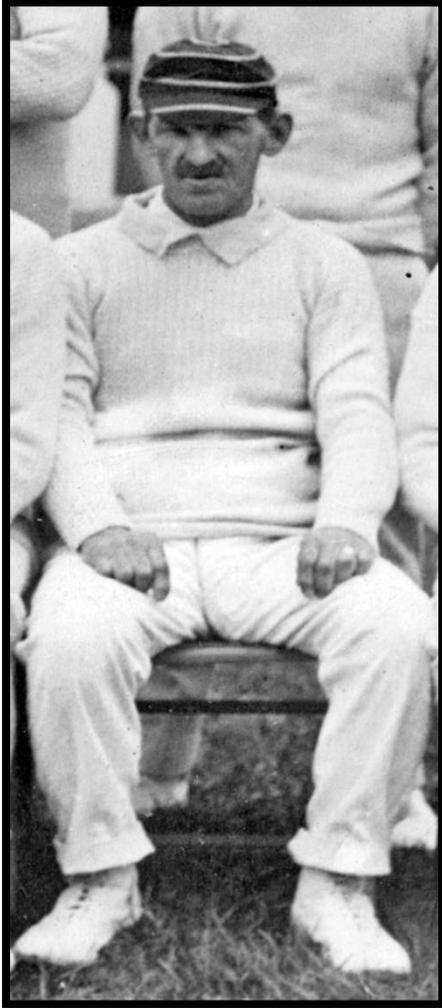
*Athletic News 30<sup>th</sup> May 1910*

<b>DURHAM COUNTY SENIOR LEAGUE.</b>	
List of champions since the inauguration of the present League :—	
<b>FIRST TEAMS.</b>	
1903—	Sunderland.
1904—	Sunderland.
1905—	Sunderland and Wearmouth (jointly).
1906—	Wearmouth Colliery.
1907—	Durham City (after deciding match with Burnmoor).
1908—	Sunderland.
1909—	Sunderland.
1910—	Durham City.
<b>SECOND TEAMS.</b>	
1903—	Sunderland.
1904—	Sunderland.
1905—	Sunderland and Philadelphia (jointly).
1906—	Whitburn.
1907—	Philadelphia.
1908—	Philadelphia.
1909—	Hendon.
1910—	Philadelphia (after deciding match with Sunderland).

*Durham County Senior League Champions since the inauguration of the league in 1903*

## Superb Wicketkeeper

There can be no doubt that James Kellet Kirtley was a superb wicketkeeper, and the few who can still recall him, albeit in the winter of his career, do so with awe. He played 84 times for the county between 1899 and 1908 – although his club cricket lasted much longer – and claimed 116 victims, almost half of them stumped. He was in the Durham sides which played the South Africans in 1901 and 1907 and so impressed the tourists that he was prevailed upon to return with them to their homeland to play there *'And Ah might hev done,'* he later explained, *'if Ah'd bin able to cum home a' weekend te see me ma an' da.'* He enjoyed the patronage of James Palliser, Philadelphia's chairman and a big man at the



adjoining Lady Dorothea Colliery. Palliser removed him from back breaking toil at the 'Dolly', as the pit was known locally, to a comparative sinecure, repairing and maintaining colliery homes, a job which afforded considerable freedom to sup tea with relatives and beer with cronies. Before each home game he insisted that Palliser buy him two pints at the Lambton Castle pub just outside Bunker Hill ground, although word had it that he frequently consumed rather more. And if opportunity permitted he would return to the taproom during the game. After the match, pints slipped down without restraint.... Inevitably, his misdemeanours from time to time came before the sombre appraisal of officialdom. But, maybe because of the respect he commanded as a player, abetted by a sneaking affection for the outrageous rascal, he escaped with stern rebukes. But League rulers could not be nearly so lenient when he was adjudged to be the principal protagonist in some of the most disgraceful scenes ever to blight an English cricket field. These occurred on Saturday August 31<sup>st</sup>, 1912 after years of antipathy between Philadelphia and South Shields, a team drawn almost exclusively from professional and business classes. The reason for this rancour is now misted by time, but it is certain the social chasm between the affluent and the oppressed pitmen lay at the kernel. It is not difficult to imagine the anguish and humiliation when

Shields on their own ground, bowled out the Philadelphians 10 weeks earlier for 11, still the lowest total in the League's history. Realising how deeply wounded would be local cricketing pride; South Shields made for Bunker Hill for the return game with no little apprehension. But they could not have envisaged the powder-keg of resentment awaiting them. The atmosphere was sour from the start, becoming increasingly ugly as the Shields professional, Frank Harry, squeezed a ball between bat and pad and a bail toppled to the ground. Umpire A.W. Linnett ruled that the batsman had been bowled – and bedlam erupted. For there were those who claimed wicketkeeper Harry Ellis had intentionally dislodged the bail and many more wanted to believe it. The crowd, shouting and swearing,

swarmed onto the field to surround and harangue the bewildered and terrified Shieldsmen, who dashed to the comparative safety of their dressing-room, which was then besieged by the mob. In the thick of it all, vociferously stoking passions, was 'Kellet' Kirtley, Shields and ex-Durham County captain Tom Coulson – later to relate: 'It was more like a scene in a lunatic asylum' – refused to let his side bat. Instead, the tremulous players closed ranks and braved a gauntlet of fury and, it is said, although nowhere recorded, a barrage of stones as they fled from the ground. A month later the League committee sat in grim judgement and meted out retribution without equal before or since. Linnett was found to have been 'weak' (doubtless browbeaten, he had belatedly ruled the batsman not-out) and was struck off the umpires list. Philadelphia were fined a guinea, forfeited two points, and warned that any repetition would mean suspension and possible expulsion; Shields were censured for refusing to bat, although it was accepted they had 'received great provocation'. And Kirtley, singled out as the prime culprit, was banned from playing in the League and banished forever from Bunker Hill. It surprised no-one that he was at the heart of the furore, and the wry irony of his leading a hue and cry against supposed sharp practice behind the stumps was widely relished. But beneath his rough, tough exterior there were comradeship and kindness and his friends made several representations to the League on his behalf. Before the start of the 1914 season the prohibitions were lifted after South Shields stoical approval had been obtained.

*Clive Crickmer - Wisden Cricket Monthly December 1986*

### **Philadelphia C.C. Gala**

On Saturday the annual gala in connection with the Philadelphia Cricket Club was held in the club grounds. There was a large company. During the afternoon the Hetton Prize Band, under the leadership of Mr W. Straughan, gave a splendid programme of music. Other turns were; Cilvano, ragtime cyclists; Arlo, juggler; Barbendo, contortionist; and also a series of Morris dances by the Herrington School children, under the care of Miss Rumford. The principal sporting event was the 100 yards professional foot handicap, for which £16 10s was given 154 entries being received.

Results:-

Final - M. Beckwith, Boldon, £12, 1st; R. Winter, Close House, £3, 2nd; W. Dawson, Pittington £1, 3rd; J. Mills, Herrington, 10s 4th.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 14<sup>th</sup> July 1913*

### **James Kirtley's Suspension Removed**

A committee meeting of the Durham Senior League was held last night at the Grand Hotel, Sunderland. Mr A. Grundy presiding, James Thackeray late professional to the Chester-le-Street Club, was re-instated as an amateur. He is now in business in Chester-le-Street, and cannot continue as a professional for the club, but anticipates being able to play for the club occasionally. The Chairman moved that the suspension of James Kirtley of Philadelphia be removed, and this was agreed to. In September, 1912 Kirtley was suspended sine die in connection with incidents occurring in the Philadelphia v. South Shields match a few weeks previously.

*Newcastle Journal 25<sup>th</sup> April 1914*

## Death of Crack Batsman

At the early age of 26 years, the death of Mr Thomas Patterson has taken place at his residence, New Herrington. The deceased was widely known in the county as a crack batsman, and always took a very keen interest in cricket. For some time he played for the Chilton Moor first XI, and in 1909 he joined the Philadelphia Club, and played in their first XI, where for two successive years he topped the batting average. In 1914 he was chosen to play for Durham County. He won the esteem of a wide circle of friends. He leaves a widow and two children.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 14<sup>th</sup> June 1916*

PHILADELPHIA v. MR W. A. DOBSON'S XI.	
At Philadelphia. The proceeds were for the benefit of Mrs T. Patterson, the wife of the well-known Philadelphia player, who died recently. Score:—	
PHILADELPHIA.	
R. O. Harrison, not out .. .. .	69
R. Hall, c and b Spitty .. .. .	0
W. Harling, b Topping .. .. .	20
J. Soulsby, c Spitty, b Freake .. .. .	6
R. Churchill, c and b Freake .. .. .	2
S. Freake, b Topping .. .. .	3
O. Laffey, b Freake .. .. .	2
J. Richardson, not out .. .. .	6
Innings declared.	
Extras, 14; total (for 6 wickets)—122	
M. Soppitt, A. J. Ingram, and E. Greenwell did not bat.	
MR DOBSON'S XI.	
T. A. Bulmer, not out .. .. .	40
J. Finch, b Ingram .. .. .	12
J. Freake, b Laffey .. .. .	40
R. Cairns, c Harrison, b Soppitt .. .. .	4
E. Clarke, c Hall, b Soppitt .. .. .	0
W. Hepburn, not out .. .. .	8
Extras, 6; total (for 4 wickets)—110	
J. Spitty, B. Topping, H. Dawson, T. Ranson, and W. A. Dobson did not bat.	

*Newcastle Journal 10<sup>th</sup> July 1916*

## Comic Cricket Match

As the result of a novel and highly interesting cricket match, played on Philadelphia Cricket Field, for the benefit of Private Wm. Marrs, who has been permanently disabled while fighting for his country, the sum of £30 was realised, and will be handed over to the beneficiary.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 1<sup>st</sup> September 1911*

## Philadelphia Presentation



Under the auspices of the Philadelphia Cricket Club an enthusiastic gathering took place at the Masonic Hall. Mr G. Stratton presiding, when Mr James Palliser, J.P., was presented with a beautiful divan chair, a case of pipes, and a silver salver subscribed for by members and friends of the club. Mr Austin Kirkup, in handing over the gifts, spoke in eulogistic terms of Mr Palliser's 30 years' connection with the club, and valuable service he had rendered. Besides being connected with Philadelphia he associated himself with the Durham County Club, of which he was also an officer. Mr Palliser returned thanks to Mr Kirkup for his kind wishes, and also to the subscribers for their generosity and thoughtfulness. Harmony was contributed by Messrs F.W. Hall, B. Richardson, J.W. Todd, J. McEwan, A. Evans, S. Todd, J. Soulsby, H.M. Pell, J. Pow, and Spearman.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 21<sup>st</sup> November 1923*

## Unique Cricket Experience

John Blanckley of Philadelphia (Sunderland), who died last week, had a unique experience. On four consecutive days he took part in four matches, and in each passed the century without being out.

*Athletic News 14<sup>th</sup> April 1924*

*Opening of the New Pavilion at Bunker Hill in May 1924 (On the far right is the Dorothea Pit)*



## New Pavilion Opened

The Philadelphia Cricket Club (Durham Senior League) opened a new pavilion costing £1,000, last week.

*Athletic News 19<sup>th</sup> May 1924*

## Coffin Borne by Four Cricketers

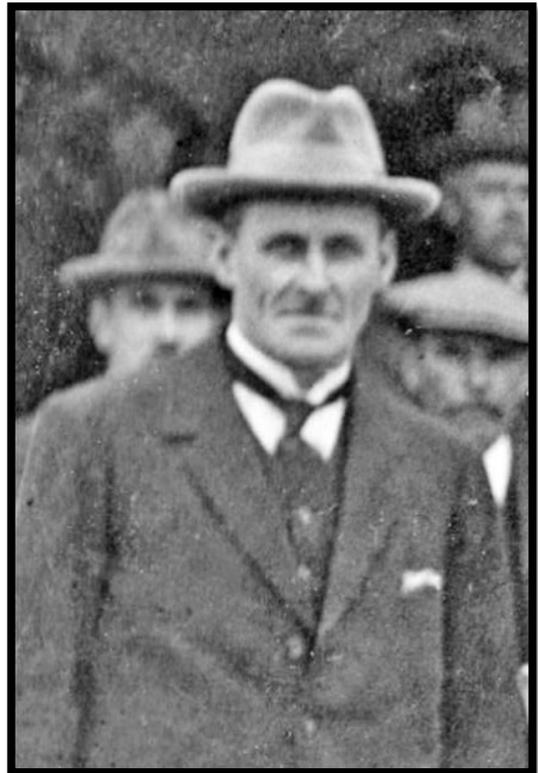
The interment of Mr Thomas Harrison ex cricketer and groundsman of Philadelphia Cricket Club took place yesterday at West Herrington, Churchyard. The service at St Aidan's Church was conducted by the Rev W.R. Dawson and at the graveside by the Rev K. Kay. There was an exceptionally large attendance of cricket enthusiasts and the community. The coffin was borne by four cricketers Messrs R. Churchill, E. Greenwell, E. Liddle, and S. Blackbird. Many beautiful floral tributes included one from Philadelphia Cricket Club and one from Mr J. Palliser (Chairman of the Committees) And Mrs Palliser, were placed on the mound. Mr G. McCall carried out the arrangements.

*Sunderland Echo and Shipping Gazette 1<sup>st</sup> June 1926*

## Secretary Resigns after 23 years

If anyone needed assistance when he became secretary of the Philadelphia Cricket Club in 1903 it was Mr John Pow (pictured right), who has just resigned. At that time nine of the first X1 players left for other clubs, and the previous secretary had tendered his resignation. The only two first team players left were J. Lee and J. Kirtley. However, second eleven players were placed on the first team and a number of promising young players were coached for the second eleven, who finished very creditably in the league. Whilst short of players, the secretary himself turned out, and as a fielder proved worthy of his place. He also headed the batting average for the second eleven, and while he played with them they won the cup three times in four seasons. During his term of office the second team has won the cup seven times, and a third team which was formed some years ago has won the League during the past three years.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 24<sup>th</sup> November 1926*



## Mr Pow's Good Work

As an organizer of annual galas and winter entertainments, success has always attended Mr Pow's efforts. In charity events many grants, through the instrumentality of Mr Pow, have been made to old members and also to any appeals made to other clubs. A proud day was when the sum of forty guineas was sent to the Aged Miners' Homes and £121 to the Blinded Soldiers Fund. He is the second oldest secretary in the League. He has finished up with the £1,000 pavilion scheme, now completed and free from debt; with an additional three grass tennis courts and one hard court, making Philadelphia a neat and compact sports centre. Mr Pow resigns from secretaryship with the members regrets, but with the hope and good wishes that he will stay amongst them to participate in the sport he enjoys so much. Mr Pow is succeeded by his son Mr James Pow.

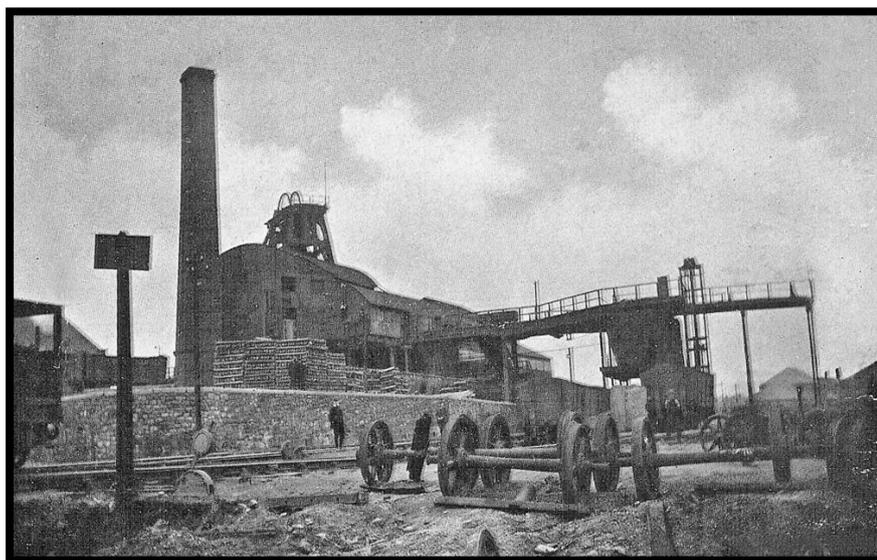
*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 24<sup>th</sup> November 1926*



*Philadelphia First Eleven with Club Officials 1926*

### **Brave Show in Adversity**

The annual general meeting of Philadelphia Cricket Club was held in the cricket pavilion last night, Mr Thompson Potts, chairman of the club presiding. Congratulating the teams on their performances last season the chairman said the first eleven had shown improved form and the second eleven came very



near winning the championship in the second division of the Durham Senior League. Referring to the financial position he said the club had done well to practically hold their own during a difficult season when the gate receipts had been reduced through the closing of the Philadelphia Dorothea Colliery (pictured above). He paid tribute to the women's committee whose efforts had brought £23 1s 6d into the funds, and thanked the organisers of the school cricket competitions. Thanks were also due to the officials and players whose efforts had kept expenses down to a minimum.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 25<sup>th</sup> February 1933*

**TO-MORROW'S FIXTURES**

**DURHAM AGED MINERS' CUP—Final Tie**  
**Philadelphia v. West Hartlepool.—At Black-**  
**hall at 4.30.**

Philadelphia leave Herrington Burn at 3.45  
 by special bus: J. Heath, H. Bewick, J. Pow,  
 A. K. Raine, I. S. Oliver, J. Ord, W. Weightman,  
 S. Ellison, P. Walton, R. T. Kirk, and Tait;  
 reserve, P. Watson.

### West's Feeble Display against "Phili"

West Hartlepool gave a feeble display against Philadelphia in the final of the Durham Aged Miners' Cup at Blackhall last night and they were well beaten. Tait the Philadelphia professional bowled with devastating effect and finished with the remarkably fine analysis of seven for 34. None of the West Hartlepool batsmen faced him with confidence. S. Ellison, bowled all through the innings with Tait, only took one wicket, but he maintained a perfect length and kept the runs down. West Hartlepool opened disastrously when P.R. Smith was LBW to Tait without scoring, and W.H.R. Alderson was clean bowled by Tait when he had scored six, H.S. Carr made a gallant effort to stop the rot, but got himself run out when he looked like scoring a few runs. The best stand of the match was that for the last wicket between W. Simpson and J. Darling. They took the score from 56 to 74 Simpson was top scorer with 13. The first 15 overs produced only 30 runs. The last two men played the brightest and most confident cricket of the innings. Philadelphia by 42 runs.

*Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail 19<sup>th</sup> August 1933*

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Men who hit the headlines know that smartness counts—and count on Brylcreem for perfect grooming. It works in two ways—(1) Brylcreem grooms without gumming, restoring gloss to the hair. (2) Brylcreem's pure emulsified oils, with massage, have a valuable tonic effect, preventing Dry Hair and Dandruff. Treat your hair handsomely—

**BRYLCREEM**

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County Perfumery Co., Ltd., Honeypot Lane, Stanmore, Middx.      roydi 50/33

*Brylcreem created in 1928 was useful for all the Phili cricketers of the day*

### Club Presentation

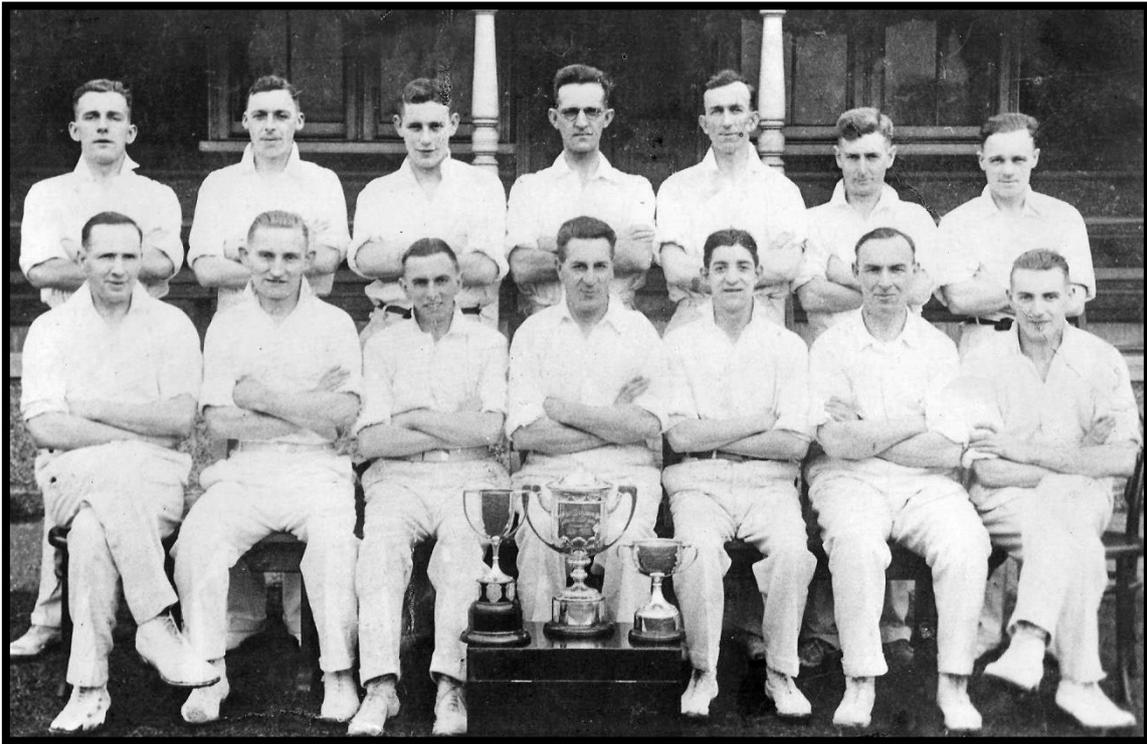
Following the annual meeting of Philadelphia Cricket Club last night, Mr Thompson Potts, the chairman, presented maroon-coloured blazers to the players who assisted in winning the Durham Aged Miners' Cup last season (1933). On behalf of the members and players Mr Potts also presented an oak clock to Mr R.H. Bewick, the vice-captain of the first eleven, to mark the occasion of his recent marriage.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 24<sup>th</sup> February 1934*

## Senior Title Won by Philadelphia

For the first time in the history of the competition the championship of the Durham Senior League has been won by Philadelphia, writes "Reflector". While their rivals, South Shields, were narrowly beaten at Chester-le-Street on Saturday, the "Phili" side defeated Seaham Harbour at Seaham. Philadelphia's consistency entitles them to the distinction which has so long evaded them, but we must also leave a word of praise for Shields, the runners-up, who have figured in only five drawn games this season winning 11 of 22 played.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 10<sup>th</sup> September 1934*



*Philadelphia Cricket Club 1st XI 1934*

*Standing: P. Watson, J. Pow, J. McCall, G. Tait, R. Kirk, S. Ellison, H. Bewick*

*Front: P. Walton, I. Oliver, M. Raine, J. Heath, A. Wilson, M. Wilson, J. Ord*

## Trophy Presented to Philadelphia

The championship trophy of the Durham Senior League was presented to Philadelphia who won it for the first time last season, at a gathering held in the Palatine Hotel, Sunderland, last night. Mr A. Grundy, who presided, congratulated Philadelphia and said that to achieve this success without a professional spoke very highly of the club. "It is no light task for a village club like Philadelphia to compete with the big town clubs" said Mr Grundy.

Mr F. Coulson, captain of the South Shields club, who were runners up to Philadelphia expressed great admiration for Philadelphia in having succeeded in winning the league without the help of a professional. Mr T. Potts chairman of Philadelphia Club in response said that they had succeeded with a very young team. Several members of the side had yet to reach the age of 21.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 28<sup>th</sup> September 1934*

## **Wiping Off the Overdraft at the Bank**

Presiding at the annual general meeting of the Philadelphia Cricket Club last night Mr Thompson Potts (chairman) said the past season had been one of the best in the history of the club, "From a playing and financial point of view we did remarkably well in carrying off the championship of Durham Senior League and wiping off the overdraft at the bank", said Mr Potts. He hoped the splendid spirit, showed by the players would still prevail in the coming season and appealed to all members to give their wholehearted assistance in keeping the club up to its present high standard. Mr Potts expressed regret that the treasurer, Mr F.J. Gill, had tendered his resignation owing to pressure of work, and it was decided the appreciation of Mr Gill's services during the past ten years be placed on record. Mr S. Ellison, the club secretary referred to the illness of Mr Jack Pow, one of their batting stalwarts, but it was pleasing to know that he was now recovering. It was decided that a letter be forwarded to Mr Pow expressing the best wishes of the club for his speedy return to good health. The treasurer's report, presented by Mr Gill, showed an income for the season of £249 16s 4d this included gate receipts from first team matches of £82 19s 8d, second team matches £6 10s 3d, profit on cup-ties £30 12s 1d, and the Goldsborough Mid-Week competition £15. The expenditure totalled £210 10s 3d, leaving a net profit on the season of £39 6s 1d, which reduced the amount owing by the club from £39 15s 9d to 9s 8d. On the motion of Mr W. Haver, seconded by Mr G. Charlton the report was accepted as very satisfactory. The election of officers resulted as follows:-

President Mr Austin Kirkup; chairman, Mr T. Potts; vice-chairman, Mr F.W. Potts; hon. secretary, Mr S. Ellison; hon. treasurer Mr W. Forster; auditors, Messrs W. Haver, R. Thewliss, G. Charlton, R.T. Kirk, W. Weightman, J. Bell, W. Bailey, and F.N. Smith; selection committee, Messrs F.J. Gill, R. Thewliss, W. Bailey, G. Charlton, and D. Dobson; captain first eleven, Mr J.W. Heath; vice-captain, Mr R.H. Bewick; captain second eleven Mr R.T. Kirk; vice-captain, Mr N. Lee.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1935*

## **Ellison's Big Hand in Victory**

By their home victory over Chilton Moor last night Philadelphia carried off the championship of the Goldsborough Mid-Week Competition for the third successive season. Capturing six wickets for 20 runs Sid Ellison made his total bag for the season up to 138.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 14<sup>th</sup> August 1935*

## **Sportsmen's Tribute – Play Stopped**

Mr James Coulson (29), of New Lambton, who was buried at Burnmoor on Saturday, was an electrician at Lambton Colliery until recently, when he went to work in London. He had kept wicket for both Burnmoor first and second elevens and during the match between Burnmoor and Philadelphia on Saturday play was stopped. Both teams went into the adjoining churchyard, and as the coffin and mourners left the church they stood on each side of the pathway while the cortege filed past. Burnmoor Club sent a wreath, in memory of a good all-round sportsman. The Rev J.H. Shore (Vicar of Chilton Moor) conducted the service.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 8<sup>th</sup> June 1936*

## 1937 FA Cup Final Wembley

The Durham Senior League game between Philadelphia and Sunderland the opening match of the season at Philadelphia on Saturday has been rearranged to be played on Coronation Day. Sunderland are always attractive visitors to Phili and as no doubt several of the players and many supporters of both clubs will be bound for Wembley, or otherwise listening to the Cup Final, has influenced the clubs to agree to a revised date. The idea of playing the match on Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup> is a happy one and should result in a much better gate at Philadelphia.



*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 29<sup>th</sup> April 1937*

## Phili's Success

The Philadelphia Club has this year had the most successful season in its history, and besides accomplishing the "double" by winning the championship of both divisions of the Durham Senior League, has also won the John Saunders and Mathew Oswald (Aged Miners') Cups. The first team has only once previously won the league championship, in 1934, but the second eleven were successful in 1905 (joint), 1907, 1908, 1910, 1911, 1913, 1924, 1925, 1933, 1935 and 1937, this season making the "hat-trick". The teams have played attractive and enterprising cricket throughout the season and are worthy champions. Some of the first eleven performances are: 250 for four v. Whitburn in 110 minutes; 230 v. Eppleton in 125 minutes; 220 v. Wearmouth in 115 minutes; 121 for two v. West Hartlepool in 12.3 overs. Seven of the batsmen appear in the league averages with above 18 runs average, while R. Greenwell, S. Ellison, J. McCall, and J. Bewick figure prominently in the bowling averages.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 8<sup>th</sup> September 1938*

## Club Presentation

Mr Wesley Weightman captain of the Philadelphia Cricket Club was on Saturday presented with an oil painting by the club members to mark the occasion of his recent marriage. Mr W. Haver presided over a gathering of members in the pavilion when the gift was handed over by Mr Jack Heath, a former Philadelphia captain.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 29<sup>th</sup> August 1938*

## Cricket Club Dance

There was an attendance of 170 at the annual whist drive and dance of Philadelphia Cricket Club in Philadelphia Miners' Welfare Hall, Herrington Burn, last night. Whist prizes were presented by Mrs Potts, wife of Mr Thompson Potts, chairman of the club to Mesdames F. Griffiths sen., Thomas, F. Griffiths jun., I.S. Oliver, and Messrs J.H. Weddle, W.F. Cook, R. Merrit and J. Scully.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1938*

## Death of Philadelphia's Finest All-Rounder

Philadelphia Cricket Club flag was flown at half-mast today in memory of a former well known Philadelphia and Durham County cricketer.

Mr John Lee, (pictured right) of 12, Spring Gardens South, Philadelphia, died at his home last night at the age of 73. Mr Lee, who played for Philadelphia for over 30 years, was generally considered to be the finest all-rounder ever to play for the club. He accomplished many fine performances with both bat and ball, and was a brilliant fielder. He captained the Philadelphia team for many years from about 1880-1901, and led the team which defeated Stockton at Norton in the final of the Durham Senior Cup in 1888. The Philadelphia club afterwards became members of the Northern Section of the Durham County League, and it was during this period that Mr Lee was capped on several occasions for Durham County. Mr Lee was also in his younger days a keen playing member of the old Philadelphia Rugby Club, and also played at



soccer for New Herrington in the old Houghton and District League. He was a fine runner, and was at one time regarded as district champion over a mile. In addition he was also a good exponent of billiards. A native of Newbottle, Mr Lee was a boilermaster at Philadelphia Engine Works for many years until he met with an accident. He leaves a widow, one son, and two daughters. The funeral will take place at Newbottle on Saturday, cortege leaving the residence at 1.50 for service at 2.30 in St Mathew's Church.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 25<sup>th</sup> May 1938*



*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 9<sup>th</sup> May 1938*

## Philadelphia Appointment

The committee of Philadelphia Cricket Club last night appointed Jack McCall as vice-captain of the first team, in succession to Jim Beresford, who has left the district to take up an appointment with Keresley Colliery Club Coventry. It was also decided to send a letter of congratulation to Beresford and wishing him success in his new sphere. Beresford, was one of the most stylish batsmen in the Durham Senior League, will be greatly missed at Philadelphia and also by the County Club. Interesting functions at Philadelphia on the first two Saturdays of the season will be the unfurling of the championship flags. The first division flag will be unfurled on April 29, when Whitburn are visitors, by Mrs Thompson Potts, wife of the chairman of the club while the following Saturday, Mrs Frank Potts, wife of the club's vice-chairman will perform a similar ceremony in unfurling the second division flag. Practice will begin next week.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 14<sup>th</sup> April 1939*



*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 21st July 1939*

## Thousand Runs in a Season

New Durham cricketers have the distinction of scoring a thousand runs in a season, but this fine performance has already been achieved by Billy Barron, the Philadelphia batsman. This performance is all the more meritorious when considering the fact that Barron did not play the first two weeks of the season being engaged playing football for Northampton. A fine innings of 64 against Mainsforth in a cup-tie brought his aggregate to 1002 runs. His runs are made up as follows:- County matches 156 (not out), 50, 25, 58, 10 – total 299: League matches, 88, 131, 116 (not out), 9, 57 (not out), 84, 6 – total 491: cup ties 10, 76 (not out), 62, 64, – total 212. Barron has had 12 completed innings, thus bringing him the average of 83.50 per innings. Barron's feat will probably have never been equalled by any other Philadelphia player.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 28<sup>th</sup> June 1939*



## ***Guard of Honour***



An archway of cricket bats formed by members of the Philadelphia Cricket Club during the wedding of Lieut John T. McCall and his bride Miss Doris M. Boundy whilst leaving St Aidan's Church, Herrington.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 18<sup>th</sup> June 1940*

## **Presented with Bat**

To mark his fine performance in his debut in first-class cricket, Philadelphia Cricket Club, last night decided to present their player, Corporal William Barron, with the bat which he used when he scored 64 runs for Lancashire against Yorkshire in the match at Old Trafford last week.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 12<sup>th</sup> July 1945*

## **Philadelphia Wartime Champions**

By defeating Burnmoor on Saturday by seven wickets, Philadelphia won the last of the wartime Durham Senior Leagues, Sunderland Police being placed second. Burnmoor were all out for 132 and Philadelphia got 133 for the loss of three wickets, thanks to bad fielding.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 10<sup>th</sup> September 1945*

## **Smoking Concert**

A large company, which included members and supporters of Philadelphia Cricket Club, attended a smoking concert in the Lambton Castle Hotel, Philadelphia on Saturday night to mark the occasion of their winning the Durham Senior League Championship last season.

*(At these functions men would smoke and speak of politics while listening to live music.)*

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 8<sup>th</sup> October 1945*



**Standing:** A. Wilson, J. Hamilton, G. Orr, J. Bircham, S. Robertson  
**Seated:** J. Welsh, W. Hampton, S. Ellison, T. Greenwell, F. Fagan, S. White  
 (Names above of players only)

### Philadelphia's Third Senior League Success

Presentation of trophies to the winners of Durham Senior League first, second and third divisions, respectively, was made at a meeting of the league in the Ashbrooke Pavilion, Sunderland, last night. Mr Tom Darling, of Durham made the presentation of the championship cup to Mr Ord, captain of Philadelphia, who had won the championship for the third time. Previous occasions were in 1934 and 1938. Final placings show Philadelphia with 74 points, having won 14 and drawn four of their 22 games. Reference was made to the bowling of W.K. Laidlaw, who took 66 wickets at a cost of 462 runs, he bowled 179 overs, of which 33 were maidens. R.O. Lowerson took 46 wickets for 427 runs. The second division champions, Chester-le-Street finished the season with 80 points, 15 points ahead of Burnmoor. The trophy was presented by Mr Darling to Mr W. Murray, secretary of the club.  
*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 25th September 1948*

**PHILADELPHIA** Cricket Club Require full-time or part-time Groundsman for 1949 season - Applications stating terms to S Ellison 28 Success Cottages Philadelphia on or before Dec 14.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1948*



*Philadelphia Cricket Club Durham Senior League Champions 1948*

### **Philadelphia in Happy Position**

The concluding article on club prospects in the Durham Senior League is given below; Philadelphia last season champions are in the happy position of having all their players available. The first two matches may show changes in both teams as some of the players will be engaged in football. Newcomers to the club are P.S. Clarke (Burnmoor) and A. Clark (South Hetton) and N.L. Sharp from Horsham, Kent. The attack will again be mainly in the hands of Laidlaw, Lowerson and Ellison, while the batting side will have Stan Robertson, J. Ord, W. Weightman, and R. Fisher as mainstays. The ground is in good condition, and a concrete wicket, laid during the close season, enabled extensive practice to be carried out.  
*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 28<sup>th</sup> April 1949*

### **“Phili” Win Title for Third Time in Four Years**

By defeating Seaham Harbour at Philadelphia on Saturday, Philadelphia became Durham Senior League Champions of 1951. An all-amateur team, this season is the third time in four seasons that “Phili” have achieved this distinction, and for their present success a great deal of credit must go to veteran slow pace bowler Sid Ellison, and pace bowler Bob Lowerson. This pair has, throughout the season, formed a formidable combination for opposing batsmen. Both have been untiring in their efforts, and have bowled well. Although little success attended the club in the cup competitions, in league cricket it has had an admirable year. In addition to the first team’s success, the second eleven and junior eleven have both won their leagues, while the third team won “B” section of their league but went down to Boldon (winners of “A” section) in the final tie to decide the championship.  
*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 10<sup>th</sup> September 1951*



*Philadelphia Cricket Club First, Second, Third and Junior Team Champions 1951*  
**Back Row:** W. Southgate, T. Thompson, R. Whittingham, T. Slassor, F. Mole, , A. Lowerson  
 W. Mole, F. Rickard, J. Leadbitter, P. Smith, J. Cruddace, W. Maltby.  
**Second Row:** W. Miller, W. Young, A. Clark, J. Bircham, S. White , J. Hamilton , J. Welsh,  
 J. Welsh,  
 J. Soulsby, R. Raine, J. Hind, N. Lee, J. Leadbitter , J. Bell, J. Ord.  
**Third Row:** G .Orr, N. Slassor, R. Fisher, S. Ellison, J. McCall, W. Laidlaw(capt) , S. Robertson,  
 J. Ord, R. Lowerson , R. Mole , J. Welsh , F. McIntyre.  
**Front Row:** T. Galley, J. Curry, R. Kitchen , G. Thompson , G. Dawson, G. Lillig.

### **The Pit Fund**

Collections at Durham Senior Cricket League games realized £107 10s. This has been forwarded to the joint Easington Disaster Fund.

*Hartlepool Daly Mail 17<sup>th</sup> August 1951*

**PHILADELPHIA CRICKET CLUB**  
**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS**  
 will be held in the PAVILION, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, at 7 p.m.  
 All members are cordially invited to attend.  
 S. ELLISON, Hon. Secretary

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 7<sup>th</sup> November 1951*

## Philadelphia Only Durham Senior Club Without a Professional

Philadelphia the only Durham Senior League Club to be without a professional this coming season, are looking forward to testing their ability against stronger opposition. It must be over 20 seasons since the club had the services of a "pro", and whether they should now have one is a question exercising the minds of local supporters. There are many keen supporters who think the time has arrived when the club should secure a top-class personality to assist as professional, while others hold the view that a first class coach would be more useful to "bring on" the younger promising players. However, "Phili" possess some fine players who are expected to at least hold their own, and Secretary Sid Ellison (pictured right) who is entering his 28<sup>th</sup> season with the club, is optimistic regarding their prospects.



In addition to leading the spin attack, Sid intends to do some coaching amongst the younger element, who should profit under his shrewd and capable guidance. The senior side will be skippered by newly-elected John Welsh, who is expected to get a lot of runs this term. With the exception of Frank Rickard who has had both senior and second team service and who has thrown in his lot with Seaham Harbour, all the old faces will be seen. Up to the moment the only newcomer is likely to be fast bowler Douglas Ferguson, from Eppleton. He is now residing in the district. In Bob Raine the club have a really good fast bowler who may secure many more wickets this term. No club could have a keener player than fair haired Tommy Slassor, who possesses the right temperament, and should do well with his medium paced bowling. Young Alan Lowerson (brother of the Whitburn professional) is expected to reveal considerable improvement as a fast-medium attacker after his winter coaching at Durham. Jim Bircham is another grand all-rounder who is expected to improve on past performances. He can spin the ball both ways and is a stylish bat. The second XI will again be captained by Bill Forster, and with such a wealth of young talent at his disposal they should be strong challengers for second league honours. Such players as George Lillig, Ralph Tate, Tommy Hayes, Jim Wilkinson and Tom Galley should make their presence felt. One youngster who took the eye last season is 16 year old Alan Summerhill. In the opinion of a leading member of the club this boy should become a "star" batsman of the future.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 17<sup>th</sup> April 1953*

PHILADELPHIA  
CRICKET CLUB

ANNUAL  
WHIST DRIVE & DANCE

will be held in THE WELFARE  
HALL, HERRINGTON BURN  
ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, DEC. 31st, 1952  
WHIST DRIVE 7-0 P.M. TO 9-0 P.M.  
DANCING FROM 9-0 P.M. TO 2-0 A.M.

MUSIC BY NORMAN RICHARDSON'S SEXTET

LATE BUSES . . .  
Refreshments on  
the Cafe system

ADMISSION 6/-

## Ted Purdon Captured by “Phili”

Surprise of the close season was Purdon’s capture. Philadelphia – and their supporters were pretty proud of this – hadn’t employed a professional for 21 years until they jumped in ahead of the clubs hoping to sign the South African as an amateur. Purdon should prove a big attraction; not only at Philadelphia but at every ground he visits during the season. He is a right arm medium pace bowler and right hand batsmen. Two years ago, playing in a Birmingham league, he headed his club’s batting figures of 66 runs per innings. He has played with the Warwick club and ground team and, if his soccer career had not brought him to Roker Park, he would have completed a residential qualification to play for Warwickshire in the County Championship this year. Last season he spent the whole of the summer with his family in South Africa, but now, settling in the North East with his wife,



and expecting an addition to the family, he is going to be a full-time footballer and cricketer in the Sunderland area on an all the year round basis. There is always room for fresh personalities in the Durham Senior League. In this case, as in all others, Philadelphia bears the cost, but the benefit is spread throughout all the clubs in the competition.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 27<sup>th</sup> March 1954*

## Ted Purdon re-engaged

Ted Purdon Philadelphia professional has been re-engaged by the club for next season. Popular alike with both players and supporters of the club the Sunderland footballer has revealed considerably improved form in recent weeks, and it is felt that he has not yet reached his best. He has taken 36 wickets in Senior League cricket this season and scored over 300 runs.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 28<sup>th</sup> July 1954*

## Ted Purdon with Tea Ladies

The Philadelphia tea ladies (pictured right) Mrs Davison, Mrs McCall, Mrs Atkinson, Mrs Lowerson and Mrs Linden. Ted Purdon middle row centre.



## Philadelphia Beat Durham City in Thrilling Finish and Win Title

Scenes similar to those of last week at Harrogate, when Yorkshire won the County Championship, were witnessed at Bunker Hill as Alan Glass hit a boundary to give Philadelphia the Durham Senior League for the fifth time in their history.

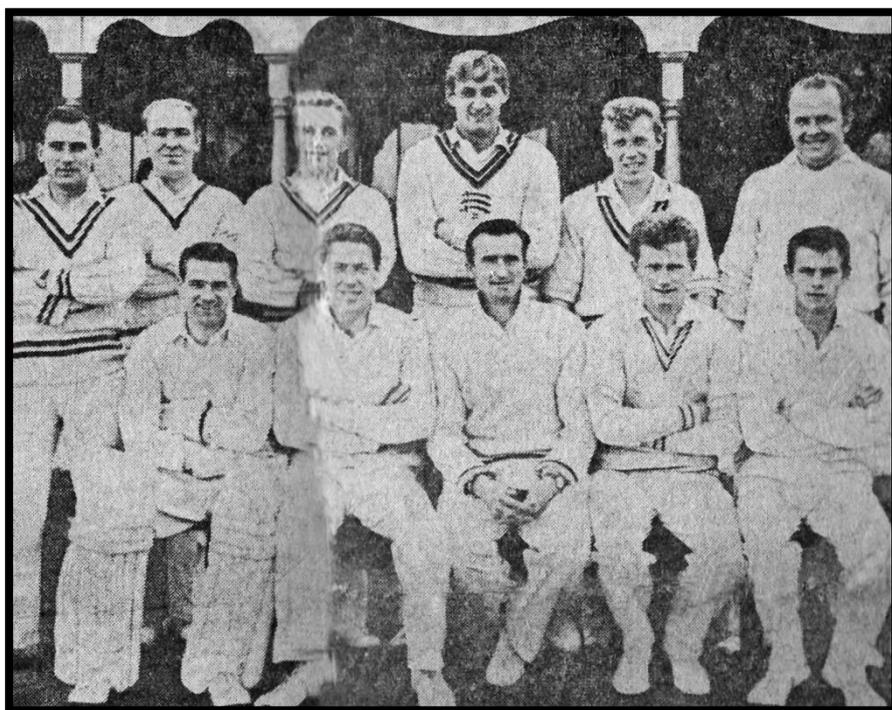
Philadelphia, who have also won the Horner and Saunders cups this season, were last champions in the 1951 season. Scores of youngsters raced across the pitch to congratulate the two batsmen, and in particular Glass who, with Reed

Kitchen had stubbornly defied the efforts of the city attack. But it was a close thing. Winning the toss Sid Stewart elected to bat, and Mike Weston was dismissed in the first over without scoring, Bill Morgan was Tom Angus's second victim and then the city captain was caught. Thus three wickets were down for only five runs. But Alan Richardson stopped the rot in partnership with Brian Lander, and these two took the score to 51 before Lander was brilliantly caught by

Kitchen off Glass. Richardson went on to make a brilliant 70 and Durham's score was 105 when he was bowled by Alan Lowerson. He hit nine fours. The confidence of the home side was disturbed when Jack Welsh was caught with only two on the board and Jack Dodds and Steve Elstob followed without a run being added. Ken Miller and Derek Smith batted solidly for 24 and 26 respectively but victory seemed far away. Then Jim Bircham the captain set about the Durham attack and took the score to 90 before he was out to Lander. He hit five fours and a six. Kitchen and Glass carried the score to within four of victory with every run being cheered when the former was LBW to Cowley. With the last two players at the wicket, Glass made the winning hit. He threw his bat high into the air in jubilation. Philadelphia had taken 134 minutes to reach the 100, compared to Durham's 92 minutes.

*Durham Chronicle 14<sup>th</sup> September 1962*

Philadelphia .....	22	12	4	6	64
Wearmouth .....	22	11	6	5	61
Eppleton .....	22	11	5	6	60
Chester-le-Street .....	22	10	6	6	56
South Shields .....	21	10	3	8	53
Gateshead Fell .....	22	9	7	6	52
Sunderland .....	21	9	7	5	52
Durham City .....	22	9	4	9	49
Boldon .....	22	9	2	11	47
North Durham .....	22	9	2	11	47
Whitburn .....	22	9	2	11	47
Burnmoor .....	21	7	5	9	40
Seaham Harbour .....	22	5	7	10	32
Hornden .....	21	1	2	18	7





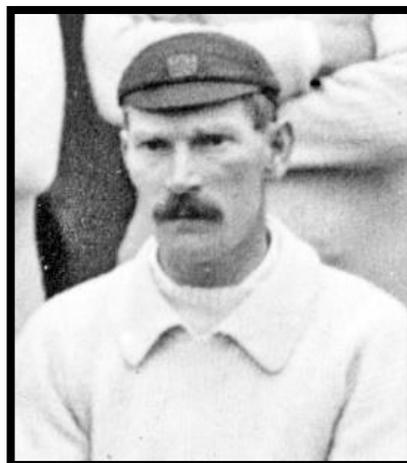
*Mrs Nancy Gibson the Philadelphia Club's first steward in 1967*



*Philadelphia Cricket Club players and officials centenary photograph 1969*

## Philadelphia Cricket Club Captains

1884-1904 J. Lee  
 1905-1925 R. Harrison  
 1926-1930 W. Wilson  
 1931-1934 J. Heath  
 1935-1945 W. Weightman  
 1946 T. Greenwell  
 1947 W. Weightman  
 1948-1949 J. Ord  
 1950-1951 W. Laidlaw  
 1952-1954 J. Ord  
 1955-1956 J. McCall  
 1957-1958 J. Welsh  
 1959-1962 J. Bircham  
 1963-1966 J. Dodds  
 1967 R.B. Kitchen  
 1968-1969 E. Pratt  
 1970-1982 T. Clish  
 1983-1985 J. Robertson  
 1986-1987 P.W. Raine  
 1988 W. Raja  
 1989 P.W. Raine  
 1990-1991 S. Greensword  
 1992-1993 K. Haswell  
 1994-1997 J. Mathewson  
 1998-2000 A. Roseberry  
 2001 A. Robinson  
 2002-2003 A. Roseberry  
 2004 -2005 L. Beaumont  
 2006-2007 G. Hoban  
 2008 A. Robinson  
 2009 D. Naunton/I. Hauxwell  
 2010-2011 I. Hauxwell  
 2012-2017 S. Smith



*R. Harrison captain 1905-1925*



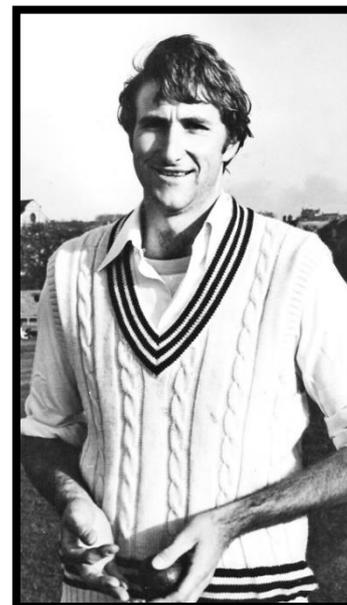
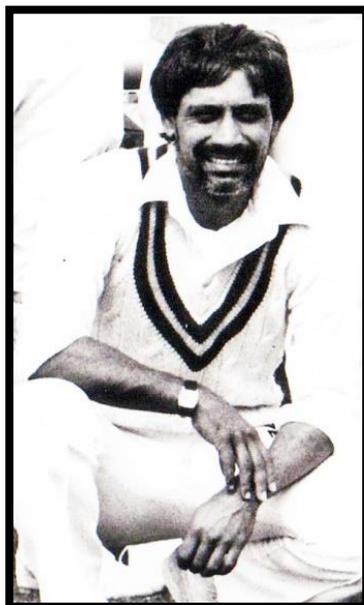
*Former captains together in 1998*

*Back row: Jimmy Bircham, Jimmy Dodds and Reed Kitchen, Ted Pratt, Philip Raine, Stephen Greensword and Michael Richardson.*

*Front Row: Tom Clish, John Robertson and Ken Haswell*

## Philadelphia Cricket Club Professionals

1899	J. Terry
1901	A. Stoner
1909	P. Crump (Eng.)
1928-1929	L. Weight (Eng.)
1930-1931	F. Field (Eng.)
1932-1933	G. Tait (Eng.)
1954-1956	T. Purdon (S.A.)
1965-1969	F. Forster (Eng.)
1970	M. Nicholson (Eng.)
1971-1972	S. Young (Eng.)
1973-1980	S. Greensword (Eng.)
1981	E. Chatfield (N.Z.)
1982-1983	N. Graham (Eng.)
1984	R. Joseph (W.I.)
1985-1987	W. Raja (Pak.)
1989-1991	S. Greensword (Eng.)
1992	J. Hill (Aus.)
1993	N. Adams (Eng.)
1994-1996	W. Quinn (W.I.)
1997	B. Dorey (Aus.)
1998	T. Canning (Aus.)
1999-2000	A. Patel (Eng.)
2002	G. Swan (Aus.)
2003	J. Allenby (Aus.)
2004	F. Thomas (W.I.)
2005	B. Pelser (S.A.)
2006	D. Izzard (S.A.)
2007	G. Debruin (S.A.)
2008	D. Rutherford (Eng.)
2010	E. Gerber (S.A.)
2011	M. Osborne (S.A.)
2012	R. Johnson (Aus.)
2015	A. Chilcott (Aus.)
2016	A. Singh (Ind.)
2017	Z. Shera (Pak.)
2018	R. Shahzad (Pak. /UAE)



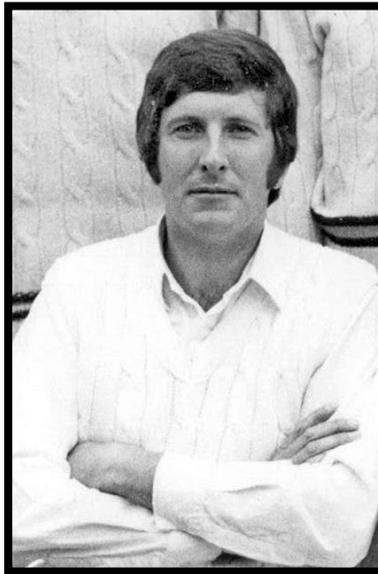
*Top Left: Wasim Raja Top Right: Ewen Chatfield  
Bottom: Steve Greensword*

## Chairmen of Philadelphia Cricket Club

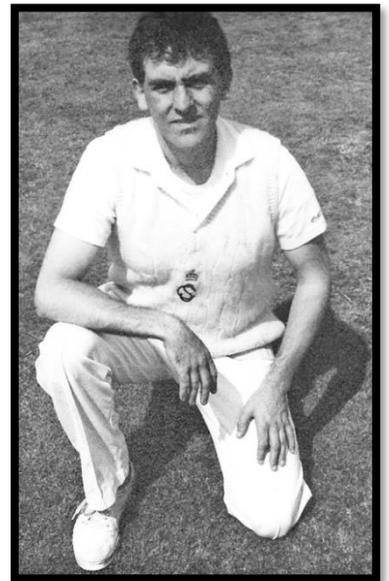
1896 – 1931 James Palliser JP  
1930s Thompson Potts  
1940s – 1950s Frank Potts  
1960 – 1979 Jack Forrester  
1979 – 1994 Malcolm Pratt  
1994 – 2002 Richard Goodliffe  
2002 – 2009 Malcolm Pratt  
2009 – 2012 Ken Haswell  
2012 – present Malcolm Pratt MBE DL



*James Palliser JP*



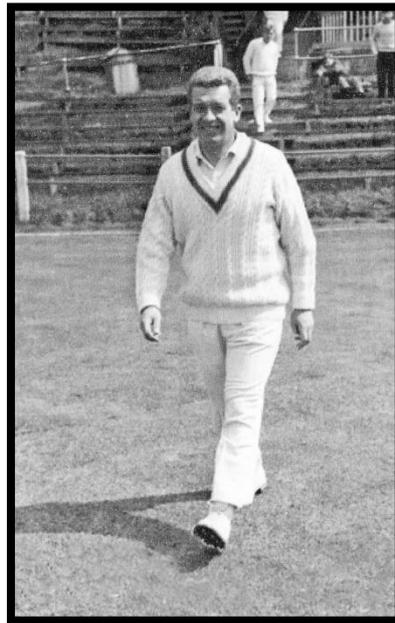
*Richard Goodliffe*



*Ken Haswell*



*Phili at Wearmouth in 1954*



*Frank Foster famously took all 10 wickets against Whitburn at the village ground on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1966 – the day England beat Argentina in the World Cup. He is the only Phili player to take over 100 league wickets in a season – 103 wickets in 1965*



PHILADELPHIA CRICKET CLUB	
CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS	
MONDAY 21st JULY, to SUNDAY 27th JULY, 1969	
<u>MONDAY AND TUESDAY</u>	Single Wicket Competition
<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	Social Evening for Members, V.P.'s and Former Players.
<u>THURSDAY</u>	Darts and Dominoes Competition.
<u>FRIDAY</u>	Past and Present Match.
<u>SATURDAY</u>	D.S.L. Match versus Boldon.
<u>SUNDAY LUNCH TIME</u>	Button Hole Show, entries at 11.00 a.m.
<u>SUNDAY NIGHT</u>	Herrington Military Band 7.00 to 9.00 p.m. Bingo 9.00 to 9.30 p.m.

*This cartoon produced for the 100 years centenary booklet by Sunderland Echo cartoonist and Philadelphian cricketer R.O. Lowerson. (The centenary was believed to be 1869-1969 however research, now confirms the original formation date to be 1868.) Activities listed during the centenary celebrations*

### **Cricket Club gets £300**

The Chairman of Philadelphia Ladies Social Group, Mrs Freda Sedgwick, will present a cheque for £300 to the chairman of the cricket club Mr John Forrester, at the group's Easter party tomorrow. It is the group's contribution to the new scoreboard which is being built at the Bunker Hill ground.

*Newcastle Chronicle 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1973*

### **"Phili's" Title as Rain Washes Out Final Game**

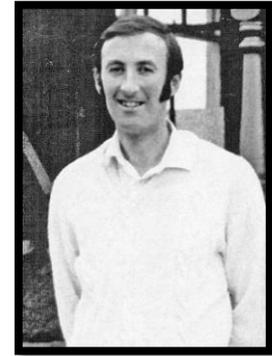
Philadelphia won the Durham Senior League yesterday, when their final game of the season against Sunderland was abandoned because of rain at Bunker Hill. Sunderland, who had to win to end in top position, won the toss and sent Philadelphia into bat, but soon saw their slim chances of winning the title disappear as Steve Greensword and John Robertson dominated the Ashbrooke attack. Robertson, dropped when on four, went on to partner Greensword in an opening stand of 71 and with Bobby Johnson lending support in a second wicket partnership, Philadelphia had totalled 123 for one in 138 minutes from 46.5 overs. Greensword, following his unbeaten 66 at South Shields on Saturday, again carried his bat for 77, which included 11 boundaries. Philadelphia, who needed only to draw the game to win the championship, were obviously intent on building a big score, regardless of how long it took, and it was soon after the rain had arrived that Mike Westcott conceded the championship to Tom Clish. This is the first time in 11 years that "Phili" have won the title and the fifth occasion since the war.

*Sunderland Echo 10<sup>th</sup> September 1973*

## “Phili” Retain Title

Philadelphia won the Durham Senior League Championship for the second successive season on Saturday, when they defeated Eppleton by six wickets in a nail biting finish at Church Road. But in the event they needed only to draw, for Whitburn were held to a draw at Durham and Sunderland also drew their game at Boldon. “Phili” did not know the outcome of the other two games affecting the championship, however, and they had to go all out for a win to be sure of retaining the title they won last season for the first time in 11 years. Rain delayed the start until almost 4.30 pm and then the game was played in heavy rain as Eppleton totalled 116 all out in nearly two hours from 39.3 overs, leaving Philadelphia 18 overs in which to make a winning challenge. They went for the runs from the start and although Steve Greensword was caught with the total at ten, John Robertson (35) and Bobby Johnson set the side on the championship path with a second wicket partnership of 73. Johnson and Captain Tom Clish added 31, of which Clish made 21 before being run out in the penultimate over, and two balls later Dave Carr (pictured above right) was LBW leaving “Phili” to make three runs from the last over with six wickets in hand. Johnson failed to hit the first two balls but from Ken Ferguson’s third delivery he slammed the ball through mid-off for his ninth four out of an undefeated 52 made in as many minutes.

*Sunderland Echo 9<sup>th</sup> September 1974*



## “Phili” Take Title Again



Philadelphia made it a hat-trick of Durham Senior League Championship wins when they held Sunderland to a draw in their final match of the season at Bunker Hill yesterday. Following Saturday’s programme when they and their nearest challengers, Whitburn, both drew, “Phili” needed five points from yesterday’s game to be certain of retaining the title. Skipper Tom Clish (pictured left) won the toss and put Sunderland in to bat, and although his side gained an early breakthrough it was not until 123 minutes that Clish himself gained the second wicket which gave Philadelphia the all-important bonus point. There after their target was a draw, but there were shocks to come after Sunderland had declared at 177 for 5 at which Peter Birtwhistle hit an attractive 72 and Frank Greenshields a sound 60. Steve

Greensword was sent back from the fourth ball of the innings and by the time the score reached 37 both Alan Summerill and Bobby Johnson were back in the pavilion. But “Phili’s” fears were erased when vice-captain John Robertson and Dave Carr came together with 74 minutes left. They took the score to 63 before Carr was dismissed, but with only three overs left it was all over when Tom Clish went to the wicket. Robertson and Carr did a tremendous job for their side. The former scored from only eight of the 99 balls he received and Carr from only eight of the 95 deliveries bowled to him.

*Sunderland Echo 8<sup>th</sup> September 1975*

## **“Phili” Clinch Senior League Title Again**

Philadelphia are the new Durham Senior League Champions. They were assured of the title about 4.45pm on Saturday when they took the last Seaham Harbour wicket, in a tense match at Bunker Hill, but in the event they needed only to draw for their closest rivals, Whitburn, failed to defeat South Shields. At Bunker Hill, there was a crucial blow for “Phili” when they lost the toss and were sent in to bat but their batsmen made merry and scored 202-3 in two hours before the declaration was applied. John Robertson (57) and Bobby Johnson (38) wasted no time but the superb innings from Steve Greensword, whose undefeated 29 enabled him to create a new individual scoring record in the league. His total reached 1,274 runs beating his previous best of 1,212 Greensword who missed three games at the beginning of the season through injury, batted only 22 times. Philadelphia have now won the title in four of the last five seasons and reached their target this year by winning nine of their 13 games during the second half of the season. In the first half they managed only five victories and lost their only game of the season to Whitburn. They have now been defeated only twice in the last three seasons. Whitburn, who challenged for the title throughout the summer, ended 14 points behind the champions with Chester-le-Street in third position. For the record Philadelphia carried off the Armbrister, Aynsley Johnson, Horner and Dryborough Cups and were beaten in the final of the Saunders, Grangetown Florist Bowl and Tom Burns Cups.

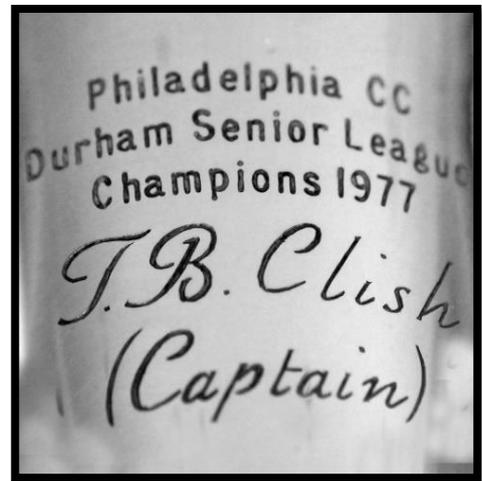
*Sunderland Echo 12<sup>th</sup> September 1977*



*Philadelphia Cricket Club Durham Senior League Champions 1977*



*Bobby Johnson  
A Phili legend*



*Inscription on one of Tom Clish's  
Durham Senior League winner's  
goblets league*

### **“Phili” Find It Harder Than Ever**

Philadelphia are again the Senior League Champions but at Bunker Hill the achievement has not been greeted with perhaps the enthusiasm it deserves. There was only mild applause when they reached their goal during the match with Eppleton at Bunker Hill on Saturday and this could have been because for the last few weeks they have been close to carrying off the title. But throughout the club there has been a lack of recognition of what has been another tremendous season and if anything it has been more difficult this year to win the title than on any four previous seasons in recent years. Sunderland have played particularly well and it has needed “Phili” to win 16 of the 23 games actually played to end in the number one position. This illustrates just how hard they have been pushed by a very good Sunderland line up and the Ashbrooke club were in with a chance until a few weeks ago. This is “Phili’s” fifth championship in six seasons and they are at present experiencing their most successful era ever, better than the 1930’s and late 40’s when they carried everything before them. But nothing can match their current success and even in league circles their five wins in six seasons is matched only by Sunderland’s four in four years. Perhaps it is because the club has experienced so much success in recent years that supporters have taken it for granted for them to bring off another championship. They should appreciate that the side had to work tremendously hard since the end of last season to bring off another title win.

The championship must be a personal achievement for skipper Tom Clish, who has been in charge of the side in all their five championship successes. Tom will go into the history books as probably the most successful captain ever to lead Philadelphia. Off the field he is equally respected by both players and supporters alike.

*Sunderland Echo 11<sup>th</sup> September 1978*

## *Groundsmen of Philadelphia*



*T. Thompson 1938*



*Tommy Millar 1951*



*Colin Bertram 2001*



*Paul Harris 2018*

## **Club and County Calls Clash Again**

Philadelphia will be without their professional, Steve Greensword, for both the John Saunders Cup final against Sunderland at Bunker Hill on Saturday and against Durham City in the final of the Grangetown Florist Bowl, again at Bunker Hill on Sunday. And both officials and supporters are disappointed at having to go into two important cup finals without the services of their opening batsman and opening bowler. Explained Secretary Malcolm Pratt; "We appreciate that Durham's Minor Counties championship decider with Devon and Exeter was arranged before our two cup finals were re-arranged because of bad weather, but nevertheless we are disappointed at losing Greensword for another two cup finals. He has already missed one important cup final and one league game. Somewhere along the line someone has got to get around a table and sort this issue out, so that the county and clubs are not playing on the same day. Then there will be no problem." At present there is a full Durham Senior League programme on the spring and autumn holiday Mondays and during August the County play on a number of Sundays when cup finals are being staged. He added that he was writing to both the Senior League and to Durham County asking that a meeting should be arranged with a view to sorting out the problem by next season. On Saturday Phili will also be without Stuart Wilkinson, while Sunderland skipper Peter Birtwhistle will also be on County duty, while on Sunday, Philadelphia will again be without Greensword and Wilkinson while Durham City will be minus Brian Lander, the County Captain Steven Atkinson and Richard Mercer.

*Sunderland Echo* 14<sup>th</sup> September 1978

## **"Phili" are Champions Again**

Philadelphia have done it again! At Boldon on Saturday they won the Durham Senior League Championship for the sixth time in seven seasons to create a record, but they experienced a lot of anxious moments before they knew they had finally won through. For while their game was destined to be abandoned, news came through from Ashbrooke that Sunderland had restarted their rain-affected game with South Shields and had Sunderland won they would have clinched the title. But shortly after seven o'clock second team player, Bill Forester who had gone to Ashbrooke when his game against Boldon seconds at Bunker Hill was abandoned telephoned the news to Boldon that Sunderland's game also had been abandoned. Phili made 179 for 2 in 38.5 overs and by gaining four batting points they prevented Sunderland from overtaking them unless Sunderland won. They also put Chester-le-Street out of reach of the title but in the end it was all academic with Sunderland and Chester both drawing. The celebrations began at Boldon and were continued at Bunker Hill to commemorate what had been an outstanding season. Phili started the campaign without Stuart Wilkinson and John Weeks has hardly played. In addition Chester have played two games more and Sunderland one more when Phili have been rained off and yet they have overcome all the odds and won the title yet once again. Sunderland's last minute hopes of forcing a result which caused two stoppages before their game against South Shields was finally abandoned with six overs remaining. Thus Sunderland finished runners-up to Philadelphia for the second successive season.

*Sunderland Echo* 10<sup>th</sup> September 1979



*Philadelphia Cricket Club Champions 1979, for the sixth time in seven seasons*



*Philadelphia Cricket Club Ladies Committee 1972*

## Steve Greensword

# Greensword joining Phili

★ PHILADELPHIA are the first cricket club in the North East to appoint a manager.

★ THEY have turned to their former professional Steve Greensword to take charge at a time when big changes in the format of League cricket are under consideration.

★ GREENSWORD was pro during the club's most successful era in the 70s, when they won the Vaux Durham Senior League championship six times in seven seasons.

★ NOW 54, he started an illustrious career with the village side before his seven years at Leicestershire, playing in more than 50 games in the County Championship.

★ WHEN he returned to his native North East, he was a professional with clubs in Durham and Northumberland.

★ HE will be responsible for the day to day playing side, including developing and improving performances and results.

★ "IT'S a visionary move on the part of Philadelphia, an amateur club trying to turn into a professionally-run outfit," Greensword said.

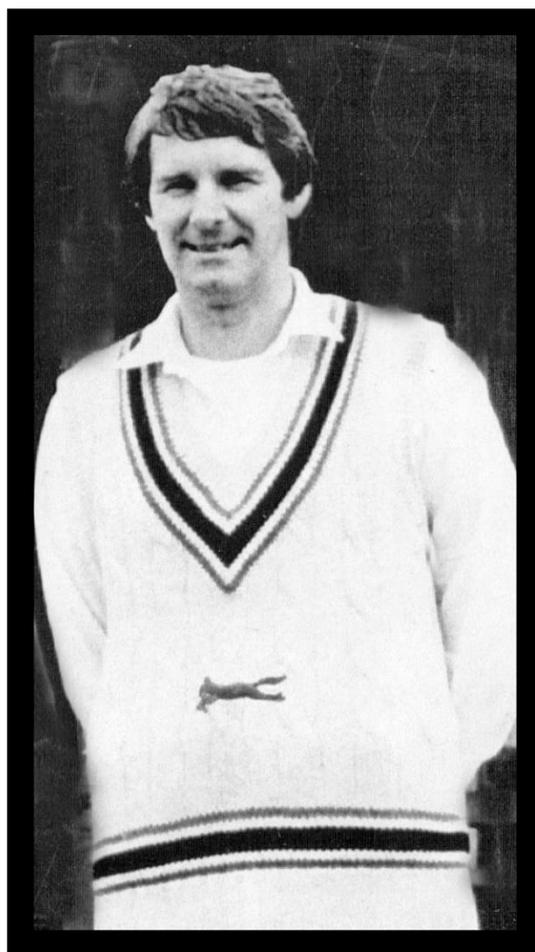
★ "THERE'S no doubt standards in league cricket have dropped in recent years and my aim will be to arrest the slide."

★ CHAIRMAN of the Vaux Durham Senior League, Tom Clish, hailed the move as forward-thinking.

★ "THE English Cricket Board are very keen on establishing Premier Leagues throughout the country," he said.

★ "ONE could start in the North East as early as 1999, Philadelphia are obviously gearing themselves up for it.

★ "AND I think they have made a wise choice in Greensword."



Steve Greensword became Team manager in 1998. Steve enjoyed great success with Philli in the halcyon days of the 1970's. In that time he cemented his place as arguably one of the best all-round cricketers that has ever played club cricket in the North-East. Steve a right hand batsman and right arm medium pace bowler. In 1980 he became the first Durham County player to score four centuries in a season and for Durham County he made 107 appearances scoring 4,790 runs and taking 254 wickets.



*Philadelphia Cricket Club First XI 1984*



*Philadelphia Cricket Club First XI 1988*

## **“Phili” Take Title in Day of Drama**

Philadelphia experienced the depths of depression and the heights of joy when they clinched the Durham Senior League championship by only one point following a day of unparalleled tension at Bunker Hill on Saturday. They went into their final game just two points ahead of Gateshead Fell and at the time of their scheduled start against Sunderland, who could also have won the title, rain was falling heavily and it appeared that there would be no play throughout the league. Phili had a supporter posted at Gateshead Fell to keep Bunker Hill informed of events when he reported the same dreadful conditions existing there. But at 5pm word came through that the Fell were about to start their game with Horden and followed hurried consultations between John Robertson and Sunderland’s Michael Ribbands it was agreed that a start would be made at Bunker Hill - even though it was still pouring. But just as the covers were being removed there was a change of heart as Horden in their game at the Fell lost their first wicket. At 6pm, the umpires decided that it would be impossible to make a start at Bunker Hill and by then Horden were two wickets down earning the Fell another point and closing the gap at the top to just a single point. There was almost a complete silence in the Bunker Hill dressing room when the players set off for Gateshead Fell and almost at the same time there was an unconfirmed report that the players had left the field at Gateshead. Fifteen minutes later George Bull conveyed the official news that the game had been abandoned and that Philadelphia had won the championship by just one point. After almost three and a half hours of tension Bunker Hill erupted. The celebration party went on well into the night with the ‘Rodders Road Show’ (Phili cricketer and DJ Adam Walter) spinning the discs. Philadelphia won nine 9 games, more than any other side during the 26 match programme and the only unbeaten side in the league are Gateshead Fell. This is Phili’s first championship since 1979 when they won the title six times in seven seasons.

*Sunderland Echo 9<sup>th</sup> September 1985*



*Philadelphia Cricket Club Durham Senior League Champions 1985*

## Durham Senior League Phili's Top Batsmen

Players who have scored a 1,000 league runs in a season whilst playing for Philadelphia in the Durham Senior League (According to DSL records)

1976 S. Greensword 1,102

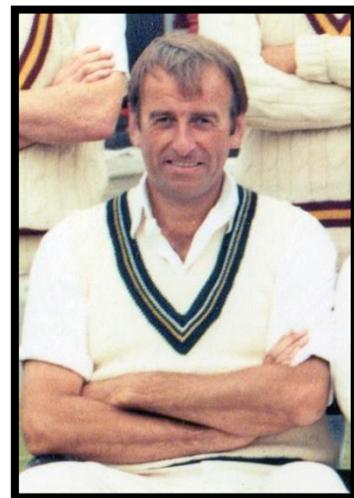
1977 S. Greensword 1,274

1978 S. Greensword 1,037

1979 S. Greensword 1,012

1989 S. Greensword 1,036

1994 R.D. Jacobs 1,237



*Top left: Ridley Jacobs  
Top right: Steve Greensword  
Right: Ex-Kent and Phili professional  
in 1982 and 1983 Norman Graham*

## Kendall Date

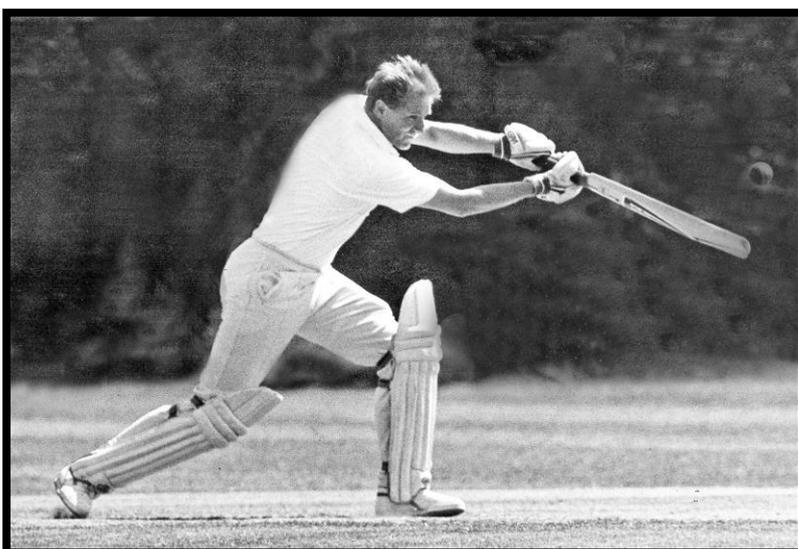
Everton manager Howard Kendall and the former Kent county cricketer Norman Graham will be the principal guests when Philadelphia Cricket Club celebrate last season's Durham Senior League championship win with a dinner in the civic centre, Chester-le-Street on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Kendall has agreed to return to his native North-East to help the club he played for as a boy before he joined Preston North End as a 15 year old.

*Newcastle Evening Chronicle 14<sup>th</sup> February 1986*

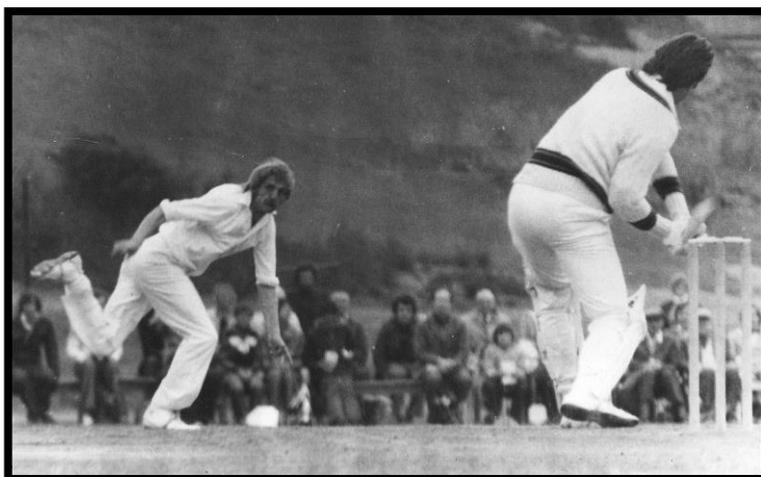
## Players who represented Durham County Cricket Club, 1882-1982 Whilst Playing for Philadelphia Cricket Club

Angus T. 1962  
Barron W. 1937-45  
Beresford J.H. 1937-38  
Bewick J.L. 1939-47  
Clarke R. 1895-96  
Clish T. 1970  
Ellison S. 1927-41  
Fisher R. 1946-50  
Greensword S. 1973-80  
Greenwell T. 1942-44  
Harrison J. 1885  
Harrison R.C. 1907-08  
Ingram A.J. 1920  
Johnson G. 1982  
Kirtley J. 1899-08  
Laidlaw W.K. 1948-51  
Lee J. 1884-98  
Lee W.H. 1884-88  
Lowerson R.O. 1949-50  
Millar R. 1960  
Nicholson N.M. 1970  
Patterson T. 1914  
Raine A.K. 1935  
Robertson S. 1944-49  
Simpson F. 1894-01  
Stokoe S.M. 1980  
Tait G.M. 1933  
Weightman W. 1934-45  
Welsh J. 1951-53  
Wilkinson J.S. 1975-78  
Young J. 1887-97  
Young S.M. 1971-72

### Durham and The Minor Counties



*Steve Greensword*



*Stuart Wilkinson bowling to Len Pascoe at Ashbrooke  
Minor Counties v. Australia 1977*

PHILADELPHIA CRICKET CLUB

# ANNUAL DINNER



Guest Speaker:

Fred Trueman

*Yorkshire - England*

*Sponsored by Wimpey Homes*

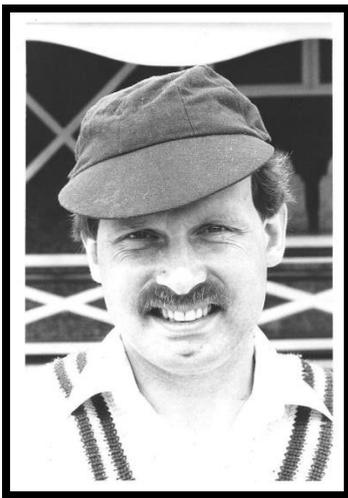
*Thursday 20th October 1988*

*Gloucester Suite, Chester-le-Street,  
Civic Centre.*



*Arthur Potter*

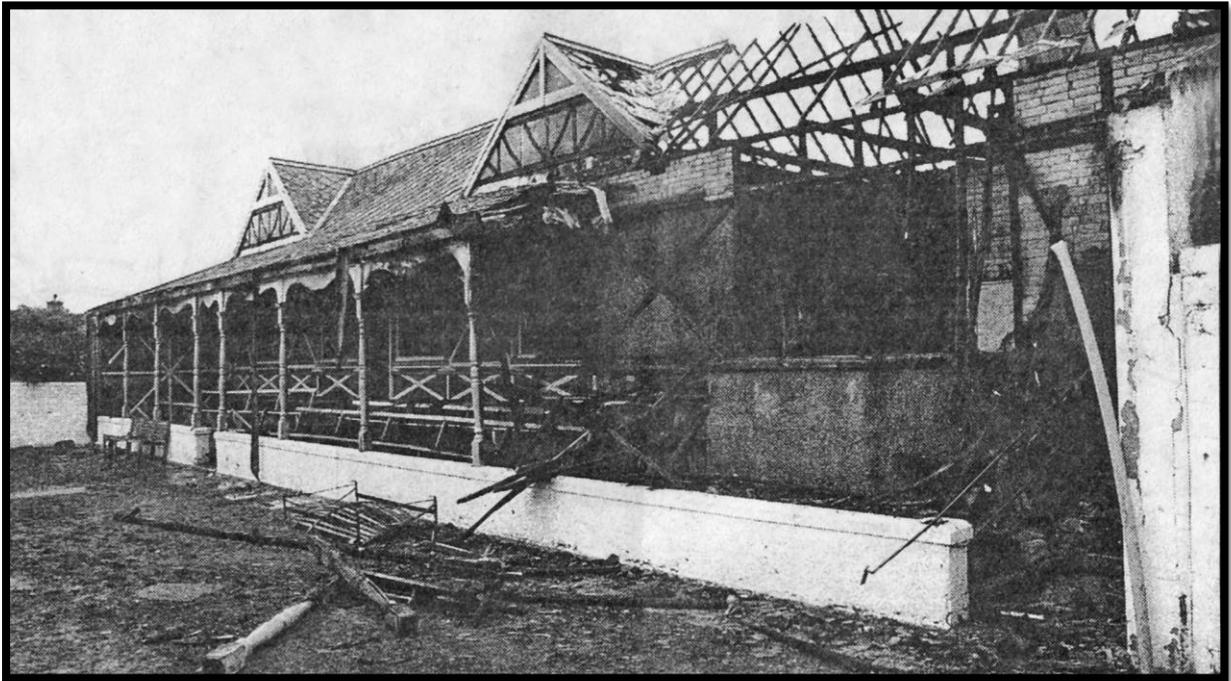
*In March 2009 he had served as  
Secretary/Treasurer for over 50 years*



*Adam J. R. Walter  
has played for Phili  
since 1981*



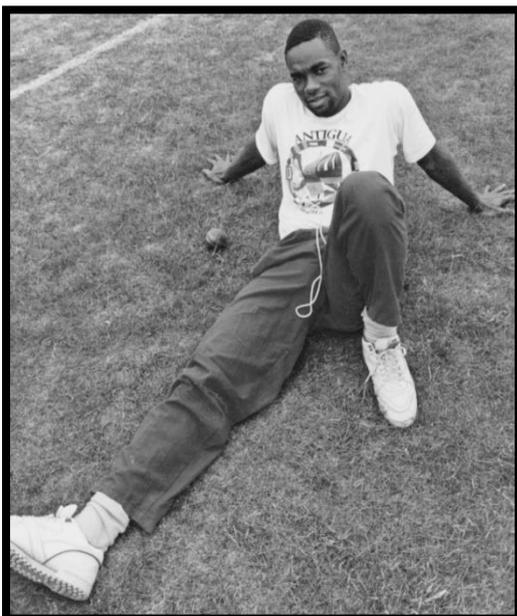
*Current Secretary  
and long serving  
player John Pratt*



### **Arsonist Blamed for Wrecking Cricket Pavilion**

Arsonists are being blamed for a blaze which wrecked this 1924 cricket pavilion, which is so unsafe it will have to be demolished. When fire fighters arrived at the Bunker Hill Cricket Ground Philadelphia, Houghton, shortly after 5am today, flames were shooting through the roof. It took them almost an hour to get the blaze under control. Acting station officer Eric Thompson, of Sunderland Central, said: "We had to fight the fire from outside because of the intense heat. The lads did really well in such difficult circumstances. The building is devastated.

*Sunderland Echo* 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1995



Ridley Detamore Jacobs from Antigua was the Philadelphia professional during the 1994 season. A left handed batsman and wicketkeeper Ridley made his test debut at the age of 35 years playing for the West Indians 65 times. He took over 200 catches behind the stumps making him only the second West Indian to achieve this feat. He also played 147 ODIs. He also featured in an outstanding partnership in the record breaking innings of Brian Lara against England in which Jacobs made a hundred and Lara made 400 not out, in 1994.





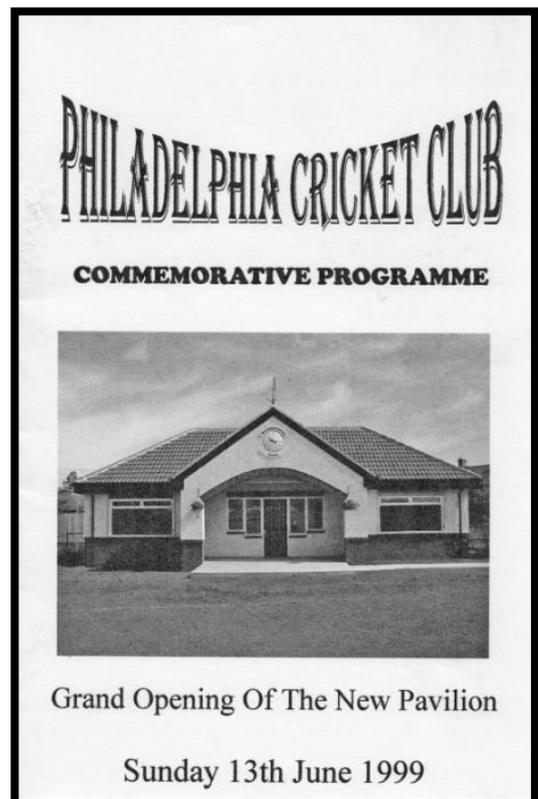
Ken Robinson (right) receives a cheque for £1,000 from Philadelphia Cricket Club members from left Adam Walter, Colin Bertram and Dave Carr (Stuart Beattie missed the photo call) after they had successfully reached the peaks of two 'Munros' (Scottish peaks over 3,000 feet) a walk in aid of a Meningitis Charity. Ken's son Glen – a teenage cricketer for Philadelphia died from the illness on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 1997.

*Sunderland Echo June 1997*

### **Grand Opening of New Pavilion at Philadelphia**

Four years after the old pavilion was destroyed by fire, and after two unsuccessful lottery bids: the club decided to go ahead with the new pavilion in October 1998. The work was completed in good time for the new season 1999. The official opening ceremony was conducted by Don Robson CBE, DL and chairman of Durham County Cricket Club on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June 1999. The club invited former players, current players and members, also the club's sponsors and officials of both the Vaux Durham Senior League and other league clubs to the opening of the new pavilion and a specially arranged match was played to celebrate the occasion.

*Philadelphia Commemorative Programme 13<sup>th</sup> June 1999*



## Runs Flow in Phili Swansong

The runs flowed at Bunker Hill when Philadelphia played their last game in the Durham Senior League before joining the Foster's North East Premier League, but it was South Shields who celebrated at the end. The 13 points they took from the drawn match propelled them into the runners-up position and there is no doubt that they have proved to be the most improved side. Neil Dixon carried his bat for 131, which included three sixes and 20 fours. He shared a second wicket partnership of 211 with former Phili professional Ashok Patel, who was just five short of a century when he was caught after hitting one six and 14 boundaries. Phili faced the huge total of 275-3 and although Fred Napier contributed 67 with 14 fours and both Neil Hoban and Andrew Robinson passed 30; they never posed a serious threat to the visitors.

*Sunderland Echo 10<sup>th</sup> September 2001*

## Resigned from the Durham Senior League

At the Annual General Meeting in December 2001, Philadelphia resigned to join the North East Premier League. Marsden and South Hetton were admitted to make the league up to twelve clubs.

*Durham Senior Cricket League Hand Book 2012*

PHILADELPHIA C.C.

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*Annual Barbecue*

**On Saturday, 5th. July, 1986**

8-00 p.m. :- 1-00 a.m.

**MUSIC TO**

**The Rodders Road Show**

Food Served 8-30 p.m. :- 10-00 p.m.

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**TICKETS £6-00**                      **LATE BAR**

**BARBECUE**

*Typical fund-raising activity at Philadelphia*

## Roseberry Leads Phili into New Era



Not since the heady days of the late 1970s, when Tom Clish led Philadelphia to six championships in seven seasons, has there been such a buzz around Bunker Hill. And new captain Andrew Roseberry (pictured left) can't wait for Phili to get cracking in their inaugural season in the Foster's North East Premier League. Philadelphia have worked hard since beating off competition to join the two-year-old league after almost a century in the Durham Senior League. Roseberry, who has sampled competition at first-class level with Glamorgan and Leicestershire, is the new captain and several other players have been signed. Roseberry said "A lot of work's gone into raising the standards in Saturday's home opener. There's a definite buzz around the place. Our build up has gone well. We won our first friendly against a Yorkshire League side by 5 wickets. We've had outdoor nets and have been working indoors since Christmas. Everyone is looking forward to this weekend." Western Australia's opening bowler, Gavin Swan,

is the professional this summer, coming highly recommended as a quick bowler. He arrives on Wearside tomorrow. Another Western Australian, Jim Allenby, has joined from Durham City after two fine summers. Last season he was second top in the averages with 752 runs at 57.8. Opening bowler Ross McLaren who was with Chester-le-Street last year has re-joined the club, as have father and son Norman and Shaun Smith. The pair played at Hylton last summer and all-rounder Shaun is rated highly. Ben Young, who have had Premier League, experience with Sunderland and Chester-le-Street, Craig Adey (Eppleton), Shoaib Akhtar (Dawdon) and Berwick Hall (Ryhope) have also moved to Bunker Hill. The extra length of the matches – games begin at 11.30am in the Premier League and last 120 overs (with the side batting first for a maximum of 65 overs) – will be a new experience to many in the Phili camp. "It won't make a lot of difference to me", said Roseberry. "When I played professional cricket for Leicestershire and Glamorgan, I played three and four day games, but to the local lads it will be a big change. "People like Graham Hoban, Freddie Napier, Shoaib Akhtar and Shaun Smith haven't played above Senior League level, so it's a whole new ball game for them. "Stamina's the key – players have got to be a lot fitter, and you've got to keep your concentration more. When batting, if you get 50 or 60 you've got to get a big hundred rather than throw your wicket away – and that's all down to fitness. "We've brought in Ron Young as coach and he'll be a big help. Roseberry is relishing the new beginning the switch to the Premier League brings. "I feel excellent, I've trained really hard," he said. "The last two years in the Senior League I definitely lost a bit of enthusiasm, but it's come back and I feel good about the new season." While Roseberry is keen to start in style, he cannot help but keep one eye on a long awaited meeting with Michael, who is the player-coach of Sunderland, the following weekend at Ashbrooke – "that will be very interesting" Former Durham County captain Michael Roseberry, who has had two spells with Middlesex, is expected to be one of the most prolific scorers in the league and his signing will considerably boost the Ashbrooke club's chances of regaining the championship they conceded to Chester-le Street last season.

*Sunderland Echo 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2002*



*Philadelphia First XI 2002 Foster's North East Premier League*

### **Philadelphia Celebrated their League Baptism with Victory**

Philadelphia celebrated their league baptism with a three figure victory against Tynemouth at Bunker Hill. Jim Allenby and Graham Hoban gave them a flying start and the runs flowed until Allenby was run out. Although the momentum slipped, Hoban found an able partner in Ross McLaren (48) and a total of 236-7 was achieved. Hoban batted throughout the innings and with a fine array of shots all around the wicket, finished on 89. Tynemouth were minus their new Indian Professional who has not yet arrived and they will be hoping that he can also add stability to their batting which crumbled to 128 all out. Ian Potter captured five wickets for a miserly 16 runs and Gavin Swan (pictured right) took three wickets in four balls. Ross McLaren claimed the wickets of the first three batsmen and the trio dominated throughout.

*Sunderland Echo 28<sup>th</sup> April 2002*



## Phili Back in Business

It's all change at Philadelphia who, after four years in the North East Premier League, are back in the Foster's Durham Senior League for the 100<sup>th</sup> season. The Bunker Hill club were relegated last year but are in a much better shape, stronger both on and off the field. Three players have returned to the club and one, Graham Hoban, (pictured right) has been made captain. He is joined by former juniors Stephen Robinson and Neil Mulvaney and the trio's experience should be invaluable. Newcomers Marc Hopkinson, Des Beach and David Naunton, who played in Hetton Lyons' championship-winning, side in 2005. Another newcomer is Karl Bellerby, signed from Boldon C.A. The highly rated teenager has impressed during indoor nets. A blow to Phili, though, is the decision of Ian Potter to retire. The one club man has given tremendous service at Bunker Hill and there is no doubt his pace bowling will be missed.

*Sunderland Echo 26<sup>th</sup> April 2006*



## Gooch Boosts Phili Appeal



Philadelphia Cricket Club's debt reduction appeal has received a massive boost with the news that Graham Gooch pictured left with Geoff Cook and Norman Graham has agreed to be the speaker at a fund-raising dinner. The former England captain, now the England batting coach, will be at the Chilton Country Hotel, Fencehouses on Thursday, July 5<sup>th</sup> 2012. This is two days before the one day international between England and

Australia at the Riverside. "It's a real coup to get Graham on board. I'm not aware that he's done an after-dinner talk in the North East and we expect the dinner to be a sell out," said Chairman Malcolm Pratt. Like most sports clubs, Phili are feeling the effects of the recession and have been working hard to stabilise their financial position. Pratt added: "I retired four years ago but was asked by Ken Haswell, who took over from me, to come back and be responsible for the business side of the club. I launched an appeal in February and we've had a number of donations from members, some of whom now live in other parts of the country. Two of the three MEPs have also made donations and so too has the MP for Houghton and Sunderland South, Bridgett Phillipson. Everybody is pitching in but the icing on the cake is having Graham Gooch at our dinner. Other than the bank, we have no debts and nor have we reneged on any payments at any time."

*Sunderland Echo 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012*

## Senior League Bids Farewell

There was a startling air of normality on the final day of life in the Durham Senior League as Burnmoor celebrated the championship in style, Whitburn ended Castle Eden's unbeaten record, and Philadelphia took the wooden spoon.....Philadelphia will probably be glad of a fresh start next season after their 11<sup>th</sup> defeat of this 'annus horribillus' meant they finished bottom.

*Sunderland Echo 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012*

***And so they think it's all over and it is now.  
The final games have been played and sadly  
the Durham Senior League will now be  
consigned to history – but what a history.  
Chris West***

FINAL STANDINGS						
WARMSEAL DURHAM SENIOR LEAGUE						
	P	W	D	T	L	Pt
Burnmoor.....	24	13	9	0	2	396
Castle Eden.....	24	10	13	0	1	342
Whitburn.....	24	10	9	0	5	294
Horden.....	24	8	14	0	2	291
Felling.....	24	7	9	0	8	283
Kimbleworth.....	24	6	13	0	5	262
Durham City.....	24	4	15	0	5	236
Eppleton.....	24	4	18	0	2	235
Boldon.....	24	4	12	0	8	218
Marsden.....	24	5	9	0	10	200
South Hetton.....	24	2	15	0	7	190
Norton.....	24	3	10	0	11	170
Philadelphia.....	24	1	12	0	11	149

## Phili Busters!

Philadelphia did their former Durham Senior League colleagues Burnmoor a huge favour by toppling Esh Winning in a dramatic game. A superb all round display by Lee Innes turned Esh Winning's title dreams into a nightmare as they went down in the final over by a single wicket. Esh declared when their ninth wicket fell in the 45<sup>th</sup> over to ensure they would earn maximum points in the event of a subsequent victory, but they may well be rueing that decision now as Philadelphia's last pair held their nerve to squeeze out a dramatic win. Jalat Khan hit five fours and a six on his way to a top scoring 57, but Innes took four key wickets to stunt the Esh run flow. Then he turned on the style with the bat, cracking 12 fours and a six in a good looking 89 before becoming one of Paul Chivers four victims in the games penultimate over. The Phili run chase started badly with Anthony Hornby going first ball, and the team slipping to 34-4, but a century partnership restoked the boiler as Tom Raine (43) provided the crucial support for Innes. But when Innes finally went with ten balls remaining and ten runs still needed it took great nerve and no little skill from the last pair Peter Greenwell (24no) and Stephen Robinson (7no) to get their team over the line.

*Sunderland Echo 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2013*

## Durham Cricket League

It's been a busy old winter for the league executive as they completed the ground work for another historic season for the fledgling competition. The inaugural campaign in 2013 saw 26 clubs from three separate leagues thrown together in one division, the primary object being to determine the future pecking order based on the final table. And despite one or two changes of plan that pecking order has now been established, with 14 teams comprising the new First Division and 11 making up the new Second Division. Promotion and relegation between the two divisions will operate on a two up two down basis.

*Sunderland Echo 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014*

## Philadelphia Land Ex-Durham Supremo

Philadelphia CCC chairman Malcolm Pratt says his club will reap great rewards from the appointment of Geoff Cook as the performance director. The 65 year old ex-England player and former head coach at Durham started the new role last week. He will take training sessions with all teams from U11s up to the senior side. Pratt said: "I am over the moon that Geoff is joining us. He is regarded as one of the best coaches in the country and has a fantastic CV, having coached Durham to three County championships. It is a wonderful opportunity for our players, particularly the junior members, who Geoff will be coaching on a regular basis".

*Sunderland Echo March 9<sup>th</sup> 2017*

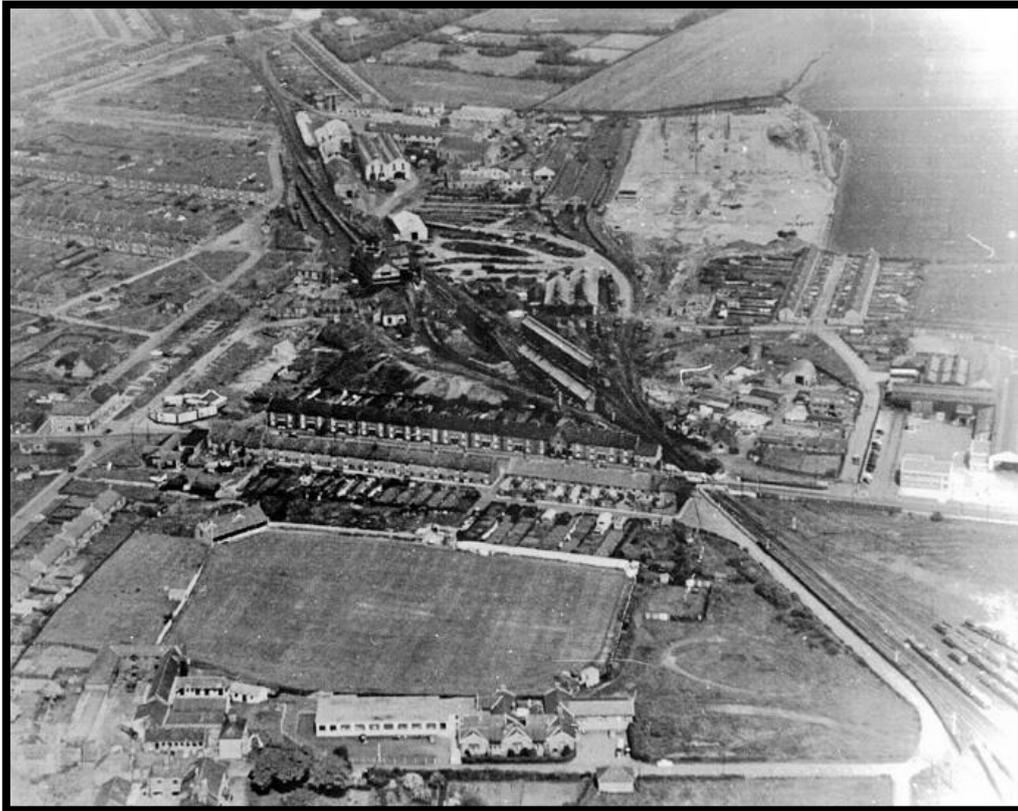
## Cricketer Aged 13 Stumps Opposition with Perfect Over

A 13-year-old bowler has produced the perfect over by taking six wickets in six balls. Each of the victims of paceman Luke Robinson was clean bowled in a match-winning performance for Philadelphia Community Cricket Club's under 13s based near Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne and Wear. His feat was made even more special as Luke's father Stephen was umpiring his mother Helen, was scoring, his younger brother, Mathew was fielding and his grandfather, Glenn, was watching from the boundary. Mr. Robinson, who coaches the team and plays for the senior side, said: "It was surreal. I have been playing for 30 years and have taken hat-ricks but never anything like this. Time stood still".

*The Times 12<sup>th</sup> August 2017*



*Luke Robinson pictured with Club coach Geoff Cook and Club Chairman Malcolm Pratt 2017*



*Aerial photograph of Philadelphia's Ground during the 1960's*



*Aerial photograph of the Bunker Hill Ground in September 2017*

## Around the Ground

Bunker Hill is a neat compact attractive ground with a distinctive slope. On a sunny day watching a game of cricket from the bank with a view over to Penshaw Monument can be a very pleasant experience. If you want a sun tan just sit on the pavilion side on a hot day and you will be roasted. Although the Shop Row backdrop has changed little, the remainder of the ground has altered considerably in the last twenty five years with the building of a new estate and a nursing home. Over one hundred years ago the original pavilion stood on the bank in the top right corner. Behind the boundary wall was an abattoir and a building known as the 'choppy house' where the hay was 'chopped up' to feed the pit ponies that were brought to be trained to haul the coal trucks. This was run under the watchful eye of the Head Horse keeper Mr Jack Pow Snr., who for many years was the secretary of Phili. In 2017 'choppy house corner' was cleared of years of rubbish and grass cuttings. Now landscaped it looks much better. A new pavilion was built in 1924 in the right hand bottom corner. A grand building it had three sections – two changing rooms and a tea room that eventually became a groundsman's room. For social occasions the dividers could be folded back revealing a fine 'long room' – like the one at Lords! In June 1953 due to the rain they held a big indoor 'street' party to celebrate the Queen's Coronation. Sadly the pavilion was destroyed by fire in 1995, but replaced by a new one four years later, designed by Phili player and architect Jim Mathewson. The scoreboard was originally on a site in the top left hand corner but thanks to the ladies committee a new one was paid for, repositioned and erected in 1973. Last year it had a makeover and an electronic board was installed. The clubhouse is in three sections. The club purchased a prefabricated building in 1957 and a small bar was installed. This was extended with a more permanent extension in the mid-sixties. The current bar was built in 1980. Thanks to Mike Hoban, Andrew Robinson and his dad Ken, ably assisted by Jim Paton, the whole clubhouse had a complete makeover in 2001 with the prefab (which had been used as temporary changing rooms between 1995 and 1999) giving way to a brick building, with new windows and patio doors. The club then had two distinct rooms, the bar lounge and the function room. In the autumn of 2016 the square was dug up, levelled, reseeded and a new drainage system installed. With the outfield also improved the ground now looks much healthier.



*Club steward Paul Thompson adjusting the Phili 'C'  
before the celebratory photo shoot*



*The Phili first team captain Shaun Smith receiving his commemorative cap April 2018. Shaun recorded one of the club's highest individual scores of 151 not out in May 2018*



*The current bar and function room overlooking the ground and the newly refurbished bar below 2018*



*Above left: Ken Robinson with the Phili ladies at the annual cricket match, raising money for Meningitis Research 2015  
Left: Ken Robinson on the right sitting with Mike Hoban at Whitburn 2001*



*Philadelphia Cricket and Community Club Senior Squad 2018*

## **From Changing Room to Boundary**

*Adam J. R. Walter joined PHILI in 1981 and is the longest serving continuous playing member. A Yorkshireman he was brought up watching cricket at Headingley and Park Avenue following his heroes Freddie Trueman and 'Sir' Geoffrey Boycott. He represented Salts in the Bradford League before coming to teach at Monkwearmouth School in Sunderland. Nicknamed 'Roddors' he and his wife Denise have been part of the team that have delivered the PHILI Challenge launched in 2013 to make the club sustainable again. Here he reflects on his time at PHILI, a cricket club he has been very proud to represent.*

Ewen Chatfield the New Zealand opening fast bowler was about to deliver the first ball of the 1981 season. I stood in the gully getting ready to crouch down when Bobby Johnson at second slip whispered across 'you're at Phili now son – be on it'. The captain, the legendary Tom Clish, had an imposing presence at short leg. He clapped his hands. You were immediately mentally switched on. The heart pumped as each ball was bowled. In the third over the batsman pushed forward to a ball outside the off stump. It nicked the edge of the bat and flew between me and Bobby who took off to his right and held a magnificent one handed catch. As I congratulated him he looked up 'See what I mean son – you're at Phili – we're the best!'

Such was the passion at Phili. Anyone coming into the club was immediately aware of its successful history the previous decade. Phili had won the Durham Senior League six years out of seven (along with many knock-out cups) and were rightly regarded as one of the leading clubs in north east cricket. The names of Tom Clish, Steve Greensword, Bobby Johnson, Stuart Wilkinson, John Robertson, Peter Graham, Dave Carr, Tommy Harland,

Dick Goodliffe, Norman Smith and Alan Summerill immediately spring to mind. Phili was made up of characters from all walks of life, a club I have always regarded as classless.

Since I had recently married and was living in Houghton, Dave Carr invited me to join the club. I was made very welcome, I enjoyed the challenge and it was a privilege to play for a number of years in the 1st XI with and against some quality cricketers. I recall an evening cup match at home in front of a big crowd against Whitburn. The architect of all Phili's success Tom Clish had me patrolling the 'choppy house corner' boundary. In came the great swashbuckling cavalier Eric Smith who wasted no time at all in putting bat to ball. One of his shots went towards the boundary like a bullet and in a flying attempt to stop the ball I tripped over and fell headlong into the grass cuttings. When I turned round, after dusting off my now grass stained whites, everyone was bent over laughing. However I redeemed myself not long after when Eric clouted an enormous skier which I managed to get under and take. The relief was palpable.

In 1982 Norman Graham arrived as the pro. An opening bowler he had enjoyed a successful career with Kent from 1964 to his benefit year in 1977. A towering six foot seven inches with size 14 boots 'Big Norm' had a great presence, warm smile and good sense of humour. This was tested one Saturday afternoon in May (during the Falklands conflict) when in the tea interval we filled his boots with soil and made them resemble ships. In the heel area several flags were planted, with an arrowed inscription 'Falklands this way'. Norman loved the joke and indeed his time at Phili. He was club professional the following year and played for the club as an amateur in his final season in 1984.

The arrival of the Indian test player Suru Nayak in 1985 proved to be a terrific signing. An all-rounder in all matches, he scored 1,241 runs and took 172 wickets. With John Robertson now club captain he galvanised a fine team that after winning their first game on 20th June we went on to win the Championship. Philip Raine, returning to the club scored heavily and along with the power batter Paul Burn, plus the spin of Peter Graham the club conquered all. The celebrations were legendary with Rodders Roadshow belting out the tunes (Come on Eileen, Dancing in the Dark etc.), Dave Carr performing his brilliant party piece the 'Farmer's Boy' and the exuberant Mr Raine leading a singsong on the old Johanna. Good times.

In 1987/88 the Pakistani all-rounder Wasim Raja turned out for Phili. A very stylish athletic player he had played for numerous local sides. To have a renowned international cricketer amongst our ranks was a coup for the club and an inspiration to everyone around him. He played in 54 tests / 57 ODIs. He sadly died in 2006 aged 54 whilst playing cricket for Surrey over 50's.

When I dropped down from playing for the first team regularly I became 2nd XI captain. I felt it was my responsibility to bring on the youngsters and prepare them for the challenge of first team cricket. I enjoyed my role and it was a pleasure to see the likes of Ian Potter,

Michael Kearney, Colin Hayes, John Pratt and the scorer Stephen Robinson go on to enjoy success in the first team. Meanwhile firm friendships were continued with Alan Kitchen (who served the club admirably for many years as 2nd XI skipper), David Lowerson, Stephen 'Diddler' Wardle and Chris Thwaites who is now the longest serving member of the 3rd team.

In the 1990's my involvement with playing regularly fell away as my family arrived. On one occasion though whilst fielding for the seconds at Bunker Hill my wife Denise arrived pushing son John in the buggy. As the bowler was about to deliver the ball John aged 18 months gave out a big yell. It was to our advantage since the opposing batsman's concentration was affected. "That your lad Rodders?" someone shouted. I embarrassingly nodded. I was promptly fined and when I went to appeal the fine was doubled! It was all in a good cause since in those days all teams at the end of the season counted the fines and enjoyed a night out.

In preparation for the Premier League the club appointed Steve Greensword as Team Manager. He was a natural fit as team manager and with Andrew Roseberry as team captain (plus current captain, a young Shaun Smith) the club prepared itself for a step up. After a very promising start, the time in the Premier League proved very difficult. Quality players came and went. Outstanding players in this period included Gavin Swan, Jim Allenby (who has carved out a successful career in county cricket) and locally born Scott Borthwick who played for Durham and England currently with Surrey. I remember opening the batting in the second XI at Norton in 2003 with a young 11 year old left hander called Ben Raine. He possessed a very correct technique, was an obvious talent and now plays professionally for Leicestershire. The connections abound, since his brother Tom, his father Stephen, and grandfather Bobby all have Phili pedigree.

Players understandably followed the money and when results went against the club, players began to leave. In losing its soul Phili lost its identity and loyalty. After four years 2002-2006 the club dropped out and returned to a now depleted Durham Senior League.

The club has been indebted to two families – the Haswell's and the Robinson's. Ken Haswell's involvement with Phili stretched over 37 years, playing and captaining at all levels. His commitment was enormous and his enthusiasm in running the junior academy plus the setting up of some very successful summer schools cannot be underestimated. With his wife Janet (who ran the first tuck shop in 2008) and their three playing sons Mattie, James and Johnny they formed a solid bond. As chairman and playing member Ken had to preside over a difficult period for the club when eventually he had to bow out for health reasons, the club was much the poorer.

The Robinson family have also had a very committed involvement. Father to Andrew, Stephen and Glenn (who sadly passed away in 1997) Ken has been a stalwart – running junior teams, building the scoreboard and function room and serving on the committee. In memory of his son, he set up with his wife Brenda the Glenn Robinson Appeal Fund in aid of Meningitis Research that to date has raised close on £100,000. Eldest son Andrew was a regular player and captain of the first team and in the early 2000's presided over a club

makeover. Younger brother Stephen has been a terrific servant namely as a successful opening 1st team bowler for many years and now as a player/ coach with the junior sides. With his wife Helen (who actively supporting the club in many ways) and their two talented sons Luke and Matthew the backbone of the club looks healthy.

Any sports club need people who give their time and energy. Mention must be given to a number of people who have helped the club namely the secretary John Pratt (3rd XI skipper) Ian and Shaun Hauxwell, Austin Carney, Jan Raine, Shaun and Andrea Smith, Ian Davison, Gordon and Irene Graves, Jonathon Walton, groundsman Paul Harris and club steward Paul Thompson. My apologies to anyone I have missed out.

Dave Carr has been a rock. Having been part of the 70's successful 1st team he has been a member for 47 years. A very committed faithful servant he has taken on many administration roles such as the summer and Christmas raffles, the fixture lists, part-time scorer, the monthly draw, sponsorship and his greatest achievement – organising the Beer and Music Festival. A genial fellow Dave is Phili through and through."

Arthur Potter was for over 50 years involved with the club as secretary and treasurer. Nothing phased him and he was always very pleasant with everyone. Now 90 and living in Cumbria with his daughter he still keeps very alert by doing some bookkeeping tasks for the club.

Finally, the man at the helm of Phili for over 60 years. Malcolm Pratt has served as chairman, secretary and treasurer. There can be no doubt that the club might well have folded without his financial expertise and wisdom. Since coming back as chairman in 2013 he has been virtually a full-time administrator, steering the club through many difficult situations many of which you never hear about. On occasions, in order to secure grants, he has had to support the club by some careful financial planning and juggling. The fact that Phili is now in a much healthier more stable position is down to Malcolm and his honest love of the club. It was through his connections with Durham CC that he managed to secure the services of Geoff Cook, one the best cricket coaches in the country. The club has a lot to be grateful for and with Beryl's support he has put the club on an even financial keel. Thank you Malcolm.

This summer will be my last in a playing capacity. I would like to thank all the lads for putting up with me over the last few years. Ask Gary Embleton who held the catch of the season at Mainsforth in 2014 – it rolled back the years! I carried on playing because we have been short of players. However that is no longer the case and with a vibrant sustainable club offering cricket to both men and women, boys and girls it is hoped Phili can push successfully upwards and create new memorable history. As custodians of the club Bobby Johnson would be thrilled!

I have thoroughly enjoyed collaborating with John Yearnshire on this book (thanks John for all your brilliant research) and hope it will stir many memories and conversations. Let's be confident that the game of cricket will survive for another 150 years at Phili.



*Denise and Adam Walter spearheaded the 'The Philadelphia Challenge' together with Chairman Malcolm Pratt*

### **The Philadelphia Challenge**

By 2012 the club was struggling and looking very tired. People's lifestyles and social drinking habits had changed. Work pressures, unpredictable shift patterns, economic downturn and new technology, curtailed the community spirit. The club needed a new direction. Finances were tight. The years in the Premier League had proved very costly and along the way the club had lost its 'soul'. Paying personnel was low and attracting new players was hard. Any success seemed a long way away. The team of Malcolm Pratt, and Denise and Adam Walter, recognised the club had to have a new focus and needed to reach out and become a hub once again for local people. With an eye on our 150th in 2018 the committee launched the 'Philadelphia Challenge.' Hence the name COMMUNITY was added to the club's name. Success in gaining charity status (unusual at that time for cricket clubs), opened new revenue streams and areas were identified for improvement. A new kitchen, accessible and upgraded toilets, plus external ramping led the way. The club was fortunate in being supported by a number of organisations to whom we will be eternally grateful for their professional expertise, guidance and encouragement especially when the going got tough! On one application referees included a Mayor, an MP and a Lord! Thanks to Dave Carr and the steward at the time Lisa Walker a beer and music festival was bravely planned in 2015 and is now an annual success. The current steward, Paul Thompson has been an invaluable asset to the club in bringing a calm professional presence along with a knowledgeable music expertise! With a stronger community involvement the club was then able to focus on the cricket side with ground improvements and player/coach personnel. In 2018, to coincide with our special anniversary a complete refurbishment of the clubhouse was undertaken and looks terrific. We are delighted.

### **The Mike Hoban Tapes**

*Compiled, between 2000-2005. Mike recorded interviews with Jack Pow, John Leadbitter, Fred Pearson, Reed Kitchen, Tom Clish and Arthur Potter. These tapes proved to be an invaluable source of information in recording the club's history. Whilst in the Premier League, his wife Jean was the club scorer whilst their two sons; Neil played in the juniors and Graham represented the first team. Sadly Mike died in March 2017 aged 70.*



*Phili Second XI Champions 2015*



*Jubilant Celebrations at Phili*



*Above left: Second XI captain Gary Embleton receiving his commemorative cap  
Above right: The 150<sup>th</sup> Celebratory Flag being hoisted by the Mayor of Sunderland 2018*



*September 2015 visually impaired cricket at Bunker Hill Durham v. Nottingham*



*The First Beer Festival held at Philadelphia Cricket and Community Club July 2015*



*Left: The oldest member of Philadelphia Cricket and Community Club Gordon Graves with friends 2015*



*Philadelphia Cricket and Community Club April 2018*



£7.99