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### CLACKMANNAN COUNTY CRICKET CLUB.

It is somewhat difficult to say when Cricket was first played in Alloa, or when the first Club was formed. It may have been in the late fifties, but it is certainly within recollection that there was a Cricket Club in Alloa in the early sixties. The first Club was probably the Alloa Club which played in a field on the north side of Claremont, later in one on the south side, and later still in a field now occupied by Church Street. The Clackmannan County Cricket Club was probably instituted about 1866 and had the support of the late Lord Mar, who with his brothers the Hon. Augustus and Hon. Charles Erskine frequently played in the team. Lord Mar granted the use of Alloa Park as a ground, entrance at the Bowhouse Farm. This was changed later to the entrance at the lodge at Clackmannan Road, and later still to the Park below the Tower, entrance by Candleriggs. The first Captain was the late Mr Matthew Brydie, and then as now the Club received great support from the families in connection with the brewing trade in the Town including Youngers, Blairs, M'Nellans, M'Lays and Maitlands. In the early seventies the County possessed a very strong team, the members of which in addition to representatives of the above families included Mr Matthew Brydie, (Captain) T. Brydie, C. L. Morrison, D. Laird, F. G. Ewing, J. A. C. Brown, W. J. Chambers and Forrester Thomson. Very few of the original members are now alive with the exception of Lord Younger, Jas. Younger, J. A. C. Brown, Forrester Thomson and James M'Lay. Amongst matches played by the Club were the following :-Stirling County, Aberdeenshire, Drumpellier, Lasswade, East Stirlingshire, Dumbarton County, Granville, Edinburgh University, Carlton, Dunfermline and Arbroath, etc.

For a short time the Club having lost their ground at Alloa Park was in abeyance, during the year 1887 it was reconstituted under the Captaincy of John A. C. Brown occupying a field at Bellevue, shifting later to the Arns in 1890. A photograph in existence gives the names of the following players in 1888.

J. A. C. Brown (Capt.), F. Hauptman, D. Bowie, S. Henderson, H. Melville, Louis Sharkey, J. Duff, J. Richardson, J. M. Hepburn, W. Reid and A. Hunter.

One of the principal fixtures of the Season was the match between the eleven captained by the late Lord Mar and the Officers of the Stirling Castle Garrison. The first Professional engaged by the Club was a Yorkshire man named Monsell, who was a very fine fast bowler, and a fairly good bat. He was followed by Hogg.

#### ERRATA.

On p. 3-" A. Gifford Muir" should read "A. Gifford Moir".

On p. 8—"P. Edwards, c. Lamont b. Lamont" should read "P. Edwards, c. Lamont b. Wilson"; and

"A. Sutherland, b. Lamont" should read "A. Sutherland, b. Wilson".





2-4

G. F. PIGGOTI Hon. Secy.



T. A. BOWIE Captain



ROBT. CAIRNS Vice-Capt. 8 yrs.



The Late C. F. YOUNGER



The Late A. GIFFORD MUIR



ARTHUR WEST Playing Member since 1902

Other professionals who served the Club were Bestwick in 1890. Peter Bell who was with the club for three years and went to Stewart's College, Harry Bolton who rendered great service for four years and still holds a Scottish record for taking 10 wickets for 9 runs against Heriotonians in Edinburgh in 1896, Bolton is still playing as a pro fessional with Helensburgh C.C. Sykes a Yorkshireman came next; he was a very good bat and left in 1899. Lowe came in 1900 and Green in 1901. In 1902 Arthur West of Derbyshire was engaged and in him the County found a real reliable capable player. From 1902 to the outbreak of the Great War West carried the brunt of the bowling on his shoulders and it was a most unusual thing if 50 wickets did not fall to him during any season. He had many fine bowling performances and he was also a very reliable bat. Against Lasswade in 1904 he scored 103 runs and took 8 wickets for 61 runs. In this match when bowling he broke one bail which was replaced by a black one and when taking the next wicket this bail disappeared and although search was made everywhere the black bail was never found. Surely black magic this !

His finest performances have, however, always been put up in County Championship matches. Since the War West has played as an amateur and has retained much of his old form and had a very great share in winning the Championship for Clackmannan in 1924. West's continued good form is remarkable when one remembers that he came to Alloa 24 years ago.

Among prominent amateurs during the past 35 years mention must be made of J. A. C. Brown who played for over 30 years. F. W. Osgood, Dr Younger, F. Hauptman, William Dodds, J. B. Harvey, Harold Paton (killed in the Boer War), Tom Scott, W. G. Storrier, John Kay who was Captain for three years, F. D. Porteous, Louis Sharkey, Charles F. Younger, Captain in 1914 a very fine bowler who played for Scotland against South Africa and was killed when serving in France, A. G. Moir a very fine bat killed at the Second Battle of Ypres, J. M. Hepburn and A. F. Gilmour.

Among players still to the fore who were playing before the war are Col. James Younger, Captain in 1904, 1905 and 1909, President of the Club 1921-23 and President of the Scottish Cricket Union in 1924 who is still scoring many runs; T. A. Bowie of whom more anon.; Robt. Cairns, 8 times vice-captain; (a fine all round player), A. West; Mark Wilson and captain R. G. Moir.

Like other Clubs Clackmannan County suffered severely in the Great War, and 29 players gave their lives for their Country. Their names are inscribed on a tablet in the Pavilion erected by Mr T. S. Knox who has taken such a marked interest in the Club's doings.

A record of the Club would not be complete without a special reference to the present Captain, T. A. Bowie. This fine player has led his side in



Colonel The Hon. JAMES YOUNGER, D.S.O. President, Scottish Cricket Union, 1924



Dr. J. YOUNGER Hon. Treas. Since 1892



T. S. KNOX Pres. 1902-1920 and 1924



A. F. GILMOUR Assist Sec. & Treas, for 24 years



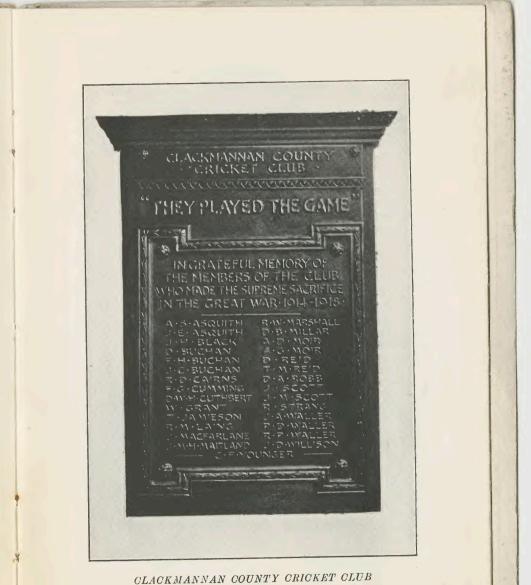
J. M. HEPBURN Hon. Secy, 1892-1920 29 years some 15 seasons and altogether has been playing continuously for nearly 30 years. It is not over-stating facts to describe him as far and away the best bat and all round player the Club has possessed. He has exceeded the century on the following occasions 1899, 104 against Stirling Garrison; 1900, 122 not out v Stewarts College F.P.; 1901, 106 not out against Leith Franklin; 1903, 115 against Stirling County; 1910, 131 not out against Fife; 1920, 167 not out against Perthshire; 1922, 105 against Perthshire; 1924, 129 against Stenhousemuir. Before the war in company with West and C. F. Younger much of the bowling fell on his shoulders. In 1913 with R. G. Moir against Fettes College he established a record for the County team by scoring 200 runs without loss. A stylish forcing batsman he is an excellent model for any budding cricketer to follow. Mr Bowie has played in the following international matches v Ireland 1911-13; Northampton 1913; South Africa 1912; Australia 1904, 1909, 1912 and other matches before the Scottish Union was formed.

Clackmannan County has been well served by its office-bearers. Dr Younger has been Honorary Treasurer since 1892. Mr J. M. Hepburn was Honorary Secretary from 1892 to 1921 (29 years), Mr A. F. Gilmour assisted him for 24 years from 1897 to 1921. Mr T. S. Knox was formerly President from 1902 to 1921 (19 years), and for 2 years was Vice President and last year he was again elected to his old office. Mr W. Tod Ritchie was appointed Secretary in 1921 and Mr G. F. Piggott the present Secretary in 1923.

In order to foster junior cricket a Works' Competition was started 4 years ago, and an opportunity is thus afforded for bringing on young players. The Club owes a great debt of gratitude to Dr James Younger, who on a great many occasions has come to the assistance of the Club financially in addition to being years ago an active playing member. His generous annual subscription is given on condition that the Alloa Academy boys are given every opportunity to learn the game. The Club just now is on a fairly sound financial basis, and its membership has considerably increased.

Referring to the Club's fine performance in winning the Scottish Counties' Championship in 1924 a special record must be noted of the remarkable bowling of N. M. Halley, who in the match against Fifeshire on August 2nd took 6 wickets for 7 runs. During the season he secured 43 wickets at a cost of 8.39 each. A. West took 63 wickets for 11.27 per wicket and was most consistent throughout the season. Mark Wilson saved the match against Perthshire at Alloa, when he took the last four wickets at very trifling cost. His season's performance was 40 wickets for 13.05 per wicket.

As a "tie" is an unusual happening we give the full score of the Match v Perthshire on 14th June, 1924. It was a most exciting finish.



CLACKMANNAN COUNTY CRICKET CLUB WAR MEMORIAL

#### CLACKMANNAN COUNTY C.C. v PERTHSHIRE, 14th June, 1924.

#### C.C. C.C. (A tie).

T. A. Bowie, b. Gardiner	• •				18
N. M. Halley, c. and b. Ferguson				• •	11
R. Cairns, c. and b. Ferguson	· · ·		• •		0
A. B. Lamont, c. Sutherland, b. Gardiner			• •		7
Mark Wilson, c. Ferguson, b. Honeyman					<b>34</b>
J. Bowie, c. Gardiner, b. Ferguson					9
Col. Younger, c. Edwards, B. Honeyman					6
A. West, c. Sutherland, b. Ferguson					8
R. L. Wilson, b. Honeyman					<b>2</b>
J. Morrison, not out					6
R. S. Hepburn, b. Gardiner					3
Extras		-			12
				_	

Total 116

#### PERTHSHIRE.

A. B. Shaw, c. T. A. Bowie, b. Halley							28
W. W. Murdoch, c. Younger, b. West							1
T. McPherson, c. Lamont, b. Halley					•		40
J. A. Ferguson, b. West							0
P. L. Gardiner, c. Lamont, b. Wilson		•			•	• •	34
P. Brown, b. Halley							0
A. J. Stewart, run out		•			•		3
J. Halley, b. Wilson min			•••	•	•		4
P. Edwards, c. Lamont, b. Lamont / Concerne	•			•			0
A. Sutherland, b. Lamont M. Cont.	•				•		0
W. Honeyman, not out	•	•	• •	•	·		0
Extras	• •		• •				6

#### Total 116

77

During 1924 the fielding of the team reached a very high standard and as there are a number of rising young players coming along, the prospects for 1925 are bright. The Club for 1925 has engaged Harry Elliot (Derbyshire) as professional for the coming season.

To mark the winning of the Counties' Championship, the President Mr T. S. Knox, together with a few kind friends are to erect a clock on the Pavilion. This has been a long-felt want.



J. A. C. BROWN Captain 1887-1892





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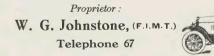
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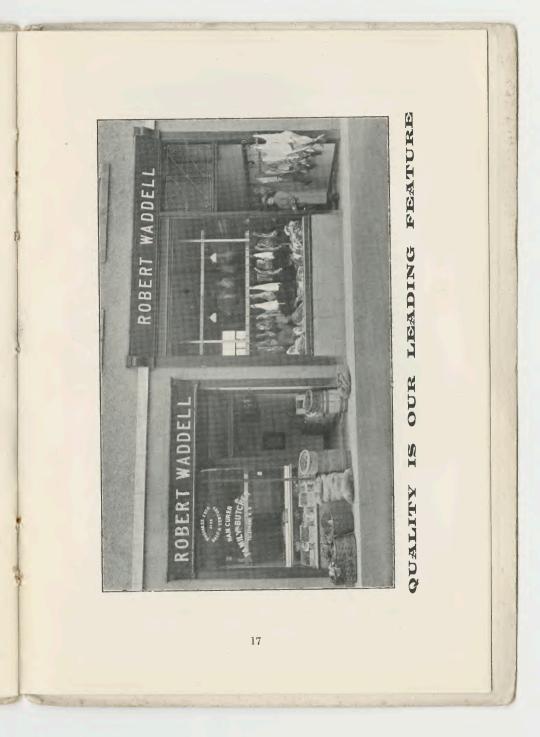
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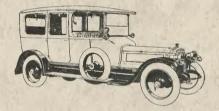
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