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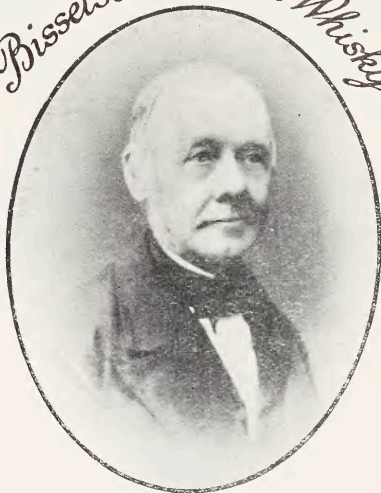
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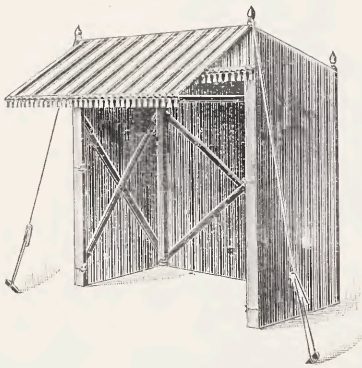
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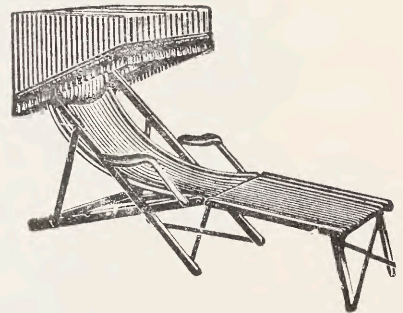
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# Aberdeenshire Cricket Club.

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ARTHUR BROADBENT. J. M. DUNN.  
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*Captain of the County XI.* - - - - - A. S. CATTO.  
*Captain of the Mannofield XI.* - - - - - H. A. S. MATSON.

## Foreword and Acknowledgments.

THE objects of the Bazaar are manifold, the principal of these being to re-build, or otherwise enlarge, the Pavilion, which, with a Club Membership of 442, is now quite inadequate; to renew and extend the Seating for the spectators, and to provide Shelters, which in this variable northern clime are all too frequently sought for; to repair and improve the Field Drainage, which in recent years has given trouble; and in general to establish the Club in a position more worthy of its ancient and honourable record of which a synopsis is given later.

Unlike the aim of the majority of Bazaars, the retrieving of a load of debt does not, to any material extent, form an object of this endeavour, as the Club at the close of season 1926, after three years of unrelaxing effort, found itself with funds in hand, at various accounts, amounting to £265 15s. 1d. against a Bond of only £400, secured by a Ground, etc., of many times that value, thus showing a net debt of £134 4s. 11d., as contrasted with £892 16s. 2d. at the commencement of season 1924—a reduction of no less than £758 11s. 3d. And it may be remarked that even better figures would have been produced but for the loss of two or three important “gates” owing to bad weather.

These details of the financial position of the Club are given merely to show that the management is in good hands, and the Club therefore feels fully justified in calling upon all its members and friends, all lovers of the noble game, and the public generally, to attend the Bazaar and give their unstinted support, and thereby further the worthy aims of a venerable institution, whose endeavour it has always been to foster the best traditions of King Cricket.

To express adequate thanks, individually, to all who have worked for the Bazaar and otherwise helped, would be a colossal task, and the Club needs must just assure all who have in any way assisted that their work is most gratefully appreciated. It would be ungracious to close, however, without recording the Club's very deep sense of gratitude to Mr. Williams of Park, for very many years an Ordinary Life Member, not only for consenting to open the Bazaar, but for all his help and benefactions during the years that are gone. In the days when it was the custom of the Club to have an Honorary President and Honorary Vice-Presidents, Mr. Williams' name always appeared in the latter category, and it is recalled that in 1897,



when the Club greatly needed assistance, he most generously made a donation of over £500 to its funds, followed in 1906 by a bequest of £100 from his mother. His brother, the late Mr. James Williams, also gave of his best in the service of the Club, particularly as Chairman of Committee, which office he held for some ten years up to October, 1910, and it is not forgotten that the two brothers brought the South African XI. to Aberdeen in 1901 entirely at their own expense.

This Foreword would be sadly lacking also were the closure to be applied without a reference to our worthy President, Mr. Charles W. Mackie, who has guided the Club's destinies continuously since his election to the office in October, 1914. He has indeed been an outstanding factor in the progress of the Club during all the intervening years, sparing himself neither in time nor in labour, and the promise he gave, at the end of 1923, to hand over £550 to the Club as soon as it became entirely clear of debt, proved a tremendous incentive and inspiration to the Committee, and especially to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. John M. Dunn, C.A., and the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Hugo D. Barker, who were elected to the respective offices at the commencement of 1924. These two members worked enthusiastically together with marked success until the end of Season 1925, when, owing to pressure of business, Mr. Dunn resigned and Mr. C. H. Webster was elected in his place. The latter, a great lover of the game, signalled his appointment by increasing the membership by no less than 150 during the following year (1926) at the end of which Mr. Barker handed over his duties into the capable hands of Mr. Alan McBain, C.A., who is carrying on the good work with Mr. Webster. The gratifying results of the sustained effort of the past three years are stated on the preceding page.

To the Patrons for their valued support; to the Donors of all the various gifts for the Lucky Dip; to Mr. W. W. Carry for the handsome gold watch for the Boys' Competition; to Mr. George Martin Gray for lending all the equipment for the side shows; to the *Aberdeen Press and Journal*, *The Bon-Accord* and *Northern Pictorial*, and The Simmath Press, Ltd., Dundee, for the use of their photographs; to Mr. Taylor of Messrs. W. & W. Lindsay for his help in producing this little book; to all the Stall-holders and Assistants, helpers and workers all, and in particular to Mrs. Charles W. Mackie, who has performed wonders of work and organisation; to all these, the Club, from the oldest member to the youngest, returns most sincere thanks, and in a special degree to Mr. R. Findlay Crabb who has given priceless assistance as Bazaar Secretary.



Aberdeenshire XI, 1921—Scottish Counties' Championship Winners.





Aberdeenshire and Kent Elevens at Mannofield, September, 1923.



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Mrs. REID, KINGSHILL.

Mrs. R. S. CLARK, FERRYHILL HOUSE.

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Committee—

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J. M. DUNN.

C. E. BEVERIDGE.

H. A. S. MATSON.

ARTHUR BROADBENT.

ALAN MCBAIN.

A. S. CATTO.

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D. G. COCHRAN.

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1923



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1924



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1926



DR. R. S. CLARK,  
1925



A. S. CATTO,  
1927

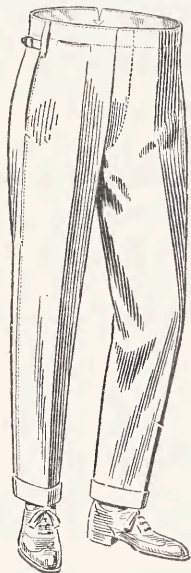




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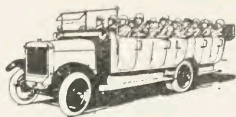
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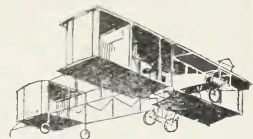
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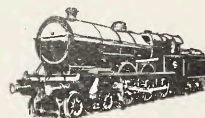
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Mr. S. M. CANNON.

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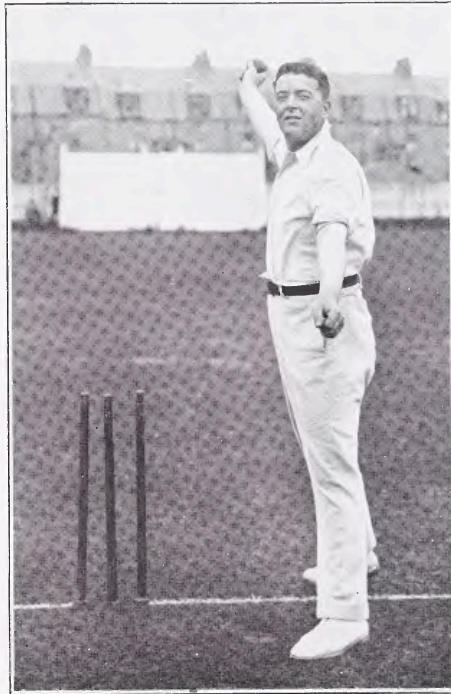
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The Happy Band at Perth, 1926—Before the Match.



## Some Gleanings from the Records.

IN setting out to write a few notes on the History of the Aberdeenshire Cricket Club, one cannot but deplore the fact that Minute Books and Annual Reports prior to 1903 are not in the Club's possession, and that the Score Books also do not appear to have been treasured until quite recently. It has not been possible in the time available to go through old newspaper files for information, and the writer, therefore, for the most part, has simply had recourse to the old Bazaar Book of 1888, kindly lent by that great lover of cricket, Mr. A. J. Raeburn, Ellon, and has just amplified and brought up-to-date the excellent short History of the Club, written by the late Dr. Mutch, which was published by the Club in the form of a Handbook a few seasons ago.

It should be an incentive to members to do their utmost for the Club, not only at the present time but at all times, if they would keep in mind the hard work that must have been done by their predecessors, and the generous sacrifices that must have been made from time to time, to keep the Club in being during all the seventy years since its foundation in April, 1857, by the late James Forbes Lumsden. Cricket of a sporadic nature was played in Aberdeen before then, but in that year he and other sixteen enthusiasts formed themselves into a Club under the title of the "Aberdeen Cricket Club," with the special objects of uniting the cricketers of Aberdeen in one club and of obtaining the use of a private ground. In October of the same year, by which time the membership had increased to forty-eight, the lease of a piece of ground, four acres in extent, was secured near what is now Queen's Cross. This became known as the "Albyn Place Ground," but play continued on The Links until the new ground was formally opened on the afternoons of Saturdays, the 18th and 25th September, 1858, by a match against the Officers of the Depot Battalion. The Aberdeen Club was represented by W. Paterson (Senior), T. S. Sinclair, R. M. Henderson, A. G. Pirie, J. F. Lumsden, J. Turner, R. Latter, A. Edward, A. McDonald, T. B. Glover, and W. A. Alexander, and the scores were—Aberdeen, 71 and 69, and the Officers of the Depot, 28 and 105. During this year the number of members increased to eighty-seven, including honorary members, and the position of the Club was regarded as so firmly established that, at the Annual General Meeting, held on 30th November, 1858, "The

“Chairman, in the name of the Club, presented Mr. Lumsden with a handsome “Oak Box containing 2 bats, gloves, and leg guards, and a gold pencil case, as “a testimonial for his services as Secretary.”

The beginning of Season 1859 found the Club nicely settled on the new ground, and this year is to be remembered as, during it for the first time, Aberdeen cricketers were successful against the Perth Club. The match, which was the fifth contest between the two towns, took place on the North Inch of Perth, on 2nd July, and the victory was by the substantial margin of an innings and 5 runs.

In June, 1860, Harry Lilywhite was engaged as Professional to the Club, and on 13th and 14th July, the Grange Club of Edinburgh visited Aberdeen for the first time, and defeated the local Club by eight wickets. In September of the same year, the first match played against the cricketers of Inverness took place on the Albyn Place Ground and resulted in an easy win for the home side.

In August, 1862, the first match between Elevens representing the Town and the County took place, and this was probably the beginning of a widening influence on the part of the Aberdeen Club, as we find the name changed at the Annual General Meeting, on 20th June, 1867, to the present title of the “Aberdeenshire Cricket Club.”

During the Season 1864, matches against the Perth and the Grange Clubs were again played, but this was the last season at Albyn Place. Great difficulty was experienced in getting a new ground which was not secured until November, 1865, when a lease was taken of a piece of ground bounded, approximately, by what is now Irvine Place, Allan Street, Broomhill Road, and Pitstruan Place. This became known as the Holburn Ground. Play was again carried on at The Links during Seasons 1865 and 1866, but no matches were undertaken.

On 6th July, 1867, the new ground which had been laid out at a cost of £245, no small sum in those days, was opened by a match between two Elevens of Members, and on the 22nd of the same month, Arbroath made their first appearance in Aberdeen. This match resulted in a win for the Aberdeenshire Club by an innings and 86 runs, but in the return match at Arbroath the following month the tables were turned, the County Club being defeated by an innings and 16 runs.

A very remarkable match took place on the Holburn Ground on 20th July, 1868, when Arbroath, in their first innings, were dismissed for two runs,

one being from a stroke to leg and the other the result of an over-throw. The scores were, Aberdeenshire, 19 and 122, and Arbroath, 2 and 41 for 7 wickets. It was in that year also that Andrew Higgins first played for Aberdeenshire, turning professional the following season, a post which he held, with short breaks, for many a year. He was associated with the Club in various capacities until 1912.

In 1872, M.C.C. paid their first visit to Aberdeen, which they revisited in 1873, 1874, 1876, and 1902, and in 1873 a United South of England Eleven visited the city. This eleven consisted of W. G. Grace, Jupp, R. Humphrey, W. R. Gilbert, G. F. Grace, Silcock, Charlwood, Lilywhite, T. Humphrey, Southerton and Howitt, the opposition being twenty-two of Aberdeenshire and the North-Eastern Counties. It is recorded that the guarantee fund in connection with this match was handsomely supported by the Perthshire Club.

Besides the usual annual matches, the County of Clackmannan played against the Club at Aberdeen in 1874, and an eleven from Aberdeenshire, with Higgins given, met the Clydesdale Club at Perth. The latter match was won by Aberdeenshire by six runs.

Little of note occurred in the history of the Club until 1877, when an eleven played at Alloa, for the first time, against Clackmannan County, and the following day opened the new ground of the Stirlingshire Cricket Club at Stirling.

During season 1881, two matches were played against Edinburgh Academicals, one at Edinburgh and the other at Aberdeen, whilst the usual Perthshire match, played on the North Inch on 29th and 30th August, resulted in one of the most exciting finishes that has occurred in the annals of the Club. Batting first, Aberdeenshire scored 57, to which Perthshire replied with 98. Going in a second time, Aberdeenshire, with 9 wickets down, required one run to save an innings defeat, but the tenth wicket added 34 runs, and Perthshire were then dismissed for 26, thus leaving Aberdeenshire victorious by 7 runs.

The following season, Aberdeenshire dismissed Forfarshire in their first innings for 19 runs, winning the match by 7 wickets, and also defeated Grange in a single innings match by 54 runs, W. Mackinnon being largely responsible for this result by contributing an admirable 58.

Season 1884 is known as "Mitchell's year," when, though he failed to secure a century, his average was 73.375 for 13 innings. He was one of the best batsmen the county ever had.



A notable feature of season 1885 was the Perthshire match on the North Inch, when J. T. Soutar captured 10 Aberdeenshire wickets in the first innings and 5 in the second at a cost of under 3 runs each, winning the match for Perth by an innings and 40 runs.

On 17th January, 1887, with the generous help of members and friends, the present ground at Mannofield, extending to just over 6 acres, was acquired at a cost of £1,100, levelling, draining, enclosing and generally adapting the ground for cricket costing about £700 more. It was to help the Club to repay these sums that the bazaar of 1888 was held. In 1890 the Club's headquarters were transferred to the new ground, which was formally opened on 9th May of that year.

Schofield Haigh, who was fulfilling his first professional appointment, was professional to the Club in 1891. In view of his great record with Yorkshire in after years, it is interesting to note that one local critic commenting on the new prof., ventures this observation, "The general opinion of those who know is that he will come along well." For once general opinion was right! He was at Mannofield for three seasons, after which he went to Perthshire. His records with Aberdeenshire, although creditable, show nothing of the greatness that he later developed with Yorkshire. Hall's North of England Eleven visited Aberdeen in 1892, 1893 and 1894. This team included such famous players as Briggs, Mold, Watson (Lancashire), Hall, Tunnicliffe, Hill, Wandall (Yorkshire), Flowers (Notts), Storer (Derby) and Pougher (Leicester). The closing years of the last century were uneventful, but the visit of the South African team in 1901, when they opposed Aberdeenshire, is one of the outstanding features in the Club's history. The South African XI. consisted of W. A. Shalders, E. A. Halliwell, A. Reid, M. Bisset, B. C. Cooley, A. Bisset, R. Graham, C. F. Prince, J. I. Difford, G. D. Rowe and J. J. Kotze. The South Africans won by 184 to 90.

With the inauguration of the Scottish Counties Championship in 1902, the most recent period of the Club's history begins, and the first match under S.C.C. auspices played by Aberdeenshire was against Fifeshire at Cupar on 5th May, when the home team won by 94 to 38. Aberdeenshire's team read: J. A. Scharenguival, R. T. Reid, W. Webster, W. Kitson, W. S. Brown, W. Mackintosh, F. Baxter, H. H. Smith, E. Gibb, Dr. Lawson and Johnson. In this year that fine cricketer, R. T. Reid, was easily first in the batting averages with 37.57 for 21 innings, and had also the excellent bowling average of 30 wickets for 8.5 runs each.



A. S. CATTO (right) and D. D. CALLAGAN.  
Aberdeenshire *v.* University, 7th May, 1927.



The Aberdeenshire XI. against Perthshire, 4th June, 1927.



The following year the Mannofield club won the championship, only after an exciting match with Forfarshire at Forthill, where Aberdeenshire secured a draw; scores: Forfarshire 197, Aberdeenshire 193 for nine. Had Forfarshire won they would have been champions.

In the S.C.C. fixture at Mannofield in 1904, Hoskisson, the Stirling professional, had dismissed two Mannofield batsmen with successive deliveries, and a lad of eighteen who was making his debut for his county was next in, and not only thwarted the bowler of his "hat trick," but went on to score 37 runs, when he fell to a great catch at square leg. That is how R. G. Tait burst into first-class cricket, which he adorned for many a day. His average for the season in S.C.C. matches was 33.75 for five innings, and the history of the Club for the next four seasons is pretty much a record of Tait's accomplishments.

The match with Forfarshire at Forthill in 1905 was a remarkable one. The home side batted first and scored 182. Aberdeenshire opened with W. Webster and R. G. Tait, who scored 88 for the first wicket, then A. Lindsay captured four wickets with 5 balls, including the "hat trick," and the last wicket fell with the fifth ball of the last over, a minute from time, with the score 151.

At the close of 1906, Aberdeenshire were joint champions with Forfarshire. The most remarkable match of that year was against Stirling at Williamsfield, where Tait scored 161, not out, out of Aberdeenshire's total of 216. In fact he scored more runs in that match than the other 21 players put together, as Stirling were all out for 81. The name of J. A. Scharenguivel disappears from the averages after 1906. In his first year for the Club (1899), he appears to have been played as a bowler, but afterwards developed into a glorious batsman, probably one of the best that ever turned out for the County.

Next season (1907) against Arbroath, Tait recorded the highest score made in Aberdeen, 214. To commemorate the Club's jubilee that year, a dinner was held in the Imperial Hotel on 26th October. Mr. J. Forbes Lumsden, the founder of the Club, presided, and during the evening, Mr. J. R. F. Elsmie, on behalf of the Club, presented him with an address, containing the signatures of past and present members, and he was also asked to choose a gift to mark the Club's appreciation of the great work he had done for it during the whole of its existence. At this dinner also the opportunity was taken to present R. G. Tait with a present as a memento of his having scored over 1000 runs during the season.

Aberdeenshire again won the championship in 1908, and on 3rd August at Castle Park, against Huntly, Tait recorded the highest individual score, 265, in the history of the Club.

His departure for Forfarshire the following year was a great loss to Aberdeenshire cricket. At this juncture it is well to give a few facts about R. G. Tait. In eleven seasons he scored 10,343 runs and 23 centuries (fifteen times "not out") including two double centuries. His average for his cricket career which was brought to a close in 1914, was 42.20 in S.C.C. matches. Tait played for Scotland 12 times. At the age of nineteen, in his first representative match, Scottish Counties *v.* M.C.C., he scored 113, and with Joe Anderson put up a record first wicket stand for North Inch, where the game took place.

Not until 1912, when Aberdeenshire made their greatest "capture," did anything of outstanding note take place. It was in that year that Arthur Broadbent took up residence in the City, and he has been of inestimable value to the Club since, and has performed many fine feats for the County. But as a set-off against the acquisition of "Arthur," it is noticed that the name of W. Webster disappears from the lists of averages subsequent to this year, and it is fitting at this point to pay tribute to his great performances for the Club. He was top of the batting averages in the County matches in 1905, with 35.5 for 8 innings, and in the similar games of 1907 he headed the bowling averages with 19 wickets at a cost of 4.73. In the other years of the County Championship from 1902-1912, he was seldom far from the top and actually scored no fewer than 8 centuries. The present Pavilion was opened on 18th May, 1912.

When cricket was resumed in 1919, as no S.C.C. matches were played Aberdeenshire confined their attention to local fixtures, and after a hard struggle with Huntly in the final won the Aberdeenshire Cup for the first time.

The following season was a very lean one, the one redeeming factor being a surprise win over Perthshire at Mannofield. The visitors closed at 142 for 8 wickets, leaving Aberdeenshire 75 minutes to bat, and that fine all-round cricketer, J. G. Scott, of Huntly, scored at such a terrific rate that he brought out his century in just over an hour, and enabled his side to win by seven wickets, the winning hit for a single being made just on the stroke of time.

The advent of Captain G. W. A. Alexander makes 1921 a memorable year. He came at once to the very forefront of Scottish cricket, and in his first match for his Country scored 63 runs against the famous Australian team at Edinburgh. Aberdeenshire won the Championship comfortably for which they had

to thank Captain Alexander, whose batting average for 10 innings in S.C.C. fixtures was 51·55, and A. Broadbent, who captured 45 wickets for 8·26 runs each.

Although the record for 1922 was not so brilliant as that of the previous season, Aberdeenshire retained the Championship. There were one or two outstanding individual performances. Against Arbroath at Mannofield, Armstrong scored 180, and on the same ground, against Stirling County, J. Berry secured 8 wickets for 24 runs. The batting averages for S.C.C. matches were exceedingly good, five players having an average of over 20, Captain Alexander, 51·33, J. Berry, 44·00, C. H. Webster, 26·11, R. G. McKerron, 25·44, and A. Broadbent, 20·71.

Here it should be remarked that the County sides during Seasons 1921 and 1922 were in the charge of that fine sportsman and excellent captain, C. H. Millar, and it is gratifying also to remember that the triumphs of these years were gained by *amateurs* of Aberdeen and the County, professionals being excluded from S.C.C. matches after the War until Season 1925.

Captain Alexander was skipper in Season 1923 which is memorable for the visits of Leicestershire and Kent. The former played a Scottish Counties XI. which included Captain Alexander, C. H. Webster, A. Broadbent, and J. G. Scott of the County side. Captain Alexander recorded 112 not out, the highest score of the match. On 5th and 6th September Kent County who were represented by J. L. Bryan, A. F. Bickmore, Seymour, Woolley, C. S. Hurst, Hardinge, Collins, Hubble, L. H. W. Troughton, C. J. Capes, and Freeman, played Aberdeenshire. The match was drawn, scores—Kent, 173 and 116 for eight wickets; Aberdeenshire, 148 and 73 for five wickets. This was Captain Alexander's last season with the Club, and just before his departure to Malta in the late autumn a Dinner was given at which he and Arthur Broadbent were presented with suitable gifts in recognition of their signal services to the Club.

Seasons 1924, 1925, and 1926, were distinctly disappointing in results despite the fact that in each of them the team was in the charge of men of excellent cricketing ability and experience.

In the first of these years, Arthur Broadbent captained the County XI., and now that he contemplates retiring from the game, not on account of old age, for he is still a very young 48, but because of pressure of business and a "dicky" knee, it is fitting that reference should be made to his great services to the Club. As stated previously, he came to Aberdeen in 1912, and next year



he was elected to the Management Committee, on which he has served ever since, his counsel, especially on practical matters relating to the ground, having been of inestimable value to the Club. Always a forceful and attractive batsman, he has scored three centuries for the Club and among his bowling feats may be mentioned his 6 wickets for 13 against Stirling in 1913; 5 for 15 against Fifeshire in 1914; and his 8 for 24 against Stirling in 1921. It is hoped the genial Yorkshireman will yet be able to turn out again.

Next year (1925) R. S. Clark was Captain. He had a batting average of 31·5 that year, but has really never struck his real form since his return, and it may be of interest to the younger members who may not have seen Clark play in pre-war days that he was top of the County averages in 1904 (45·75), 1911 (34·20), and 1912 (39·20). His best cricket, however, appears to have been produced for Devon, where in the Minor Counties matches in 1921, he was first in the batting averages of the County with 43·8—most excellent figures in such good cricket.

Last year it was hoped that D. G. Cochran, who stands so high in the esteem and affection of all the members, would have the honour of pulling the County up to the top of the Championship Table again, but results were no better.

And now with the 1927 series of matches opened with a memorable win over Clackmannan; with an outstanding bowler in Horsley, the Professional, who is also a good batsman and a most excellent coach; and with a team of younger men, who are working heart and soul for victory under the direction of that great enthusiast, A. S. Catto, the new Skipper, the outlook is regarded with greater confidence and hope again revives that the Club will carry off the championship in the near future, if not this season then surely next.

Owing to the need of making these notes merely a synopsis of the Club's history, no reference has been made to many interesting features, to many exciting matches, and the achievements of many great players of other days have, of necessity, been omitted, but, unworthy though they be, these jottings will at least show that the Aberdeenshire Cricket Club is an ancient and honourable institution which has ever striven to promote the best interests of cricket, and it therefore behoves all good Aberdonians, of Town and County both, to cluster round at this time wholeheartedly and send the old Club forward again to a new and even brighter era of prosperity and success.

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