

The History of Chertsey Cricket Club



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The 18th Century

The earliest reference that I have been able to find to the game of cricket being played in Chertsey is in September 1737. In that year, Chertsey played London at Moulsey in a two innings game. London won by 5 wickets. As you can see from the list of old matches which I have compiled, Chertsey were certainly a force to be reckoned with in the third quarter of the 18th century. It is interesting to speculate on the reasons for this prominence.

Lord Tankerville

It is quite possible that Charles Bennett, 4th Earl of Tankerville, played an important part in Chertsey's success. He was born in 1743 and was at school at Eton between 1753 and 1760. He succeeded to the Earldom in 1767.

In his younger days Tankerville seems to have enjoyed a rather dubious reputation. On one occasion he got into a fight with a coachman, and the press alluded to him as "the Rt Hon Earl of Tankerville renowned for nothing but cricket playing, bruising and keeping low company".

In 1771 Lord Tankerville married Emma, daughter of Sir James Colebrook of Gatton, and soon afterwards they settled at Walton on Thames. His residence was Mount Felix, which was a large house overlooking the River Thames, near Walton Bridge. This was not far from Laleham Burway, which was then within the parish of Chertsey.

In the 1770s and 1780s, Tankerville's butler at Mount Felix was William Bedster, one of the best known batsmen of his time. His gardener was an even more famous player, one "Lumpy" Stevens. Lumpy once won a £100 wager for Lord Tankerville by hitting a feather once in every four balls while bowling at the Burway.

For about 9 seasons, from 1773 to 1781, Lord Tankerville was a leading supporter of Surrey Cricket as well as a regular member of the Chertsey XI. He was one of the best amateur batsmen of his day.

William Yalden

Another prominent member of the Chertsey team at this time was William Yalden who kept the large riverside inn, the Walnut Tree in Chertsey. The Walnut Tree later became the Cricketers, which is now closed. Yalden also managed the Burway ground, which was not far from his home. For some more important matches, stands were erected at the ground and refreshments were provided at the Walnut Tree.

An anecdote which linked William Yalden with George Morland, the famous painter, appeared in F.S. Ashley Cooper's book of "Cricket's Highways 'n' Byways". One of Morland's well known cricket paintings is said to have been produced at the Cricketers in Chertsey, in interesting circumstances. The artist was presented with the bill at a decidedly unfortunate moment, when he was financially embarrassed. He bolted himself in his bedroom and, on one of the sheets, he painted a scene of a cricket match in progress and in this manner he settled his account.

I was told, many years ago, that it was the inn sign that Morland had painted. In a letter, signed J.P.B. which is held in Chertsey Museum, the writer relates that he interviewed the landlord of the inn about forty five years after the sign had been painted. He was told that the sign had attracted a great deal of attention - so much so that the name of the inn was then changed to The Cricketers.

It is interesting to note that several of the names in the Chertsey side in the 1770s are still prominent names in the town today.

Without doubt Stevens, or Lumpy Stevens as he was generally known, was one of the most famous cricketers of his day. He was an accurate bowler, taking many wickets. He also scored many runs for Chertsey. He was born in Send and was brought to Chertsey by a Mr Porter when he was young.



The Third Stump?

Lumpy's Claim to Fame!

Lumpy's claim to cricketing fame comes from an incident which occurred during a match against Chertsey's rivals, the famous Hambledon Club, in 1772. Early cricket was played with two stumps and a single bail. While bowling to John Small, said to be the best bat for Hambledon, Lumpy's deadly accuracy sent the ball three times between the two stumps, without dislodging the bail, and each time the batsman, Small, was given not out.

As all of these matches were played for high stakes, there was something of an outcry. Two years later, in 1774, a committee comprising Lord Tankerville, the Duke of Dorset, Sir Francis Vincent, Sir Horace Mann and eight others, met at the Star and Garter tavern in Pall

Mall to revise the laws of Cricket. This was, remember, 13 years before the formation of the MCC.

At that meeting the rules of cricket were changed to allow the introduction of a third stump and the cricket historian Haygarth records that the first match with three stumps was played at the Burway ground between Chertsey and Coulsden on September 6th 1776.

Lord Tankerville continued to play until about 1781. He retired from cricket and the following year embarked upon a political career becoming joint Postmaster General.

The Duke of Dorset

A contemporary of Lord Tankerville's was the Duke of Dorset. He was born at about the same time but was educated at Westminster School where he excelled at cricket and also, according to News Sheet reports, at billiards. He frequented the Ale House in Union Street.

He is also reported to have played for Chertsey. The Whitehall Evening Post commented in 1783 "In the estimation of many people, the Duke of Dorset is the most extraordinarily accomplished nobleman we have at cricket, tennis and billiards. His Lordship has hardly any equal".

He was famed for his hospitality and entertainments at Knowle, and his convivial talents formed one of the chief qualifications for his appointment as Ambassador to the Court of France by his cricketing friend the Duke of Leeds, the Foreign Secretary at the time.

The French Revolution

On page 60 of the first volume of Haygarth's "Cricket Stories and Biographies", which was published in 1862, can be found the following note, concerning the Duke of Dorset. Though he gave up cricket when he went as Ambassador to France in 1784 and did not (it seems) resume playing on his return, he was instrumental in an attempt to send an England XI to Paris. In 1789, he wrote to Yalden who was captain of Chertsey asking him to get a team together to go over to France and show the art of the game, with the hope of improving relations between the two countries.

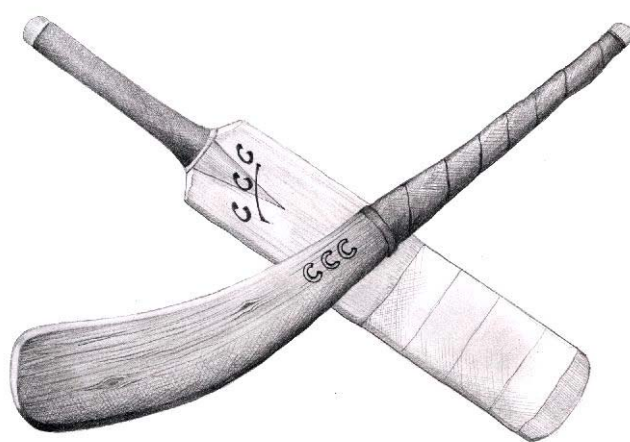
The team was chosen and the following players were selected: Yalden, Attfield, Edmeads, Lord Tankerville, Wood, Bedster, Stevens, Fry, Etheridge, Harding and the Duke of Dorset. This was virtually a Chertsey XI.

As the Duke of Dorset was in France, it is not clear how the travel arrangements were made. It is possible that they were left to Yalden as captain but, although a successful publican, as far as is known he had not travelled overseas previously. It is more likely that the Duke of Dorset contacted his old friend Lord Tankerville and asked him to arrange the journey. This is borne out by the fact that Tankerville, his butler and his gardener were all included in the team.

However the arrangements were made, the team arrived in Dover on either the 9th or 10th of August 1789, which was when the Duke of Dorset also arrived from France, having been compelled to leave Paris by the outbreak of the French Revolution. Thus ended the plan to send a Chertsey cricket team to France on a goodwill mission!

This is a simplified version of events, of which a detailed account is given in a limited edition book written by J. Gouldstone, and published in 1972. Gouldstone argues that the Duke of Dorset was hardly in a position to organise the event and that it is more likely that the tour was organised by the British Government through the then Foreign Secretary, the Duke of Leeds. This story was more recently recounted in the Daily Telegraph, 1/4/89.

It is interesting to speculate about where Haygarth, a compiler of cricket scores and biographies, could have obtained details of the tour. They may have come from a newspaper article but it is more likely that they were discovered in a document belonging to a member of the Yalden family, possibly William Yalden's son. Although he was a lad of 14 in 1789, he was still living in Chertsey in 1859, when it appears that he was interviewed by Haygarth. It is fascinating to think that our Club at Chertsey was so very prominent in these formative years of cricket as we know it today



The following are some of the early fixtures played by Chertsey Cricket Club and other games at the Burway in Chertsey...

Sept 1737	Chertsey V London <i>at Moulsey</i>
July 1761	Chertsey V Dartford <i>at the Burway</i>
Aug 1761	Old Ringers V College Youths <i>at the Burway</i>
Sept 1762	Chertsey V Middlesex (for £50) <i>at Moulsey</i>
Sept 1762	Chertsey V Surrey (for £50) <i>at Ripley</i>
Sept 1762	Chertsey V Middlesex (for £50) <i>at Hampton Court</i>
Sept 1764	Chertsey V Hambledon (for £20) <i>at the Burway</i>
Sept 1764	Chertsey V Hambledon <i>ground unknown</i>
Sept 1771	Chertsey V Hambledon (for £50) <i>at the Burway</i>
June 1773	Surrey V Kent <i>at the Burway (The first fully recorded XI a side Surrey match)</i>
June 1773	Surrey V Hambledon <i>at the Burway</i>
Aug 1775	Chertsey V London, Kent & Surrey (for £50) <i>at the Artillery Ground</i>
Sept 1775	Chertsey V Dartford <i>at the Burway</i>
Sept 1775	Chertsey V Coulsdon <i>at the Burway</i>
Sept 1775	Chertsey V London <i>at the Burway</i>
June 1776	Chertsey V Maidenhead <i>at Maidenhead</i>
June 1777	Chertsey V Coulsdon <i>at Coulsdon</i>
Sept 1778	Chertsey V Rest of England (Hampshire excepted) <i>at the Burway</i>

The 19th Century

Some of the club's history has been lost with the passage of time, in particular that relating to the first half of the 19th century. I have only found a small number of references to Chertsey cricket in this period. One is in the Rev R.S. Holmes' "Surrey Cricket and Cricketers" in which he relates that in 1838, Chertsey were one of the strongest sides in the county.

In Chertsey Museum there is a poster which gives details of a match on the 13th August 1827, when Chertsey played Englefield Green at the Green. There is also a reference to Chertsey in "Lillywhites Cricket Scores and Biographies in 1833".

A former secretary has provided me with very useful information about the club in the middle of the 1800s. The first item is a well preserved scorebook with the heading "1851" on the first page. This marks the commencement of the present Chertsey Cricket Club and lists four matches played, three of which were won and in the fourth, Chertsey needed just six runs to win with seven wickets in hand. A footnote at the bottom of the page states that the scores of the above matches have been lost.

This scorebook also contains a copy of a match between Surrey and Hampshire on the Burway on the 6th, 7th and 8th of July 1775, and another of a match played between Surrey and Hampshire on the 6th, 7th and 8th October 1778 on the same ground.

Of great importance, and interest to the club was a game between Chertsey and St. John's Wood, played at Lords Cricket Ground on 29th August 1855, a game which Chertsey won comfortably. On 6th September in the same year, Chertsey played a match with the Montpelier Club at the Kennington Oval.

The minutes of a meeting, which took place on Monday 4th August 1856, were also provided to me. This meeting, of several Chertsey inhabitants, took place in the King's Head Inn for the purpose of setting the accounts of the Recreation Committee. The chairman, Mr Bidwell, observed that the once flourishing Cricket Club had "ceased to exist" and recommended that those who were lovers of the game should try to revive it.

It would seem from this that no games had been played up to that point in the 1856 season. It seems odd to have such pessimistic statements being made when, in the previous season, some of those present at the meeting had been playing for Chertsey. After all, two of the games in 1855 were on the now famous test grounds of Lords and the Oval. We have a picture of the Chertsey Cricket Club in 1891 (see below).



Chertsey Cricket Club - 1891

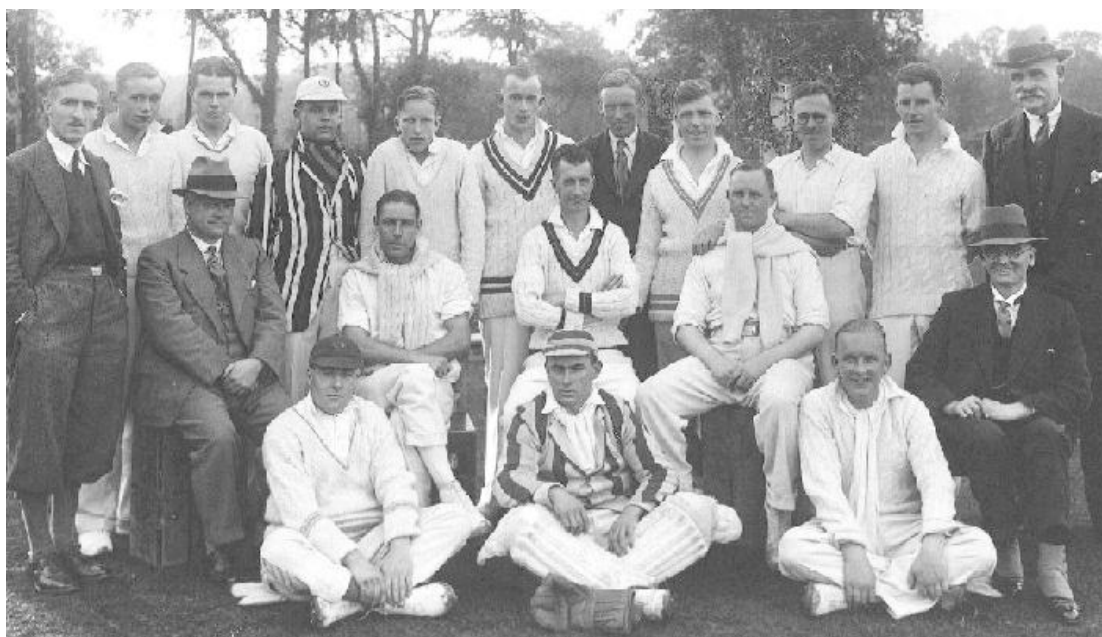
Information for the rest of the 19th century is sketchy. The club is in possession of a print of a game in the late 1850s, and Chertsey played host to a game between Surrey and Bucks in September 1855, although the Oval was by then Surrey's ground. There is also an old photograph of a game played at Gogmore in the late 1870s. Members of the club during the inter-war period could point to fathers and other relatives playing in that game.

The 20th Century

As far as I know, the club resumed playing on the Recreation Ground after the Great War. The year of 1921 was a momentous one for the club as we were given our own ground. Due to the generosity of the late Sir Edward Stern, and with the help of the players and followers of the club, sufficient money was raised to purchase the present club ground in Grove Road. The ground is held in trust for the members of Chertsey Cricket Club.

In the following year, Sir Edward gave the club a handsome wooden pavilion which served the members of the club for over 40 years. With the help of various organisations, including the Surrey and National Playing Fields Associations, funds were raised and a new pavilion was erected and opened in 1963 (*Editor's Note: On the August Bank Holiday, 1994, a large crowd of members and friends gathered at the club at lunchtime to see the pavilion named after the club's longest serving member and faithful servant Mr. Lionel C. Dodd. That season saw Lionel's 60th year at the club and typically, on the day, he was at the club helping to organise the Colts One-Day competition. He was taken completely by surprise by the ceremony which had been arranged by the club committee.*)

During the 1920s, the club ran two Saturday sides and one side on Wednesday and, always willing to experiment, Chertsey was one of the first clubs to play Sunday cricket. This was, I am assured, much to the disapproval of the Vicar at the time. This side prospered and in 1931, the Sunday side or Premier side as they were called, played 17 matches, winning them all. The Photo of that great Chertsey side is below.



Chertsey Cricket Club 1st XI - 1931 - played 17 won 17

The club was fortunate, during the Second World war, to have a number of older players and some in reserved occupations. These members kept the club going during the war, much to the delight of members of the Forces when they came home on leave.

Chertsey Has gone from strength to strength in recent times. We run four sides on Saturday (three in the Surrey Championship) and two on Sunday. We have a thriving juniors section which will ensure that the future of this historic club will remain colourful!

Chertsey CC – Early Records

1737

On Tuesday, Sept 6th, on Moulsey Hurst.

Chertsey	45	London	81
	66		31 for 5
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	111		112

The Londoners won by 5 wickets. They were the same as those who played the Kentish men.

1737

On Wednesday, June 24th, on Laleham Burway in the Parish of Chertsey, 3 miles from Staines in Middlesex, the Old Ringers of Chertsey against the set of College Youths of Chertsey, for £20, play or pay.

College Youths	68	Old Ringers	36
	103		38
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	171		74

The Youths won by 97 runs

Odds before the match were 6 to 4 against the youths.

1761

On Wednesday, July 1st, on Laleham Burway, Chertsey with William Piper, Thomas Woods and Charles Sears against Dartford, for 20 guineas a side. Wickets to be pitched at 12, and the match played out. Great sport is expected as they are accounted as good 22 men as any in England.

On Monday September 28th, on Laleham Burway, Chertsey against Hampton with Charles Sears, Shock White, and John Haynes for 20 guineas a side. Wickets to be pitched at 10.30 and the match played out.

1762

On Tuesday, September 7th, at Moulsey Hurst, the second match between the county of Middlesex and the Parish of Chertsey, for £50. Wickets pitched at 11 and the game to be played out.

The first game was won by Middlesex with great difficulty.

On Monday, September 13th, on Ripley Green, Chertsey against the rest of Surrey, for £50. Ordinary at Mr Fowler's at the White Horse.

On Tuesday, September 21st, on Hampton Court Green, the county of Middlesex and London against the famous Parish of Chertsey with three of the best men from Dartford and

Kent.

The return match on Monday, September 27th, in Laleham Burway. Each match to begin at 11 am and to be played out.

1764

On Monday and Tuesday, September 10th and 11th, at Laleham Burway, the Hambledon club beat Chertsey who were allowed three men, for £20 a side.

In the second match on Monday and Tuesday, September 17th and 18th, Chertsey won by 2 wickets: a third and decisive one is expected to be played on Monday, September 24th.

1771

Chertsey v. Hambledon on Monday, September 23rd. the match was for £50 a side and had to be played out at Chertsey: the wickets to be pitched at 10.

1773

Surrey v. Hambledon on Laleham Burway, Chertsey. By order of the noblemen & gentlemen a stand will be built on the ground, and the best accomodation provided there at the White Hart at Chertsey by Thomas Swayne.

1775

On Monday to Wednesday, August 28th-30th, at the Artillery Ground, for £50, Chertsey Vs London, Kent and Surrey.

Chertsey	107	London, Kent and Surrey	55
	153		48
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	260		103

Chertsey won by 157 runs

1775

On Thursday and Friday, September 21st and 22nd at Chertsey.
Dartford

Frame	b. Bartholomew	15	b. Lumpy	2
Baldwin	b. Lumpy	0	c. Edmead	1
Brobham	b. Bartholomew	12	c. Lumpy	4
Bullen	b. Bartholomew	0	c. Lumpy	13
Hammond	b. Lumpy	9	c. Edmead	3
Scuder	b. Bartholomew	0	b. Bartholomew	7
Goulson	b. Lumpy	0	not out	24
Lintot	c. Lipscomb	5	c. Tankerville	0
Sanham	b. Bartholomew	0	b. Bartholomew	14
Terry	b. Bartholomew	2	b. Bartholomew	7
Richardson	not out	12	c. Edmead	10
<u>Byes</u>		<u>2</u>		<u>12</u>
		57		97

Chertsey

Ld. Tankerville	b. Frame	9	run out	2
Edmead	c. Scuder	11	b. Brobham	5
Yalden	b. Bullen	4	run out	18
Attfield	b. Frame	0	c. Brobham	8
Lumpy	c. Hammond	10	b. Bullen	0
Harding	run out	6	b. Baldwin	13
W. Bartholomew	b. Bullen	16	b. Brobham	9
Ethridge	b. Bullen	3	not out	2
Swayne	c. Hammond	6	run out	6
Ch. Bartholomew	b. Bullen	4	b. Baldwin	2
<u>Lipscomb</u>	<u>not out</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>not out</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Byes</u>		<u>5</u>		<u>2</u>
		74		81

Chertsey Beat Dartford by one wicket

1775

On Thursday to Saturday, Sept 7-9th, at Laleham Burway. At the end of the first day Chertsey had made 15 for 3 wickets in their second innings. Lord tankerville struck the ball against his leg, which rendered him incapable of playing any more on Thursday.

Chertsey

Ld.Tankerville	b. Mugridge	25	run out	5
Edmead	c. Mugridge	8	c. Quiddington	16
Yalden	b. Wood	77	b. Wood	71
Attfield	c. Quiddington	3	b. Wood	2
Swayne	c. Mugridge	6	b. Wood	6
Rev. Bart'mew	not out	0	not out	8
Mr Bart'mew jun	b. Wood	7	b. Benick	25
Lumpy	run out	19	c. Mugridge	3
Harding	c. Burkin	2	b. Mugridge	3
Ethridge	b. Wood	3	b. Brazier	1
Lipscomb	b. White	0	c. Brazier	1
Byes		2		2
		152		148

Coulsdon

John Wood	b. Lumpy	5	not out	0
T. White	b. Lumpy	8	b. Lumpy	7
Mugridge	b. Batholomew	0	run out	5
W.Palmer	b. Bart'mew jnr	1	b. Bartholomew	2
H.Palmer	b. Bart'mew jnr	2	st. Yalden	6
Brazier	c. Lumpy	13	b. Bartholomew	7
Benick	c. Lumpy	11	b. Lumpy	7
C.Phillips	c. Lipscomb	3	b. Bartholomew	31
Burkin	c. Edmead	2	c. Edmead	0
Mr Ashley	c. Lipscomb	0	b. Bartholomew	0
T.Quiddington	not out	3	b. Lumpy	20
Byes		2		3
		43		85

Chertsey beat Coulsden by an Innings and 172 runs

H.Palmer in his second innings was recorded 'put out behind the Yold'

1775

On Monday to Wednesday, Sept 25-27th, at Chertsey.
Chertsey

Ld.Tankerville	c. Colchin	7	b. Wood	0
J.Edmead	b. Colchin	2	b. Wood	10
W.Yalden	b. Colchin	27	c. Colchin	10
Lumpy	b. Wood	4	b. Wood	3
H.Attfield	b. Bullen	19	c. Birdeye	12
Mr Bart'mew jun	b. Wood	6	b. Wood	2
T.Swayne	c. Brazier	7	b. Wood	22
D.Ethridge	run out	3	not out	4
John Minshull	run out	16	b. Brazier	54
Faggoter	b. Wood	9	b. Boerer	1
S.Harding	not out	3	b. Brazier	2
<u>Byes</u>		<u>3</u>		<u>2</u>
		106		122

London

Colchin	c. Lumpy	8	b. Lumpy	5
J.Wood	c. Attfield	15	b. Lumpy	1
Palmer	b. Lumpy	9	b. Lumpy	5
Brazier	b. Lumpy	31	b. Lumpy	27
Bullen	b. Bartholomew	1	b. Lumpy	0
Boerer	c. Bartholomew	6	c. Yalden	2
Phillips	b. Lumpy	8	not out	31
Warren	run out	8	b. Lumpy	0
Birdeye	b. Bartholomew	9	c. Edmead	1
Wheeler	b. Bartholomew	0	run out	6
Bassden	not out	2	b. Lumpy	0
<u>Byes</u>		<u>4</u>		<u>5</u>
		101		83

Chertsey beat London by 44 runs

1776

On Thursday, June 27, on Old Field near Maidenhead, the second match, Maidenhead v. Staines and Chertsey, for 50 Guineas.

1777

On Monday and Tuesday, June 9th-10th, at the Oaks, the villa of the Earl of Derby, Chertsey beat Coulsden by 6 wickets. Chertsey were headed by the Earl of Tankerville and Mr Stone; Coulsden by the Duke of Dorset and Mr Burrell. there were also present the Duke of Hamilton, the Earls of Carlisle, Eglington, and Essex, Lord Bulkeley, Lord Edward Bentinck, Mr Storer, and the two Mr Hangers, and the Countesses of Carlisle, Essex, Eglington, and Derby.

1778

On Thursday and Friday, September 10th and 11th, on Laleham Burway in the Parish of Chertsey, Chertsey v. England [Hampshire excepted]. Aylward having left Hampshire, played for England.

England

Mr Boltwood	c. Bedster	27	b. Lumpy	7
Mr Colchin	b. Lamborn	0	b. Lumpy	4
Mr Miller	b. Lumpy	5	c. Minshull	29
Mr Aylward	run out	1	b. Lamborn	5
Mr Boorman	c. Bedster	0	b. Lamborn	7
Mr Mansfield	c. Minshull	2	not out	15
Mr Phillip	c. Mills	6	b. Lamborn	2
Mr Bullen	b. Lumpy	2	c. Attfield	3
Mr Pemmell	b. Bedster	2	b. Lamborn	2
Mr Polden	b. not out	2	b. Lamborne	8
<u>Mr Irons</u>	<u>b. Lamborn</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>b. Lamborn</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Byes</u>		<u>14</u>		<u>7</u>
		65		89

Chertsey

Mr Edmead	b. Bullen	20
Mr Swayne	b. Polden	5
Mr Yalden	b. Polden	49
Mr Lumpy	not out	24
Mr Attfield	b. Polden	24
Mr Minshull	c. Pemmell	12
Mr Bartholomew	b. Mansfield	9
Mr Bedster	c. Aylwrad	9
Mr Simmons	b. Boorman	6
Mr Lamborn	b. Bullen	6
<u>Mr Mills</u>	<u>b. Polden</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Byes</u>		<u>12</u>
		178

Chertsey beat England by an Innings and 24 runs

1778

The match that was to have been played on Monday, September 14th, is given up, those who were to have played against Maidenhead having though proper to forfeit their money sooner than to be shamefully beat.