

## THE CHRONOLOGY

- 1700 ● **April 1st** - These are to inform the Gentlemen, or others, who delight in Cricket-playing, that a match of Cricket, of ten gentlemen on each side, will be played on Clapham Common near Fox-Hall [Vauxhall], on Easter Monday next, for £10 per head each game (five being design'd), and £20 the odd one. - *The Post Boy*, No. 776, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March. [WDC]. This is the earliest press notice yet discovered. [RAKC]. *The Post Boy* was a two page post folio, published and printed by R. Beardwell 'next the Red Cross Tavern in Blackfriars.' □ Easter Monday, the date of the above-advertised match was on April 1st. [HAK/WDC]

### Additional Notes

- William Goldwin, an Old Etonian, went up to King's College, Cambridge. He later wrote *In Certamen Pilae*, a poetic account of a cricket match. See March, 1706 and Appendix II. [HPT2/MARTT]
- Cricket was concentrated in the south-eastern counties - Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire, but had begun to spread northwards into Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. [BOWC]
- Pycroft and P.F. Thomas (H.P-T) maintain that there was a rude form of cricket played as far north as Angus and Lothian by 1700 - Cat and Dog, to wit [HPT6/PY] This game is mentioned in 1706, in *The Scotch Rogue; or, The life and actions of Donald MacDonald, a Highland Scot*, q.v.
- In *A Few Memoranda Respecting the Progress of Cricket* (1833), John Nyren wrote: 'Mr. Ward obligingly furnished me with a small Ms., written some years since by an old cricketer. [...] From the authority before me, it appears that about 150 years since, it was the custom, as at present, to pitch the wickets at the same distance asunder, viz. twenty-two yards. That the stumps (only one foot high and two feet wide) were surmounted with a bail, at that period, however, another peculiarity was in practice, and which it is worthwhile to record. Between the stumps a hole was cut in the ground, large enough to contain the ball and the butt-end of the bat. In running a notch, the striker was required to put his bat into this hole, instead of the modern practice of touching over the popping crease. The wicket-keeper, in putting out the striker when running, was obliged, when the ball was thrown in, to place it in this hole before the adversary could reach it with his bat. Many severe injuries of the hand were the consequence of this regulation; the present mode of touching the popping-crease

was therefore substituted for it.' [NYC] Ashley-Cooper suggests that the dimensions of the wicket remained thus until 1702. [ACNY] Clarke suggests that the manuscript was written by James Aylward, though Ashley-Cooper, in the 1902 edition of Nyren, suggests that it was Richard Newland, the uncle of Richard Nyren. [CJA/ACNY] Nyren's account of the popping hole is the sole evidence for there ever being one. There is no writing which pre-dates Nyren which definitely mentions it (but see below, 1701, Writing.) H.P.-T points out that if it had existed in the early 18<sup>th</sup>-century, Goldwin would certainly have mentioned it in his poem *In Certamen Pilae* (see below, 1706 and Appendix II). No genuine 18<sup>th</sup> century art shows any evidence either (see below, Art). Martin Wilson suggests that Nyren (or rather the writer of the *Memoranda*) may have been confusing early cricket with a similar game, e.g. trap-ball or the 'cat' games. [W-WPC] W. South Norton notes that in 'Cat and Doug' [sic] two holes were cut, each about a foot in diameter and 7 inches deep, the two being about 26 feet apart. A batsman armed with a bat called a 'dog' attempted to hit a piece of wood called a 'cat'. The bowler's aim was to get the cat into the hole. A similar game, 'Cat-i'-th'-hole', was played with a ball. As six batsmen attempted to run between six holes, the bowler would attempt to put the ball into a hole. This may be the game to which Nyren was referring . [HAK]

- According to Terry, around this date the ball came in several sizes and colours and was waterproofed with grease to prevent it picking up moisture. [T] Terry offers no evidence for this. □ Martin Wilson, following P.F. Thomas [HPT2], suggests the 'greasing' idea may derive from a reference in *In Certamen Pilae* to a 'pila lubrica', which may mean slippery or elusive, not necessarily greased.

### Writing

- *Several Essays Relating to Academies, Banks, Bankrupts, Charity-Lotterie [...]* *Now Communicated to the World for Public Good.* [Daniel Defoe]. London, Printed for Thomas Cockerill at the *Bible* and *Three Legs* against Grocers-Hall in the Poultry. 1700. Price Three Shillings. [ECCO] Arguing for a programme of training in musketry for modern youth, Defoe states: 'To help this at least in some measure, I would propose, That the Publick Exercises of our Youth shou'd by some Publick Encouragement (for Penalties won't do it) be drawn off from the foolish Boyish Sports of Cocking, and Cricketing, and from Tipling, to shooting with a Firelock [...].' (p.279). □ This passage also appears in Defoe's *Essays Upon Several Projects: or Effectual Ways for Advancing the Interest of the Nation*, 1702, q.v.

## Art

- A painting purportedly by J. Reade of Bedford (not J. Reade Bedford), who worked before 1912, entitled *A Cricket Match played on a Village Green in front of an Inn*, which allegedly shows batsman and wicket-keeper striving for the popping-hole, may be a forgery. The two figures in the foreground wear late 18<sup>th</sup>-century costume and a very late Georgian stage-coach waits by the inn. Moreover, the cricket players closely resemble those painted by the artist who was responsible for a number of forgeries, e.g. ‘*Kent v. Hampshire, 1774*.’ This is certainly not a contemporary painting from the period of the alleged ‘popping-hole’.



- 1701
- **March 11<sup>th</sup>** - Baptism at Maidstone of Edwin/Edward Stead/Steed. In the 1720s and 1730s he was prominent as a leader of Kentish cricket. He died on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 1735. [GOO]
  - **May 18<sup>th</sup>** - Birth at Goodwood House, Sussex, of Charles Lennox, Earl of March, who was to become the 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Richmond. [MARD]

## Writing

- *The Humour of the Age. A Comedy. As it is Acted at the Theatre-Royal in Drury-Lane by His Majesty's Servants.* [By Thomas Baker.] [...] London. Printed for R. Wellington at the Dolphin and Crown, the West-end of St. Paul's Church-yard; and B. Bernard Lintott, at the Post-House, in the Middle Temple-Gate, Fleetstreet, 1701. [ECCO] Asked how lawyers manage the world, a character named Railton explains and includes the following observation: ‘All Courts are assistant to one another: the Chancery direct Issues to be try'd at Common-law, and the Common-Law send Matters into Chancery; so that a Client is bandied about like a Cricket-ball until they have beat out all his Estate [...]’ (p. 22). □ The nature of the remark suggests that the concept of the cricket ball was familiar to all, certainly to those living in London.
- *The New Spelling Dictionary, Teaching to Write and pronounce the English Tongue with ease and propriety.* [...] By the Rev. John Entick, A.M. Editor of Lityleton's Land and English Dictionary and Scevelius's Greek Lexicon. New Edition carefully revised and corrected. London: printed for Charles Dilly, in the Poultry.... [ECCO] ‘Bat, s. [i.e. ‘substantive’ = noun] a heavy stick to play at cricket...’ (p.29).

## 1701/1702

- *A Rod for Tunbridge Beaus, Bundl'd up at the request of the Tunbridge Ladies, To Jirk Fools into more wit, And Clowns into more Manners. A Burlesque Poem. To be Publish'd every Summer, as long as the Rakes continue their Rudeness, and the Gentry their Vertue.* London, Printed, and are to be Sold by the Booksellers of London and Westminster, 1701.

When with his Knife he's dug a Hole,  
And Pois'd his Raiser with his Ball;  
*Here goes*, says he, *and if I like it*,  
And very rarely fails to strike it;  
Then hits a Hop too most exceeding,  
And this is the chiefest of his Breeding.  
It's true he can at Cricket play,  
With any living at this day: (pp.5-6).

This poem may appear to give some support for the existence of the 'popping-hole' at this period, but a full stop separates this section on Trapball from that which refers to cricket. Martin Wilson points out that Block (p.132) mentions the idea that in Trapball, the ball was propelled into the air by means of a lever inserted into a hole dug in the ground. [BLO-WPC] Viney and Grant (p.74) illustrate a version of Trapball with a pivoting catapult standing about three feet high. [VG] There are also versions of the game in which the lever is contained in a box-like structure. For an illustration, see Barty-King, p.10. [BAKQ]



- 1702 ● December 14<sup>th</sup> - Arundel, Sussex - A match in which the first Duke of Richmond played against 'the Arundel men' and spent 1s 6d on brandy. Curiously, the account is dated December 14<sup>th</sup>. [MARTT/McC/U] This suggests an overdue bill from the summer. □ The Duke's side won. Ashley-Cooper describes the side as 'Slindon'. [ACSC]

### Writing

- *Angliae Notitia: Or the Present State of England: with Divers Remarks Upon The Ancient State thereof.* By Edw. Chamberlayne, Doctor of Laws. The Twentieth Edition, with Large Additions and Improvements. In Three parts [...] London: Printed by T.H. for S. Smith [...], 1702. [ECCO] In Part I, Chapter V the author notes: 'The Natives will endure long and hard labour,