

PAST CRICKET MATCHES AT FARTOWN

2nd June 1974

The two teams who played in the match were Yorkshire and Northamptonshire.

- There was a crowd of 8,500 watching the match.
- Yorkshire had never lost to the opposing team in five years, ever since the John Player league began.
- This match is famous partly because Geoffrey Boycott, an extremely good cricketer gained a century (100 runs), for his team, Yorkshire.
- In the end, Yorkshire won the game by a decent 59 runs.
- At this time, Fartown had a reputation for being able to accommodate large crowds in comfort, and to have a superb pitch.
- Mr. Mel Ryan was the club chairman, and received many compliments about the brilliant quality of the catering and service.
- Yorkshire played very carefully at first, not gaining very many runs.
- Boycott was nearly hit by a bowl, and then began to play to his potential.
- Chris Old joined Boycott to bat at 75-2 stage, as Lumb and Sharp scored 18 each but got out.
- Chris Old hit a brilliant 6, and the ball landed near the memorial statue near the ground's entrance!
- Old was caught at the wicket, when he's only scored 9.
- At 89 runs, Boycott was determined to get his 2nd century in the John Player League, and so he played some fantastic shots, including a straight driven boundary.
- The highest score Boycott had ever gained previously was 104 against Glamorgan.
- Arthur Jepson was the umpire.
- Boycott hit a ball for what at first seemed to be a six, but during the tea break the umpire had a talk with one of the opposing team's fielders, Dye, who claimed that the ball touched his hand before bouncing just inside the boundary, making the ball a four.
- When the Northants came to bat, Nicholson bowled fantastically accurately, with his left arm.
- Robinson bowled the second over, and made a huge effort.
- The score was 24-4, then later 46-7, when Boycott alone managed to gain over a hundred runs!
- Collin Johnson was a super fielder, and made four catches.

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- George Sharp (the Northants wicket keeper), made a decent 47, and W. Larkins hit seven boundaries eventually making 45 runs, but both were bowled out by Yorkshire's Arnold Sidebottom (who was also a keen footballer).
- The game made £1325, and there was a collection for Boycott's benefits fund, which made £237.
- Boycott finally reached the score of 177 for 6.
- **The weather for the match was fine.**
- Phillip Tinker was the Huddersfield cricket club's secretary, and many volunteers helped to accommodate the visitors and make the match possible.
- Fifteen players scored half centuries in this match, making it an extremely entertaining one.

24th August 1949

- An estimated attendance of 8,000, and 4,729 paid £481 admission.
- Yorkshire played Gloucestershire in this match.
- B.O. Allen was the Gloucestershire captain; and he arrived at the Fartown ground hours before the match, and spent great lengths of time examining the pitch, as he had suspicions that it wasn't up to scratch. He however didn't find anything, as the ground was fantastic, but Allen still seemed to be searching for a fault, like he new something was wrong, he just couldn't find it.
- **On the previous Monday night there had been torrential rain, flooding the wicket, causing the tarpaulin and covers to be pulled over the pitch, making the pitch warm up, causing condensation on the covers, and so the pitch is said to have 'sweated'.**
- The conditions were in favour of swing bowlers, as Coxon and Foord hammered the Gloster team.
- Coxon did most of the bowling, but Foord seemed to just give him a breather now and again, letting him get ready to have a crack at the Gloster side.
- The Gloster team had seam bowlers, but thankfully for them, **the weather brightened up after lunch**, making it easier for them to make a decent assault to the batters.
- Goddard came into his prime, and began to produce fantastic bowls. However, Cook, a spin bowler took six wickets in the space of seven overs, and only twenty four runs. This meant that Yorkshire were now only winning by 84.

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- Also, the grounds man attempted to roll over the wicket with a huge grass presser, in attempt to keep the pitch in good condition, but Allen ran to him, and pleaded with him to use a lighter roller!
- There were two umpires at the match.
- Yardley yet again used his spin bowlers Wardle and Close.
- Coxon made two beautiful catches to finish off the game.
- It looked as if Yorkshire would beat Gloucestershire in just two days, as they had six wickets on hand, and were behind by 46 runs.



Johnny Wardle



Alec Coxon