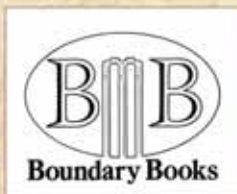


Tony Laughton attended the launch of the Cricket Heritage Project in March 2004. He has just written a wonderful book about the Meltham-born Albert Craig – a cricket and football rhymester. Ordering details are below



Captain of the Crowd

Albert Craig, Cricket and Football Rhymester
1849-1909

TONY LAUGHTON

FOREWORD BY DAVID FRITH


The MCC Cricket Library and Boundary Books are proud to announce an important new contribution to cricket, football and social history. Albert Craig, often referred to as *The Surrey Poet*, was a one-off. Born of illiterate parents in a remote Yorkshire community he travelled the country and became one of the most celebrated figures on the cricket and football grounds of London and the south.

"Tony Laughton has brought Albert Craig, the "Surrey Poet", back to life . . . in this richly sociological volume with a wondrous selection of illustrations . . . heart-warming and evocative." *David Frith*

Years of painstaking research have produced an unbelievably detailed account of Craig's rise to become almost as famous as WG himself, simply by selling his printed rhymes at a penny a sheet. With his natural wit and spontaneous repartee, he was an integral part of the day's entertainment on the cricket grounds of the Golden Age - and he was equally at home during the formative days of Arsenal football club.






TO LEWIS HALL,
The rare old Yorkshire favourite.

CHAMPION of a hundred fights,
 Reliable and true,
 It affords supreme delight
 To sing the praises of you!
 You have ever in the past
 Showered duty's seed,
 May your evering judgment last
 Shouty Lewis Hall.

Champion bowlers try their hand
 And get you out no slack,
 Cakes and dignified you seek
 Just like some mighty rock.
 Whilst longer, batters too,
 Hunt the man who bow!
 Still you stand the innings through
 Praise! Lewis Hall.

Steady in the greatest day
 You face your friendly foe;
 Your stonions brags of trouble
 Bring back the long ago.
 Dear old England's name shall stand
 In honour through and through,
 We prize your virtues assigned
 To gather Lewis Hall.

Other Counties have their pride
 And so it ought to be,
 "Cricks" as a team they're all called,
 And so, old friend, have we;
 And when our County stands again
 Triumphant over all,
 We won't forget such Yorkshire men
 As honest Lewis Hall.

A. C.



Order Form

Captain of the Crowd is a magnificently produced 304 pp hardback volume with 173 illustrations, over 100 in full colour. Tony Laughton traces the life and times of Craig in fascinating detail and sets his life and work in the historical and social context of the time. The book is available at £28 including postage.

There is also a strictly Limited Edition of only 50 copies, signed by the author, and specially bound and boxed with 12 facsimiles of the rarest Craig compositions printed on art paper. This edition is £200 post free per copy.

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Books will be available from late March