

# BATS, BALLS & BISCUITS

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**CRICKET 'N' CRUMBS:** Huntley & Palmers team to feature in book

# Memories wanted of biscuits, bats and balls

BY THOM AIRS

A HISTORIAN is appealing for information on the Huntley & Palmers cricket team for his new book.

Martin Bishop, from Purley, is set to publish *Biscuits, Bats and Balls* early next year but is still on the lookout for memories and anecdotes.

The 49-year-old cricket fan is hoping to chronicle the exploits of the famous biscuit firm's team between 1855 and the 1980s.

He said: "I play for Purley on Thames Cricket Club who amalgamated in the 1980s with Associated Biscuits, which had morphed from Huntley & Palmers. I played a few times for Associated Biscuits at their Kensington Road ground and it just sort of kicked off an interest."

Mr Bishop says cricket was an important part of life at the firm, which started in London Street in 1822.

He said: "The company was very philanthropic towards providing facilities for its staff and so the ground in King's Meadow, which was down by the river, was quite big and close to the factory. Kensington

Road, off the Oxford Road, was once the home of Berkshire Cricket Club so there were some fantastic facilities and they used to operate up to four teams."

*Biscuits, Bats and Balls* is not going to be merely a list of scorecards and batting averages, says Mr Bishop, who has already spent three years researching the book.

"It's not a book about full statistics, I'm just trying to personalise it," he said.

"I'm particularly interested in the cricket side of things and I'm looking for recollections, stories and memories."

He added: "When Associated Biscuits shut down, all of the company records went to the Huntley & Palmers facility at Reading University so I had some basic information. Reading Museum also has some Huntley & Palmers information, but it's what I'd call 'dry' information, so I'm looking for personal memories and stories."

If you have any recollections of the cricket team at Huntley & Palmers call Thom Airs at the *Evening Post* on (0118) 918 3009 and we will pass on your details to Mr Bishop.



**BOWLING 'EM OVER** – Martin Bishop is writing a book about the Huntley & Palmers cricket team  
Photo: STEVE TEMPLEMAN (01873 5231)

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