

Andrew Greenwood

“There is a fine old church whose yard contains two curious monuments. One is the headstone, showing bat, ball and broken wicket, of Andrew Greenwood, one of the five Yorkshiremen who took part in the first of all Test matches.” – A.A Thomson; ‘Hirst and Rhodes’

Andrew Greenwood was born on 29th August 1847 in Huddersfield and died on 12th February 1889 also in Huddersfield and was buried in Kirkheaton Parish Churchyard.

Greenwood’s claim to fame is that he was a member of James Lillywhite’s England eleven that toured Australia in 1877/78 and he played in the two matches against the Combined Australia eleven. These two matches were later recognised as the first Test matches.

He played first-class cricket for Yorkshire between 1869 and 1880.

He was small in height but described as a gutsy batsman and very good fielder in the deep with a safe pair of hands.

He was described by W.G Grace in his book *‘Cricketers I have met’* as being *“good enough for any team.”*

Greenwood had a cricket upbringing his father Job Greenwood was one of the hand-loom weavers of the Lascelles Hall Cricket Club first founded in 1846 and a great nursery in the early stages of Yorkshire cricket.

Alec Lodge, in his *‘History of Lascelles Hall Cricket Club’* described how cricket and weaving ran side by side in the 1800’s.

“In the old days every cottage at Lascelles Hall has its’ hand loom. The men in the village worked at the looms, when they were not playing cricket that is, and it appears that they often had their priorities in the right order!!!

The weavers were men of fine physical presence and strong individual character. There was something in every movement of their daily labour which developed a quickness of eye, hand and foot to stand them in good stead when they came to play the game they loved so much.

Usually they used to weave until lunchtime. They would then look to see if there was any activity on the cricket field. There usually was. An immediate exodus took place. It was practice. More and more practice, and it never seemed to rain.

Working conditions meant they had no boss. Perhaps they went to the field with the best intentions. To practice a late cut for half an hour. But once they began, time flew. They made up the lost time at loom at night, by candlelight."

By the mid 1800's the Lascelles Hall club was looked upon as one of the strongest in the country. Greenwood played for the club in some very important matches.

Between 15th and 17th August 1867 the club entertained a strong All England eleven. The club was allowed to use twenty-two players. Rain affected the game and it was decided on the first innings score. Lascelles Hall won scoring 127 against the England elevens 121.

In 1870 the club travelled to Bramall Lane, Sheffield to play the strong Sheffield club in a game arranged for a £50 prize. Sheffield formed the basis of the Yorkshire side at the time and there was great rivalry. An extract from *Old Ebor's talks with Old Yorkshire Cricketers* published in 1898 tells of the importance of the match. Greenwood starred in the game scoring 43 in the first innings.

"the match fulfilled one object. It was the feeling in Lascelles Hall that the players ought to be in the county team, and that the match proved the truth of the contention. It resulted too, in the number of Lascelles Hall members of the county team increased from three to six for Allen Hill, Andrew Greenwood and David Eastwood were afterwards called upon by the county authorities."

In August 1874 Greenwood helped the club defeat Jupp's Surrey eleven which included several top class cricketers. In 1875 a strong North of England eleven including Yorkshire and England players George Uylett and Tom Emmett played the club and Greenwood delighted the spectators with scores of 35 and 86.

Greenwood again starred for the club in a match against a Gentlemen and Players of Yorkshire which included the greats Louis Hall, Tom Emmett, ET Hirst and George Uylett. He scored 75 as the club won.

In one game in 1874 against Gloucestershire the Lascelles Hall club had six men in the Yorkshire eleven including Andrew Greenwood.

Greenwood of Yorkshire

Greenwood's first game for Yorkshire was 31st May 1869 at Trent Bridge against Nottinghamshire however, he failed to impress scoring just 0 and 8. He played odd games for the county in the next few years but it was in 1873 that he started to make a real impact. He scored 500 runs in 13 games including 89 against Gloucestershire at Bramall Lane. The following two seasons he finished second in the Yorkshire batting averages. In 1876 he only played eight matches scoring 212 runs but scored 111 for the North against the South at Huddersfield and was picked for the Lillywhite tour. In 1877 he topped the Yorkshire averages with 386 runs at an average of 25.11. He scored his highest score for the county scoring 91 against Graces's Gloucestershire at Bramall Lane. By 1878 he was

struggling with rheumatic gout and played only eight matches scoring 167 runs. In 1879 he didn't play a game and played only one in 1880 before retiring. His county record shows him scoring 2,780 runs at an average of 17.82.

Greenwood of England

It was in the winter of 1876 that Andrew Greenwood joined Sussex cricketer James Lillywhite's England side that took eight weeks to travel to Australia by steamer. Lillywhite's eleven played two games against a Combined Australia eleven which were later credited as the first ever Test matches.

The first match was played between 15th and 19th March 1877 at the Melbourne cricket ground. The Combined Australian eleven batted first and another local Kirkheaton born man Allen Hill took the first ever wicket in a Test. Australia scored 245 all out with Greenwood catching E.J Gregory for 0.

Greenwood batted number five in the first innings but only scored one run being caught by Gregory off the bowling of Midwinter. England scored 196 with Jupp top scoring with 63 and thus trailed Australia by 49 runs.

Australia's second innings saw them make 104 setting England 154 to win but England were again bowled out for 108 with Greenwood opening the batting with fellow Yorkshireman Hill but only scoring 5 this gave Australia victory by 45 runs. Incredibly one hundred years later in the Centenary Test the result would be the same.

The England eleven then played three matches against local Australian sides before returning to Melbourne for a return game. Greenwood fared much better in this game batting at number three scoring 49 before bowled by J.R Hodges in England's first innings score of 261 in reply to Australia's 122 all out. England therefore had a lead of 139. Australia performed better scoring 259 (Greenwood caught Midwinter) leaving England 121 to win. Greenwood scored 22 again batting at number three as England won scoring 122 for 6.

Greenwood would not play for England again but had played an important part in creating cricketing and Ashes History.

Outside cricket

During the later years of his cricketing life Greenwood and his wife Alice became publicans and ran pubs in Holmfirth, Holbeck, Liversedge and lastly Huddersfield. In 1888 Greenwood's gout made him bed ridden by the end of the year and on 15th February 1889 he passed away aged 41. The following week he was laid to rest in Kirkheaton Parish Churchyard.