

Goodwood —
before the
Indians

Some Recollections from the Past
by
William P. Holmesby

GOODWOOD BEFORE THE INDIANS.

by W. P. (Bill) Holmesby

My involvement with the Goodwood Baseball Club began in 1931 when I was introduced to the game by Mel Cameron and Colin Dew who were near neighbours at the time and I was invited to attend pre-Season practice in the South Parklands. Prior to that first practice I was given fundamental advice on glove handling and throwing (I had considered that I was already proficient in the latter) and these early sessions were held on a corner of the Mortlock Park Oval area. Colin, Mel and I all lived within 100 yards of the area.

The year 1931 was the first that the South Australian Baseball League introduced its new District System which may seem strange to the players of today. With this system the Metropolitan Area was divided into zones, for convenience called Districts and they were: Glenelg, Port Adelaide, West Torrens, Prospect, East Torrens, Adelaide, Kensington, Goodwood and Sturt and a non-District Club, University which had its own restrictive membership conditions. Some of these districts already had its own baseball club. The League set up a special Permit Committee to police the system but most clubs undertook its requirements and were loyal to them. In some cases it meant that players with current membership in a club would be required to join another if they were in the latter district as the basic requirement was that all players must reside in their club's district. An alleviating condition was that after ten years as a club member a player was permitted to remain with it even if he resided in another district.

Some new clubs formed by this change such as Glenelg, Prospect and Kensington were forced to call on assistance to build up a competitive playing squad and many transfers of established players were arranged. In this Goodwood took a leading part by releasing some of its players having the advantage of two sides in each of the top two grades. These teams had been identified by calling one Goodwood and the other Goodwood Ramblers (this arrangement was to continue for many years). Some of these players which transferred to Glenelg were Tom Rice, Reg and Stan South and Mel Cameron (he later came back to Goodwood). In the field the two teams were distinguished by the Goodwood team wearing a maroon shirt with black facings and the Ramblers fitted out with a black shirt and red facings.

Other Goodwood players to be re-allocated were Charlie and Tom Puckett to the new Prospect Club and Ral and Garth Burton to Kensington.

Although the records will show that Goodwood was a powerful club in the 1920

to 1930 period I believe its Golden Era was in the early years of the District System from 1931 to 1950. It was a rare feat in that time for any side to defeat Goodwood and one of the main reasons for this was the defensive strength led by Ronald Maxie Sharpe with his outstanding pitching ability and as a master tactician.

It was my privilege to play under Ron's captaincy for many years in club games and indeed in Claxton Shield competition against New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia. I believe that he first played for the State in 1923 as a teen-ager relief pitcher and was rarely out of the State side from then until 1946 when he made his last appearance in the Claxton Shield Series in Sydney. He had some outstanding performances in the local competition regularly returning strikeout figures of a dozen or more. He was a true sportsman; he was never married - it was said that he did not have the time outside of his sports. He was the best slow bowler never to have played for the South Australian Cricket team (he played for the Adelaide Club) and my personal impression was that he was too good, he would beat bat, wicket and wicket-keeper. He was also unfortunate to be a contender at the time when the South Australian Cricket Association had imported two other slow bowlers who had to take preference as a matter of policy.

During that time he still found the opportunity to indulge in other sports and in one year he won both the Railways and Hawthorn Bowling Clubs' Singles Championship (it caused a mild stir at the time, some objecting to him being a member of two clubs). He played a canny game of tennis and was adept at table tennis and around the billiard table. He loved music and played the piano for his own and friends entertainment and for many years he was a regular member of the Commercial Travellers Male Voice Choir.

Ron never took advantage unfairly of his opponents but nevertheless had his team's welfare always in mind. He was lenient in his pitching to opponents who he knew were either new to the game or were promising juniors - to these he would ease up in his deliveries as a gesture of encouragement if the state of the game allowed and many were saved the ignominy of being struck out. He always kept a card in his hip pocket of the opposition's batting order and so he knew when he could be charitable.

For most of the time I played with him I held down second base (as in my first year in A Grade) and later took over at third base, the position I played as a member of the State side. He knew the capabilities of most of the opposing players and would pitch to what he believed to be their weaknesses as his control and accuracy was outstanding. I have often wondered how he would have



A caricature of the 1932 A Grade Premiership side. The artist was Frank Lee who was a Goodwood Club member at the time. He was an 18-year old trainee Newspaper cartoonist and left Adelaide shortly after he drew the above and transferred to Melbourne to take up a position as a political cartoonist with one of the city's newspapers.

I can vouch for the accuracy of the images!

fared against today's power-hitters and I believe that he would have made it difficult for them. He had an abbreviated but business-like action without the histrionics of many present day pitchers and while he had a substantial fast ball he only used it if the situation demanded, preferring to rely on guile. His "down-drop" and "outcurve" (the terms we used in those days but rarely used in these enlightened (?) days) were classics of their kind but sometimes suffered because the position of the central umpire was such (behind the pitcher's plate) that he found it difficult to give a correct call. In those days we never ever knew what a pitcher's mound was. He was in a sense autocratic in his pitching as he always called the tune sometimes to his catcher's dismay and was so confident that he would tell his field where the batter would most probably hit. Many times I was on the receiving end of such warnings and they were generally correct.

He was more than a capable batter, not a big hitter (I doubt whether he knew what a home run was from his side of the batting box) but had the ability to lay the bat on ball at crucial times. Not the fastest runner in the side but a very astute baserunner once he got there. Many juniors owed their progress to advice which Ron gave them.

In the ten years before the Second World War, Goodwood, at the urging of Ron and another club stalwart, Johnnie Mordaunt, organised team visits to the country to promote the game of baseball and to further the initial efforts of local enthusiasts who had learnt the fundamentals in the Metropolitan area. The first of these was to Port Pirie, followed by another to Peterborough at the personal expense of the club members. I remember an uncomfortable ride in the "dickey seat" of Ron Sharpe's Ford A roadster on the trip to Port Pirie.

A more successful trip was to Mount Gambier in 1935 by train (see photograph of the team). On these trips Ron's practice was to play for the local side to even up the competition and this was the reason he did not appear in that photograph. I was also involved with Ron on similar cricket trips to Port Lincoln and Mount Gambier (twice), the last in 1946. In these latter teams he, with the blessing of the South Australian Cricket Association, would only select junior players on the brink of selection into District A Grade sides. The well-known Neil Dansie was one of the 1946 team as a 15-year old prospect.

Obviously the club strength of Goodwood was severely strained with the transfer of players to bolster up the other District Clubs in 1931 but with continued success in the field and promotions of juniors membership grew rapidly so that by the middle of the 1930s and notwithstanding the disastrous Great Depression



GOODWOOD "B GRADE" TEAM PREMIERS 1931 SEASON.

Back Row: C.(Jerry) Brown, W.P.Holmesby, D.Smith, D.Munroe, C.Dew and D.Madge. Front: A.Parker, J.M.Hill, J.Walsh and G.Moreau.



THE FIRST GOODWOOD TEAM TO VISIT MOUNT GAMBIER AT EASTER 1935.

From Left: J.A.Mordaunt, W.P.Holmesby, G.Morrison, C.Brown, G.Stock, A.A.Radbone, W.Colman, S.Swanson (E.T.), M.E.Booth, J.M.Hill, J.Belliss (Sturt), B.Hayes (Bat Boy).

when money was a scarce commodity in most families, we were able to put eleven sides into the competition including two sides in each of the A and B Grades, in each case being differentiated by the names Goodwood and Goodwood Ramblers. The South Australian Baseball League had introduced new non-district sections known as Metropolitan (colloquially "Metro") and in one of these sections we had three sides for a while. The third side in this division we called Goodwood Tyros, the word meaning "learner" or "beginner" and was composed mainly of juniors. Players in these Metro Sections were not constrained by residential qualifications. Even with such a large distribution of players the club was very successful in winning premierships although an experiment in the late 1930s had a sobering effect on the two top sides. This came about when Ron Sharpe suggested that he take over the Ramblers side and load it with the more promising juniors in the club. There is no doubt that these players benefited by the experiment as several eventually played in State sides.

More about Ron Sharpe. As far as I know he was the first South Australian player to be included in an official Australian side. This was the occasion of the visit to Australia of the Stanford University of California in the late 1920s. There were no other games actually played by Australian teams until after the War although it was the practice after the 1939 Series to select complimentary teams as an honour. The first Goodwood player to be so honoured was W. H. (Bill) Radbone, in my opinion the best centre-fielder of any I had seen in club or State games.

The first Goodwood Club member to play in an Australian team was one Sydney W. Smith who was in a "private" side which had a disastrous tour of the United States in 1896 which collapsed before the trip was finished leaving the players to make their way home as best they could. He later became one of our best known umpires and a contemporary of George Chapman (they were both officiating in my time) and his son Don was a regular Goodwood player into the 1930s before his untimely death (see photograph of the 1931 Goodwood B Grade team which won the Premiership in that year - Johnnie Mordaunt was absent at the time).

The 1932 Season was a good one for me and some others of that 1931 team as several of the regular A Grade players had decided that age had caught up with them and retired. This meant that replacements were required and I was fortunate to be one of them, taking over second base, the position I had played in my debut year. Colin Dew (catcher) and Jerry Brown (first base) were the other recruits in that 1932 team which won the premiership. The other established players were: Ron Sharrpe, Rupert Sharpe, Eddie Lanthois, Merv Nelson (who came from the defunct Millwood Club), Murray (Ocker) Booth,

Alby Barrie and Wally Catchlove. We started off on a high note as we were supplied with new uniforms, the first the club had had for many years and the former standard can be gauged from the photograph of the 1931 B Grade team. The new uniforms were made to order to suit the individual players and they may have been a good omen as we won the premiership that year and many more in the future. The uniform comprised a maroon shirt with black facings and letter "G", black pants (plus fours style), black socks with a red band and a black cap with maroon letter "G".

An enthusiastic baseball supporter from California who was the proprietor of a successful baking business named Helms had set up his own Baseball Hall of Fame and came to Australia in 1948 seeking an Australian of sufficient status to be included in his collection. It was suggested that all of the Australian controlling bodies be asked to submit nominations for the player who had been the most valuable and worthy in Australian baseball in the previous 25 years. It was unanimously agreed that Ron Sharpe was the most worthy and a suitable certificate to that effect was presented to him during the 1951 Claxton Shield Series in Adelaide when other States were able to be represented in a short ceremony.

The Goodwood Club also had a hand in the introduction of baseball into official schools sports curriculum and a Saturday morning competition was soon organised. The main instigator was Mr Len Poole, a former player who had also served the club as a scorer and as an office-bearer and he was assisted from time to time by Goodwood players in coaching and umpiring. This was also in the 1930s and produced many talented players in later years. An interstate series was also inaugurated.

There is no doubt that the club member with the longest playing or active service with the club is Johnnie Mordaunt, a character if ever there was one and a more loyal member could not be found. My connection with the club extends over 64 years but I would not rate myself as being of the active category over the last forty. In that same time span and perhaps more, Johnnie was continuously active in both playing and coaching. He began his career with Goodwood prior to the First World War as a junior and soon after that conflict began he enlisted in the original A.I.F. I believe by overstating his age. While overseas he was on the wrong end of an enemy attack and suffered severe leg injuries with the result that his right leg was amputated below the knee. Consequently for the rest of his life he was forced to wear an artificial limb which was partly made of steel sheet. As soon as he became accustomed to its use he returned to playing baseball and gained the support of the League which allowed him to use a runner at each time at bat. While in the field he was

exclusively the pitcher as it required less mobility than the other infield positions and he had a working relationship with the other infielders. I played with him through my debut year (1931) and on many other occasions particularly in the regular Sunday Sacred Heart College competition (Sunday play was otherwise non-existent in those days). Many times I have seen him stop with his "tin" leg a ground ball hit back at him and although his fast ball was in the Slow category he had sufficient control to be effective.

He was also an ardent supporter-coach and loved to attend A Grade games when his lower grade team had an early game and was wont to be most vocal in his advice and encouragement to our players and with criticism of our opponents. Like Ron Sharpe he nevertheless had no reluctance in advising any aspiring juniors in our own or any club on aspects of the game. By temperament he was somewhat fiery to match his original russet hair which in his later years became pure white. He continued his active participation until well into his sixties. He was later honoured with Life Membership (like Ron Sharpe, Arthur Radbone and myself from that era) and his son Dean was a competent first baseman. Johnnie was also to the fore in our country visits assisting with coaching of local new players. Most new players and juniors in the Goodwood Club at some time came under his tutelage.

The Goodwood influence was evident in the print and electronic media over more than forty years commencing with the A Grade second baseman R. L. (Bob) Drennan who was the baseball correspondent for the Advertiser from the mid-1920s until Len Poole, former Goodwood player and an employee of the paper, took over. When the latter gave up this task he was relieved by Bill Levy, also a Goodwood office-bearer, until I took over when Bill retired. The policy of the paper at the time was that their sporting correspondents wrote under a pseudonym unless they were of national importance and consequently I had to use a nom-de-plume; I chose "Assist" as it was pertinent and a baseball term. I remained the official writer from 1944 until August 1951 at which time I was transferred to the country in my employment effectively terminating my personal involvement with Metropolitan baseball. Sturt and State stalwart Tom O'Connell (he was also a State cricketer) was appointed to replace me but he did not operate very long. Then Goodwood and State centre-fielder Bill Radbone (note that three of the last writers were named Bill) who was also an artist employed by the "Advertiser" became the new writer.

For the daily afternoon newspaper "The News" (now defunct) and the Sunday Mail Ron Sharpe was the regular writer from sometime in the 1920s until his failing health forced his retirement after more than 25 years. This paved the way for Goodwood's Arthur Radbone who by this time had established himself as the regular

Goodwood and State coach and Manager, to take over as the main baseball writer for those two papers for about another 25 years or so.

Soon after the end of World War II and with the resumption of the Claxton Shield in the immediate offing the S.A. Baseball League in an attempt to educate and popularise baseball to a uninformed public decided to introduce a public address unit to official games and I was given the task as the official commentator. The idea was to explain to spectators the rules of the game when certain action took place on the field during play and the first time it was used was the practice match between "possibles" and "probables" for the 1946 Series in Sydney. It was first used by me at Claxton Shield games at the Series held in Adelaide in 1947. The system was later adopted with success after I left the scene.

But the Goodwood influence was to continue in this medium. It will be recalled that in the summer of 1952 the SA Baseball League decided to embark on a programme of summer baseball to be played under lights at the Norwood Oval. The on-field commentary permedium of the public address system was continued with former Goodwood player and popular presenter and news-reader with Mel Cameron of 5DN being the first commentator. He continued in this position for a number of years and set a high standard until he relinquished it. His replacement was former Goodwood curve pitcher Colin Buchanan who had been an assistant to Mel for some time. So Goodwood can be proud to have been to the fore in keeping the public informed on local baseball.

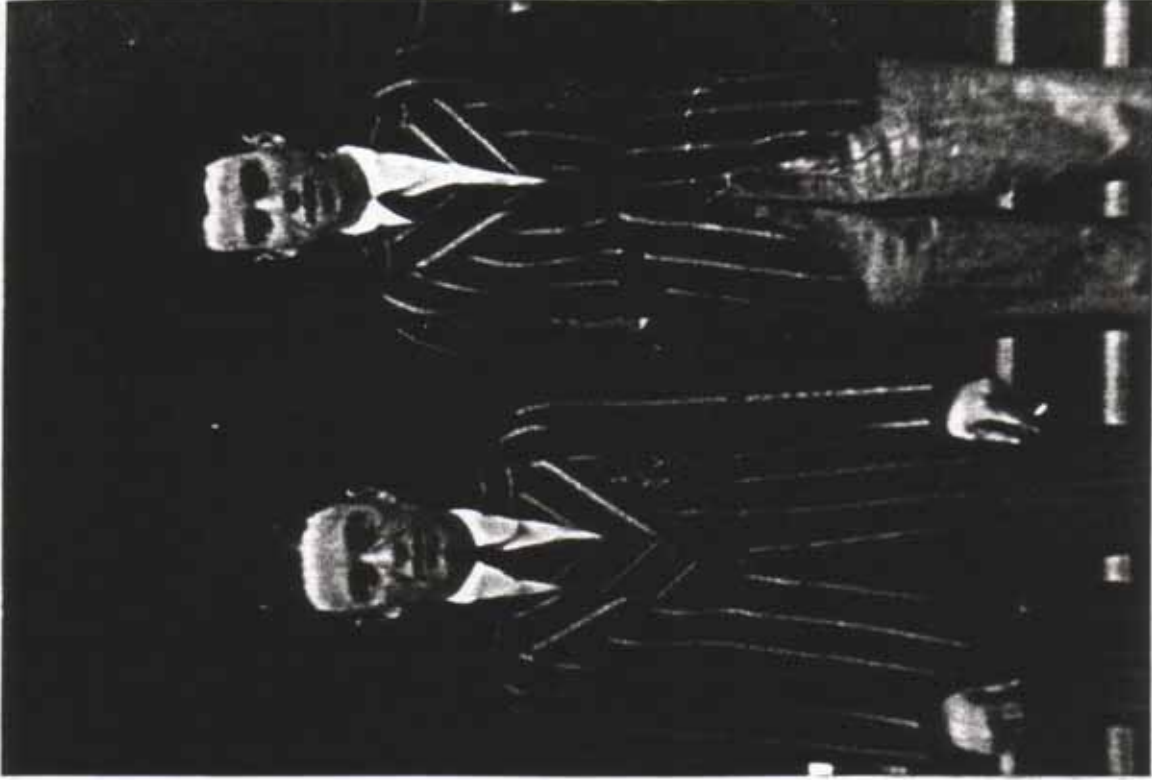
League administration did not escape our influence. We had a "professional" Honorary Secretary in Ron C. Scott who had come to us in 1932 from the Sturt Club. At the time he was also secretary of the Sturt Cricket Club and for many years afterwards. In later years he claimed to have been actively associated with more than 50 organisations. He became Secretary of the South Australian Baseball League in the mid-1930s and held the position for many years. For a short time I was the Assistant Secretary. Ron had also been Manager of a State team.

It can only be expected that with such a fine record in the local District competition we would have significant representation in the State sides. As stated elsewhere Ron Sharpe was an automatic choice but I haven't complete details of the complement of all the sides in the pre-War period. Of interest perhaps was the uniform used in those earlier days. I was a spectator at the Interstate Carnival (as it was known then) when it was played at the old Jubilee Oval, now taken over by several University buildings and the uniform then used brown and blue as the SA team colours. In the following year the colours were changed to the generally accepted navy, red and yellow. I believe



The end of the final game of the 1936 Claxton Shield Series won by South Australia for the third year in succession. From left: W.P.Holmesby, C.L.Martin (Manager) J.Reece (Pitcher), R.Vaughton, F.Stapleton, J.R.Noblet (in background), F.Habib (Trainer) and M.E.Booth.

The first year with "new" uniforms.



Two of Goodwood's five players in the 1936 State Team: J.W.Fitzsimons and W.P.Holmesby.

that these colours were those adopted some years before by the Adelaide City Council. But the style at the time was anything but attractive but sufficed until the 1936 Series when we were fitted out with completely new uniforms.

Besides Ron Sharpe, Jack Hill and I were included in the 1935 State side for the Series in Melbourne played on the Melbourne Cricket Ground during which we played a 15 innings no score tie against Victoria on the last day.

These games were only contested by New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia up to the 1937 Series when Western Australia was admitted. South Australia had won the Series in Adelaide in 1934, the year in which the Claxton Shield was contested for the first time. It was the brainchild of Mr Norrie Claxton, the President of the SA Baseball League at the time who was concerned that Series winner was rewarded with only "paper" recognition and he offered the Shield as a tangible token of the team's success. The main condition that he applied was that the team which won it three years in succession for the first time would own it outright.

Prior to this year South Australia had had little success but to the dismay of the Eastern States it was successful. The format of these games was that on the two Saturdays the home side would be required to field two teams to play against the two visitors and the latter would play their two games on the Tuesday and Thursday (there were no night games). Thus each side would play each of the other two twice, the end result being decided on the two points for a win and one for a tie system. A mild contretemps arose in the 1935 Series when we tied with Victoria on the second Saturday when the final result was a tie overall between South Australia and New South Wales. The matter was resolved by South Australia's claim that as it was the holder it should retain it, was upheld by a majority decision.

The country was deep in the "Depression" in 1936 when the Series was to be played in Sydney and the side selected to represent South Australia had to be changed dramatically because of withdrawals by several players owing to financial stringency as players were not subsidised to any degree as they are today. So the selectors were limited to those players who could afford to make the trip and as a result the final 12 or so were despatched without any great optimism. In the side Goodwood had five players: Ron Sharpe (Captain and pitcher), Jim Fitzsimons (2nd catcher), Murray Booth and Jack Hill (outfield) and myself (third base). But the critics and pessimists were confounded when we were able to defeat New South Wales on the last day to win the Series and therefore able to claim the Shield as our own. However commonsense prevailed and with the concurrence of Mr Claxton it was agreed that the Shield would

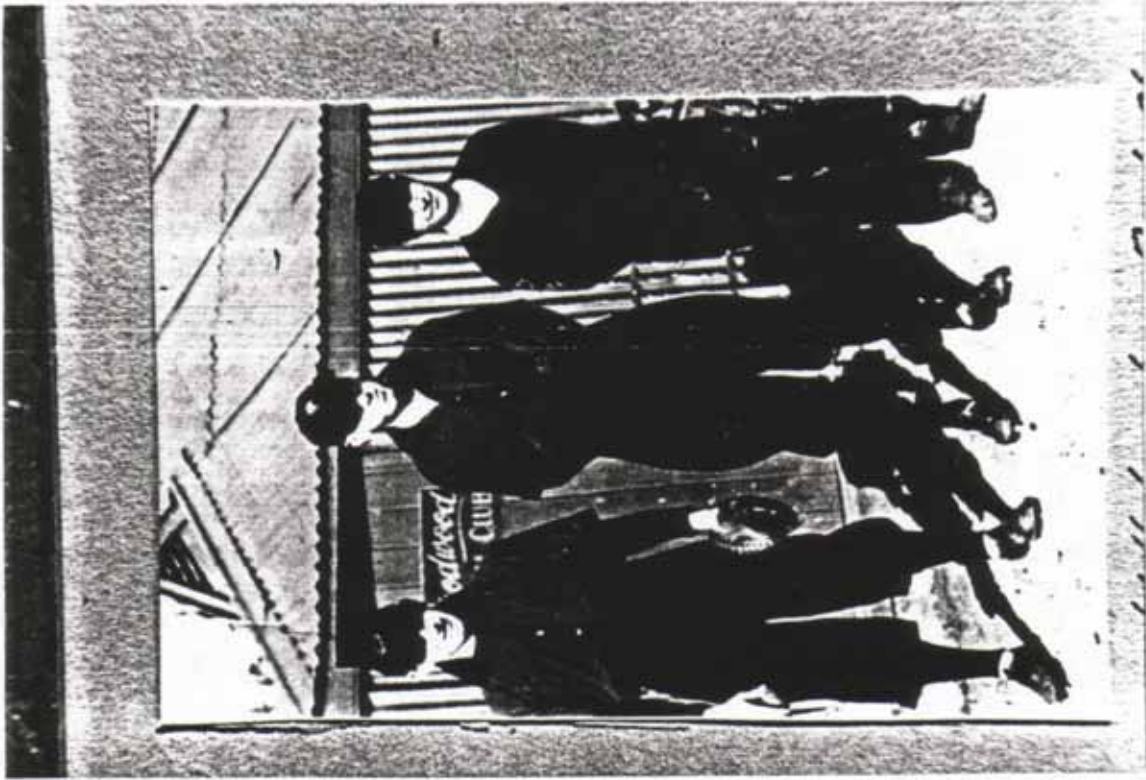
only be held by the winner until the next Series. It was to be many years before South Australia won it again.

Accommodation and conveniences for club members were of a primitive nature during my time. I do not know if the club had any permanent home prior to 1930 but it took over a nondescript wood-and-iron dressing shed in the South Parklands at about that time as it was occupied by us when I joined the club in 1931. Its amenities were decidedly limited with only a tap and shower rose in a small cubicle although the latter was coupled with a luxury fitting in the form of a chip heater. This was only effective if there happened to be a small supply of kindling wood or newspapers. Unfortunately the cubicle was put to other emergency functions which did not add to its attraction. In area it would have been about 20 feet long by 12 feet wide (see photograph).

At one time the park area leased by us, which was the south-east corner bounded on the east by King William Road and the Glenelg tramline and on the south by Greenhill Road (then Park Terrace, Wayville) enabled us to lay down three diamonds each week known as Goodwood North (generally considered to be the best playing surface), Goodwood South adjacent to the Clubshed and Goodwood West. The playing areas were delineated at the whim of the "ground marker" employed by the SA Baseball League (some Goodwood players undertook this duty) although at times an effort was made to prepare a more or less permanent area. There were no defined boundaries as such which meant that overthrows to first or third base had to be run down. And of course no automatic home runs, calling in most cases for some fast base-running to achieve such a result. Mown grass infields were only found on grounds reserved for cricket in summer such as the University Oval and other ovals which were used spasmodically.

Soon after I left the Club in 1951 the decision was made to improve the changing room conditions and a new Besser brick building somewhat larger than the old shed was built on the Eastern boundary of the Park adjacent to both the North and South diamonds. It was handed over with the lease when the club left to seek greener pastures with the introduction of summer baseball. The old shed has been demolished.

One of the reasons given for the change to the District system was that clubs would be able to provide their own grounds distancing themselves from the system prior to 1931 when most senior games were played as curtain-raisers to League football matches. Often this was unsatisfactory as it meant playing to a tight time schedule, but a novel feature was that some prominent footballers also liked a game of baseball and often played both games on the same day on the same ground. A case in point was that of Victor York Richardson, one of Australia's best all-round sportsman (and father of club member Doug Richardson)



J.W. (Jim) Fitzsimons, W.P. (Bill) Holmesby and
R.E. (Rupert) Sharpe at the "old" Clubshed in the
South Parklands, 1934.



— Menest A Pace, by Young Parklands —

W.P. (Bill) Holmesby (winner of the A Grade
Batting Average 1933) at practice 1934.

who often played in this manner with the Sturt Club.

Accommodation for meetings of the Management and Selection Committees was at a premium and these had to be held as opportunity offered. From 1946 to 1951 when I was Chairman of the club having taken over from A.J.(Alby) Bartlett, who although throughout his playing career was a Sturt stalwart and later one of our best umpires, had attached himself to Goodwood in the late 1930s, I arranged for these Management meetings to be held at my own home in Clarence Park. In Alby's time we often met at his office in Dalgety's in Currie Street but this did not suit all members.

By this time Ron Scott had given up club duties to concentrate on his position as the Secretary of the SA Baseball League and the new Secretary was Mr W.H.(Bill) Stephens a former member and ardent supporter. Our Committee meetings were most productive and rewarding. Bill was a cheerful character with a fine sense of humour which he exhibited with his writings and poetry in a regular Newsletter.

Reference has been made earlier to the newspaper reporting of Ron Sharpe and myself in the 1940s. As we were usually playing together the routine was for all scorebooks to be delivered to the Advertiser office as soon as possible after the game and we would write our reports from these books. I would prepare my submission for the Advertiser and Ron for the Sunday Mail. It was also routine that after we had finished we would meet at my home for tea or coffee, Ron's contribution being a Violet Crumble (which was still in short supply) for each of our two young daughters.

Playing all official games in winter was not the most desirable of pastimes especially if continuous rain was to be tolerated. Umpires who had the final decision if play was to stop or continue were often loath to delay the proceedings and consequently many games were played in or after heavy rain which made conditions decidedly unpleasant. In those pre-War days equipment was neither cheap or plentiful and often one baseball would have to last up to three games and then passed on down to the lower grades. On many occasions I have completely re-stitched a ball as the original had become frayed due to extensive use. Ball control under these extreme conditions was most difficult and baserunning through puddles of water not to be looked upon with favour.

Supplies of bats, especially those from the United States made from American ash were almost impossible to obtain partly due to the cost and also lack of supply and some enterprising local players tried their hand at making their own. Goodwood catcher Colin Dew was one who tried it but the problem was to find a timber which was strong, light in weight with a long straight grain. There was only limited success with this activity.

We had our share of characters in the Club, and I have described the activities of Johnnie Mordaunt elsewhere. Jim Fitzsimons was a tough but very capable catcher who had no hesitation in letting his pitcher know if the latter did not do as suggested by his signals. Gordon (Boomer) Fidock was a cheerful soul who was not worried about winds as he was not wide enough to stop much. One who loved to run was Ron Brealey who often reached second base on a foul ball hit by him and he was quick too. Norm (Chalky) White was another of our quick runners. Bill Radbone had an idiosyncrasy all his own in that if a pitched ball came to him body-wise he could not get out the way but instead would stop it with his bare hand. This invariably did not engender a spirit of sympathy from the umpire.

Like most other clubs then (and the practice seems to have endured to the present day) we had out devoted lady scorers, dedicated souls who turned out rain or shine week after week and without shelter other than the odd umbrella and waterproof sheet. On who comes to mind was Miss Dorothy Watson who gave unstinted service for many years. She also performed a like service with some State games. We also had our small band of wives and girl friends who were loyal supporters in similar weather conditions.

Reference to baserunning reminds me that in pre-War years the league organised what it called "Field Days" in which players competed in various facets of the game. This included baserunning, a full circuit of the diamond against the clock (14 seconds for the 120 plus yards was considered excellent), long throw (100 yards not good enough), outfield catch and throw home (from a fungo hit), bunt hit and run to first base (from a pitched ball) and infield play by a team (pitcher to catcher, catcher to second, second to first, first to third, third to home, catcher to shortstop, shortstop to first.) Popular for a time but eventually abandoned. I first competed in it in June 1932.

Young children were often seen at our games having been taken along to "see Daddy play" and one such small family (my own was also there now and again) which comes to mind was that of Martin Chappell whose wife Jean was the daughter of Victor Y. Richardson and the sister of Doug. Martin learnt his baseball with Goodwood but later transferred to Glenelg. Their three sons were Ian, Greg and Trevor who achieved some considerable fame in another sporting sphere.

Another family with regular attendance in the early post-War years was the Haynes family led by Mum and Dad who usually arrived at games per medium of the old Harley and sidecar following the performances of their five sons who all played at the same time. They were Doug, "Chippy", Bert, John and Jimmy. Bert has remained in touch actively as a player, coach and in particular as a well

respected League umpire and is a Life Member of the club and League, a fine record. He became well known for his forthright and candid views.

Jack, Con and Des Kenneally were known to have played in the same Goodwood team at times and my two brothers made brief appearances with the club before the War.

There were several other brother combinations, the most famous perhaps being Ron and Rupert Sharpe who on many occasions performed as the A Grade battery and I have known Rupert to be a more than capable pitcher. Of later years the Radbone brothers, Arthur and Bill who both forsook promising football careers (Arthur had been the captain of the 1929 State schoolboys team) and became highly esteemed and valuable members of the club. And there was the aforementioned father-son combination of Johnnie and Dean Mordaunt. With all his long connection with the club Ron Scott had never played the game but later his son was a member and of course Ron's brother Clem (Seagull) Scott was a most talented first baseman before transferring to Sydney.

The origin of the "Indians" label of the club may be of interest to present day members. In the late 1940s the then club Secretary Bill Stephens had paid a visit to the United States and while there had visited the headquarters of the Cleveland Indians and established personal contact with the officials. Subsequently he obtained the permission of the organisation to adopt the "Indians" tag and to use a similar Indian Head motif on our uniforms. Just prior to that time we had branched out with a completely new concept in the club uniform which basically was an all over light grey with the name "Goodwood" emblazoned across the chest. We also used numbers for the first time on the shirt back and as at the time I was recovering from an illness I was acting as a base coach and given the number 13.

As I recall it Bill Radbone was responsible for the first design of the Indian head motif and the first effort was copied and embroidered by one of the Goodwood Ladies. Being also Chairman of the Club at the time I pulled rank and gave myself the privilege of wearing it for the first time. It was sewn on my left sleeve.

To keep the club spirit alive during the "off" (summer) season the club formed a cricket club to compete in the strong Adelaide and Suburban Association (all games played on hard pitches and generally in the Parklands). There was a ready-made concrete pitch immediately in front of the dressing shed and we were able to assemble a reasonably strong side. Our mainstay for a while was Charlie Puckett, a formidable fast bowler, before he was enticed away by the

Sturt Cricket Club to try his hand on turf pitches but on concrete pitches with a matting cover he was almost unplayable. At times at first slip I have heard apprehensive opposition batsmen declare the "he could have my wicket any time!" In the time that he played with us he had an astonishing single figure bowling average. In 1936 he accepted an offer of a position with the Perth newspaper, the Westralian which had the idea of building up baseball enthusiasm to enable West Australia to enter the Claxton Shield competition, which occurred in the following year, 1937, with Charlie as its No. 1 pitcher.

Jim Fitzsimons was an even better wicketkeeper than he was a catcher which is some recommendation and was fearless in his approach to the game. His fingers attested to the fact that he would stand up to the wicket for the medium pace bowlers. Among the latter the club was fortunate to acquire the services of an expatriate Victorian, Frank Collins, who had transferred to Adelaide to open an automobile wheel business. He had been a member of the Victorian baseball team prior to coming to Adelaide but did not play the game here but he was an acquisition to the cricket team. He later, in relatively recent years, became Captain of the Glenelg Golf Club of which he was also granted Life Membership. We also had a number of other capable players which helped to make the team a force with which to be reckoned.

In conclusion I may say that my association with the Goodwood Baseball Club was very rewarding and it was a proud moment when I was awarded a Life Membership in 1951 and I am sure that if my direct contact had not been interrupted with my transfer to Port Augusta I would have been active for much of the intervening period. I maintain interest in the club with the regular receipt of the club magazine "Smoke Signals". Colonel Light Gardens was an important section of Goodwood territory under the District system and it would be a pity if current circumstances forced the club headquarters to suffer another shift further away.

Official baseball activity was curtailed considerably during the Second World War except for a reduced schedule almost on a day to day basis. Following a heavy Japanese raid on Darwin in 1942 one of the United States' Supply Ships was hit and it sunk at its moorings in the harbour but fortunately with minimal casualties. The remaining crew members were transferred to Adelaide for re-deployment, most of them with only the clothes they were wearing at the time of the attack. From memory I believed that the ship was the USS Peary (or Admiral Peary). As there were a number of this crew keen on baseball and were amateur players back home we (Goodwood) arranged a match on the Goodwood ground area, not one of the official diamonds as it was in the off-season and we had an interesting game as only our team had regulation uniforms.

We had a number of games arranged against the US Army Headquarters Staff stationed in Adelaide and the American players had access to all the equipment and uniforms. There was better organisation by the locals and we played a number of "International" games the first I recall (for which I was the captain and pitcher) being played on the Adelaide Oval No. 2 Ground and another on the Kingswood Oval on Unley Road. We were fairly evenly matched as to ability and overall we had an even competition. Some of the opposition showed that they were used to a good standard of baseball. In our sides we were able to select the best of the available local players and indeed some from other States who had been stationed by the various Services in Adelaide at the time.

The last of these Internationals was played on the Adelaide Oval with a strong Australian side which included several from the Eastern States and Although I cannot recall all the players in that side I do remember that our pitcher was Perc Earle of the Sturt Club who had represented South Australia in the last pre-War Series.

Ron Sharpe, Johnnie Mordaunt and I were involved in many games locally against Australian Army personnel stationed mainly at the Keswick Barracks and played on the nearby Showgrounds arena. Our side had a substantial representation of Goodwood players and with Ron at the helm we were generally successful

Brothers I omitted from those mentioned on Page 12 were the well-known Cameron brothers Mel, who was in the club when I joined in 1931 as an able outfielder and Russell, our catcher who was still playing when I left in 1951!