



With Bat and Ball!

A Cheery Chat
concerning
Greyfriars Cricket

by

**George
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(Captain of Greyfriars)

I AM sometimes asked if the Greyfriars First Eleven has ever played through a whole season without losing a match. Yes; this feat has been accomplished on two occasions. In 1862 (which was a trifle before my time!) our seniors played 20 matches, and won 19, the other being drawn owing to bad weather. And last season, under my captaincy, 18 matches were played, 14 won, and 4 drawn. Not quite so good a record as the 1862 one; yet we had some formidable opposition to face, including a powerful Old Boys eleven, a military team from Wapshot, and a team of smart young Australians touring this country.

OUR most exciting match was that against our old and doughty rivals of St. Jim's. It was a thrilling game, of fluctuating fortunes, and at one time we stood in real danger of defeat. But a display of "batting fireworks" by my friend, Pat Gwynne, pulled the game round, and in the end we snatched a narrow victory by two wickets.

GWYNNE has "come on" by leaps and bounds as a batsman. His cricket slogan is "Hit hard—and hit often!" No stolid stonewaller is Gwynne. His bat is given no chance to develop roots! He plays a daring yet confident game, jumping out to hit, and timing the ball to perfection. Some of his big hits this season have done considerable damage to the pavilion roof! But the biggest hit of all time—made by R. B. Standish in 1906—has yet to be surpassed. Standish hit the ball on to the roof of the school gymnasium!

THE bowling honours go to Faulkner, who is unplayable on a wet wicket, and not easy to play on any sort of wicket. He gets a deal of "spin" on the ball, and his pace is terrific. The ball comes down the pitch with the velocity of a bullet from a machine-gun! Naturally, Faulkner is apt to tire quickly; but we have some excellent change-bowlers.

THE Remove Eleven is probably the second best combination of cricketers at

Greyfriars. I have just finished writing about the *best!* The Fifth is a fairly sound side, but somehow they seem to lack the whole-hearted enthusiasm and "will to win" which are such features of Remove cricket. The Shell team is like the curate's egg—good in parts—while the Upper Fourth, under the captaincy of Cecil Reginald Temple, was twice beaten by the Remove last season.

up a good show, they were ultimately beaten by 20 runs.

ANOTHER of the Remove matches which I remember particularly well was the first of the two matches played against the Upper Fourth. Wharton didn't field too strong a side, and Temple's eleven put up a very good fight, probably because Wharton had offended their dignity! However, as I have already said previously, the Remove won, but only by the narrow margin of three runs! Temple put on 45 of his side's total of 130 runs, and it was a good knock. But the highest scorer in the game was Bob Cherry; he put on a faultless 60, and was not out at the finish. He also made the winning hit, and was the only Remove man who could do anything with the Upper Fourth bowling. It was a very keen and exciting game.

IN point of fact, last season was a very good one for the Remove. Of the fourteen matches played, they were only once defeated. And I believe that was due to Wharton's having to field a weak side through two or three of the regular First Team men being ill or injured. I umpired in this game, which was against a strong Bagshot team, and although the Remove put

WHAT is the secret of the Remove's success? Why, the qualities I have already mentioned, plus Harry Wharton's fine generalship, plus Bob Cherry's brilliant batting, and Hurree Singh's really deadly bowling, backed up by remarkable keenness in the field. The Remove fellows are triers all the time; and whether the game is going against them, or swinging along merrily in their favour, they put all they know into the tussle.

BOB CHERRY topped the Remove batting averages last season, and Wharton and Vernon-Smith finished close behind him. Hurree Singh carried off the chief bowling honours. Billy Bunter keeps appealing to me, as Head of Games, to secure him a place in the Remove side. But I am afraid that Bunter is not a Grace—though his initials happen to be "W. G." In the Remove team he would undoubtedly prove a dis-Grace!

THE END



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