

NOTES ON BLANDFORD CRICKET CLUB MATCHES, 1887-1889

[Newspaper reports are from the Blandford Weekly News unless otherwise stated.]

1887

Report on the accounts of the Recreation Ground Committee mentions that the Recreation Ground will be open for the use of the public on 1 May, and that two professional bowlers are engaged for the coming cricket season.

[23 April 1887, p. 1]

Thursday 26 May 1887 at Poole. Blandford v. Poole.

The first regular match of the Blandford Cricket Club [i.e. this season]. Defeat of visitors on first innings, time not allowing playing out of match.

Poole: 1: 73; 2: 68 [complete]; Blandford: 1: 46; 2: 40 [6 scores, 2 not out]

[28 May 1887, p. 5]

Monday 30 May 1887 at Blandford. An eleven of the Blandford Cricket Club captained by Mr Smith and one got together by Mr Smart.

Mr Smith's team victorious by 8 wickets.

Mr Smith's Team: 1: 129; 2: 21 [4 scores, 2 not out]; Mr Smart's Team: 1: 69; 2: 78

[4 June 1887, p. 5]

Wednesday 15 June 1887 at Shaftesbury. Blandford v. Shaftesbury.

Blandford victorious by an innings and 100 runs. Shaftesbury had a professional Perkins bowling.

Shaftesbury: 1: 29; 2: 32; Blandford: 161 [complete]

[18 June 1887, p. 5]

Saturday 18 June 1887 at Blandford. Blandford v. Iwerne Park.

Blandford won by 144 runs in the first innings, time not allowing the match to be completed.

Blandford: 249; Iwerne Park: 105

[25 June 1887, p. 5]

Thursday 30 June 1887. Canford v. Blandford.

[Match scheduled but no report found.]

[25 June 1887, p. 5]

Monday 4 July 1887 at Dean Park, Bournemouth. Bournemouth v. Blandford.

Blandford won on the first innings, time not allowing the game to be finished.

Blandford: 108; Bournemouth: 1: 77; 2: 223 [7 scores, 2 not out]

[9 July 1887, p. 5]

Thursday 7 July 1887 at Blandford. Blandford v. Milborne St Andrew.

Brilliant weather. Won on the first innings, time not allowing the game to be played out.

Blandford: 1: 91; 2: 309 [7 scores, 2 not out]; Milborne: 45

[9 July 1887, p. 5]

Wednesday 13 July 1887 at Blandford. Blandford v. Poole.

Victory for the home team by an innings and 142 runs.

Blandford: 225; Poole: 1: 56; 2: 27 [complete]

[16 July 1887, p. 5]

Saturday 16 July 1887 at Shroton. Blandford v. Shroton.

Blandford won by 83 runs on the first innings, time not allowing the game to be played out.
Shroton 1: 40; 2: 100 [8 scores, 2 not out]; Blandford: 123
[23 July 1887, p. 5]

Wednesday 20 July 1887 at Blandford. Blandford v. Mapperton.

In brilliant weather, Blandford won by 1 innings and 30 runs to spare.
Blandford: 152; Mapperton: 1: 57; 2: 66 [complete]
[23 July 1887, p. 5]

Wednesday 27 July 1887 at Blandford. Blandford v. Bournemouth.

Won on first innings, time not allowing the game to be finished.
Blandford: 1: 140; 2: 139 [10 scores, 1 not out, 1 "absent"]; Bournemouth: 89
[30 July 1887, p. 5]

Thursday 4 August 1887 at Blandford. Blandford v. Wimborne.

Brilliant weather and a large number of votaries of the game. With some extraordinary scores.[The first innings was not finished.]
Wimborne: 94; Blandford: 407 [10 scores, 2 not out, A. Smart "(did not bat)"]
[6 August 1887, p. 5]

Saturday 6 August 1887 at Blandford. Mr H. H. Smith's XI v. Durweston and Bryanston.

One innings, time not allowing the game to be played out.
Durweston and Bryanston: 1: 90; 2: 110 [5 scores, 2 not out]; Mr. H. H. Smith's XI: 143
[13 August 1887, p. 5]

Thursday 11 August 1887 at Blandford. Mr. Scutt's XI. v. Blandford.

Blandford lost by 1 run in a single innings match. Unpleasantness at close in consequence of Umpires' decision in 2 instances which did not meet with approval of the numerous spectators. [Details given.] Another correspondent comments on the undoubtedly unfair decision of the visitors' umpire. Speaks of many and loud expressions of dissatisfaction on all sides, "no further play for the day being attempted."
Mr. R. Scutt's XI: 129; Blandford: 128.
[13 August 1887, p. 5]

Monday 15 August 1887 at Sir William's ground [The Down House, Blandford]. Blandford v. Sir William Smith Marriott's Team.

Special match at Sir William's ground. Fine weather, large and fashionable company. 2 o'clock luncheon in the dining room for both teams and the resident ladies. In the afternoon many from Blandford witnessed the game. Play was very interesting and as Sir William suggested playing out the match the final half hour was quite exciting, there being 4 wickets to fall and 26 runs needed by his team.
Blandford: 1: 134; 2: 55; Sir W. S. Marriott's Team: 1: 114; 2: 72
[20 August 1887, p. 5]

Wednesday 17 August 1887 at Blandford. Blandford v. Shaftesbury.

Return match. Blandford batted first, the first batsman going in at a few minutes to 12. score raised to 159 at luncheon time. Blandford's innings ended at 4.45, and the fear was that the opponents might not have time to complete an innings. [Further details of play given.]
Blandford: 315; Shaftesbury: 59
[20 August 1887, p. 5]

Thursday 18 August 1887 at Blandford. Blandford 2nd XI v. Blandford Arabs.

Won on first innings.

Blandford 2nd XI: 1: 84; 2: 160; Blandford Arabs: 19; 2: 12 [5 scores, all 5 out]

[20 August 1887, p. 5]

Thursday 25 August 1887 at Blandford. Sturminster Newton v. Mr. H. H. Smith's XI.

Brilliant weather. Won by home team with 8 wickets to spare.

Sturminster Newton: 1: 45; 2: 56; Mr H. H. Smith's XI: 1: 70; 2: 32 [5 scores, 2 not out]

[27 August 1887, p. 5]

Thursday 1 September 1887 at Blandford. Blandford v. Mr. Steel's XI (Stoke).

Decided on first innings as soon as the home team had made sufficient runs, the heavy rain and gale making it impossible to continue the play.

Mr. Steel's XI: 64; Blandford: 65 [5 scores, 2 not out, last 6 "did not bat"]

[3 September 1887, p. 5]

Saturday 10 September 1887 at Blandford. Two elevens chosen by Mr. A. Smart and Mr. J. White.

Won on first innings.

Mr. Smart's XI: 1: 100; 2: 80 [10 scores, 1 not out]; Mr. White's XI: 80

[17 September 1887, p. 5]

Report of the Recreation Clubs' Dinner includes information about the Cricket Club's performance, including that 17 matches were arranged, of which 5 were cancelled and 12 played. [There are reports above of more than this number, apparently played by the Blandford first eleven.]

[26 November 1887, p. 5]

1888

The Recreation Ground will be re-opened on Thursday next (the first Early Closing day) [3 May] when a cricket match between members of the ground club is arranged, together with other attractions.

[28 April 1888, p. 1]

Thursday 3 May 1888 at Blandford. Match between members of the Club.

The Ground was reopened for the season. Fair number assembled to witness the first cricket match of the season between members of the club, teams being extemporised on the ground. [No further details of the match.] Also tennis. Band marched to the field at about 7pm. Hopes expressed that arrangements will be made with the band for a weekly performance there during the Summer.

[5 May 1888, p. 5]

Thursday 10 May 1888 at Blandford. Teams selected from the Club by the captain (Rev. D. Peirce) and secretary (Mr Montagu Luff).

First match of the season in the Recreation Ground. Large number of spectators. Victory for latter on first innings, time not allowing the game to be played out. Ground not in such good condition as may have been desired.

Captain's XII: 1: 31; 2: 103 [6 scores, 1 not out]; Secretary's XI: 51

[12 May 1888, p. 5]

Thursday 24 May 1888 at Wimborne St Giles. Blandford v. Wimborne St Giles.

Beautiful weather. Easy victory for Blandford on first innings, time not allowing the game to be finished.

Blandford: 106; Wimborne St Giles: 1: 84; 2: 50 [6 scores, 2 not out]

[26 May 1888, p. 5]

Thursday 31 May 1888 at Blandford. Blandford v. Morden.

Easy victory for the home team, by an innings and 24 runs. The Professional's bowling was too much for the villagers.

The report gives the totals as: Blandford: [?]100; Morden: 1: 82; 2: 44, but these bear no relation to the sums of individual scores or the numbers in the report.

The totals I get from the individual scores are: Blandford: 108; Morden: 1: 33; 2: 49 [complete]

[2 June 1888, p. 5]

Saturday 2 June 1888 at Blandford. Second XI of club chosen by Mr E. B. Smith and Mr Douglas Smith's (Letton) XI.

Win for former on first innings, time not allowing the match to be played out.

Mr. E. B. Smith's Team: 1: 72; 2: 85; Mr Douglas Smith's Team: 1: 48; 2: 69 [8 scores, 1 not out]

[9 June 1888]

Thursday 7 June 1888 at Blandford. Second XI and Blandford YMCA Team.

Easy victory for former in 1 innings and 47 runs to spare.

Totals only reported: YMCA: 16 and 55; Club team: 118

[9 June 1888, p. 5]

Thursday 14 June 1888 at Blandford. Blandford v. Ringwood.

Victory for visitors. Professional's cricket is to say the least not up to expectations.

Blandford: 1: 41; 2: 59; Ringwood: 1: 73; 2: 29 [5 scores, 2 not out]

[16 June 1888, p. 5]

Thursday 21 June 1888 at Blandford. Blandford 2nd XI and an XI from Bryanston and Durweston.

Play had to be suspended for the day because of persistent rain. To be recommenced on some future occasion.

[23 June 1888, p. 5]

Thursday 5 July 1888 at Blandford. Blandford second XII v. Arabs (an XI chosen by Mr. F. Dean).

Time did not allow the game to be played out, so decided in favour of latter team on 1st innings.

Blandford second XI: 1: 66; 2: 106 [8 scores, 1 not out]; Mr F. Dean's XI: 68

[7 July 1888, p. 5]

Thursday 12 July 1888 at Blandford. A team representing the Morning Star and a second XI of Blandford.

Blandford second XI: 1: 76; 2: 37 [5 scores, 2 not out]; Morning Star: 42

[14 July 1888, p. 5]

Saturday 21 July 1888 at Wareham. Blandford v. Isle of Purbeck.

Won on first innings, time not allowing the game to be finished.

Blandford: 66; Isle of Purbeck: 97 [both complete]

[28 July 1888, p. 5]

Tuesday 31 July 1888 at Blandford. Recreation Ground Juniors v. Traveller's Rest Boys'

School (teams chosen from).

Recreation Ground Juniors: 1: 15; 2: 29; Travellers' Rest Boys' School: 1: 25; 2: 38 [all complete]
[4 August 1888, p. 5]

Thursday 2 August 1888 at Blandford. Blandford v. Mr Douglas Smith's XI.

Really enjoyable weather. Visitors batted first; steady play and some good luck. When Blandford responded they were much disconcerted by the swift bowling of the Ringwood crack. After the visitors' second innings about 62 minutes remained for play, with 89 runs needed. The score was at 80 within 10 minutes of call. Blandford made up the required total almost on the stroke of time.

[Further details of play given.]

Blandford: 1: 45; 2: 90 [9 scores, all out]; Mr D. Smith's XI: 1: 58; 2: 75 [NB Mr Smith's XI batted first.]

[4 August 1888, p. 5]

Saturday 11 August 1888 at Blandford. Mr. E. B. Smith's XI. v. Mr. F. Roe's XI.

Attracted a large number of lovers of cricket, and was productive of much interest. Montague Luff (for the home team, Mr Smith's XI), made 53 runs in 2 hours. The Thurstons dashed off their [74] runs in nearly as many minutes.

Mr. F. Roe's XI: 1: 30; 2: 39 [complete]; Mr. E. B. Smith's XI: 204

[18 August 1888, p. 5]

Monday 20 August 1888 at Blandford. Blandford Boys v. Shroton Boys.

Return match.

Blandford: 1: 39; 2: 27 [complete]; Shroton: 1: 18; 2: 49 [8 scores, 2 not out]

[25 August 1888, p. 5]

Thursday 30 August 1888 at Blandford. Blandford v. Isle of Purbeck.

Return match. Decisive victory for visitors, the home team entirely breaking down before the bowling of Druitt, who took seven wickets for three runs in 10 overs.

Blandford: 25; Isle of Purbeck: 62

[1 September 1888, p. 5]

Saturday 1 September 1888 at Blandford. Recreation Ground Juniors and Travellers' Rest CC. (teams representing)

Recreation Ground Juniors: 1: 35; 2: 73 [10 scores, 2 not out]; Travellers' Rest: 1: 21; 2: 27

[8 September 1888, p. 5]

Tuesday 11 September 1888 at Ringwood. Blandford v. Ringwood.

Return match. Splendid weather. After the first innings Ringwood were confident of winning and intended to have a "scratch match" afterwards (this was forgotten, or anyhow not started when our team left by the 6.30 train). [Details of play given.]

Blandford: 1: 54; 2: 41; Ringwood: 1: 68; 2: 13 [complete]

[15 September 1888, p. 5]

Thursday 13 September 1888 at Blandford. Blandford and Mr. Douglas Smith's (Letton) XI.

Rather exciting finish.

Mr D. Smith's XI: 1: 67; 2: 55; Blandford: 1: 58; 2: 56 [complete]

[15 September 1888, p. 5]

Saturday 15 September 1888 at Blandford. Mr Douglas Smith's XI and Mr. E. B. Smith's XI.

Was scheduled to start at 1.30. Interesting match attracted a large number of spectators. Delightfully fine weather. Time did not allow completion, and it was decided on first innings.

Mr Douglas Smith's XI: 93; Mr. E. B. Smith's XI: 1: 146; 2: 51 [9 scores, 2 not out, last 2 "did not bat"]
[15, 22 September 1888, p. 5]

Report of annual dinner of Blandford Cricket Club on 30 October.

Montagu Luff (Hon. Sec.): As far as cricket itself goes the season has been very much against it, and this will account for the small averages; but as to the bowling I venture to say the season has considerably helped our trundlers. ...

The [batting] averages do not run very high, owing no doubt to the wet season, and no very large individual scores have been made. ...

During the season the Club played 10 matches, won 5, lost 2 and drawn 1. Seven matches did not come off at all, one against Milton owing to rain and the others for various reasons ...

[There are reports above of only 8 matches played apparently by the Blandford first XI.]
[3 November 1888]

1889

The cricket season is not yet in full swing at Blandford ... The valuable services of Newman, who has been connected with the club, off and on, for some years have again been secured; and wisely, too, because last years' pro. (Ross) did not prove by any means an acquisition to the batting or bowling strength of the eleven. ... the Recreation Ground is already in excellent trim ... fixture cards are not yet out, but matches have been arranged with the principal teams in the district, including Bournemouth and Ringwood. Opening event will be a match on Tuesday next, between elevens chosen by Douglas Smith and E. B. Smith, but it will be mainly confined to second eleven players. A cricket club has recently been formed in connection with the Blandford Liberal Club and has been practising in Bryanston Park. The secretary will be glad to arrange matches with junior clubs.
[11 May 1889, p. 2]

Tuesday 14 May 1889 at Blandford. Mr. E. B. Smith's XI v. Mr. Douglas Smith's XI.

Delightful weather. Single innings victory. Douglas Smith's team batted first. In the course of the afternoon tea was provided, full justice being done to the event by players and visitors.

Mr. Douglas Smith's XI: 1: 61; 2: 33; Mr. E. B. Smith's XI: 142 [complete]
[18 May 1889, p. 2]

Saturday 25 May 1889 at Blandford. Milton Abbas C.C. v. Wimborne Grammar School C.C. [listed on 25 May 1889, p. 2, but no report found.]

List of 13 fixtures of the Blandford C.C. for the ensuing season, with other matches in the course of arrangement.

Scratch match between captain's and secretary's elevens last week end produced a tie, both teams securing 49, but cricket was mediocre.

The report also comments on the inactivity of the Blandford Liberal C.C. and the inadequacy of the pitch at Bryanston Park. A scratch match is shortly to be played between the members and an eleven captained by Weavill.

[25 May 1889, p. 2]

Wednesday 29 May 1889 at Blandford. Blandford v. Weymouth College.

Victory for home eleven on the first innings. College batted first on a treacherous wicket. In their second innings they knocked up 103 for five wickets and under the new rule declared the innings closed with the intention of dismissing their opponents before time. But Blandford had lost only half the wickets when stumps were drawn.

Weymouth College: 1: 15; 2: 103 [7 scores, 2 not out, 4 did not bat]; Blandford: 1: 32; 2: 40 [7 scores, 2 not out, 4 did not bat]
[1 June 1889, p. 8]

Thursday 30 May 1889 at Blandford. Liberal Club C.C. v. Mr. E. B. Smith's XI.

Victory for latter, which included many of the leading players of the town club.

Liberal Club C.C.: 1: 62; 2: 35; Mr. E. B. Smith's XI: 71; 2: 27 [2 scores, 2 not out]

[1 June 1889, p. 8]

Thursday 13 June 1889 at Dean Park, Bournemouth. Bournemouth v. Blandford.

Scores very heavy, and finish unusually exciting.

Bournemouth: 215; Blandford: 256 (for six wickets) [8 scores, 2 not out, 3 "to bat"]

[15 June 1889, p. 5]

Thursday 20 June 1889 at Ringwood. Ringwood v. Blandford.

Capital game, with victory for home team on the first innings.

Ringwood: 1: 85; 2: [65]; Blandford: 1: 50; 2: 27 [4 scores, 1 not out]

[22 June 1889, p. 8]

Thursday 27 June 1889 at Blandford. Blandford v. Sherborne.

Home team won by an innings and 35 runs.

Totals only reported: Blandford: 156; Sherborne: 90 and 31.

[29 June 1889, p. 5]

Wednesday 3 July 1889 at Blandford. Blandford v. Milton Abbas Grammar School (Past and Present).

Easy win for the club.

Milton Abbas School: 1: 40; 2: 62 for 6 wickets [7 scores, 1 not out]; Blandford: 129

[6 July 1889, p. 4]

Thursday 11 July 1889 at Blandford. Bournemouth v. Blandford (Newman's Benefit).

This match was cancelled, as Bournemouth was unable to field a side.

[13 July 1889, p. 2; 17 August 1889, p. 2]

Tuesday 16 July 1889 at Blandford. Blandford v. Purbeck.

[listed 13 July 1889, p. 2, but no report found]

Saturday 20 July 1889 at Weymouth. Blandford v. Weymouth College.

Return match. Win for Blandford on the first innings. Blandford unable to raise a representative team and were assisted by 3 members of the Weymouth town club, who only scored 3 runs between them in the first innings. Blandford batted first.

Blandford: 1: 116; 2: 52 for 2 wickets [4 scores, 2 not out]; Weymouth College: 69

[27 July 1889, p. 2]

Thursday 25 July 1889 at Blandford. Knighton and Durweston v. Blandford Liberal C.C.

Easy victory for Knighton and Durweston. Blandford Liberals batted first.

Totals only reported, in text. Blandford Liberal C.C. 1: 138 [this must be an error, perhaps for 38?]; 2: 36; Knighton and Durweston: 82.

[27 July 1889, p. 5]

Wednesday 31 July 1889 at Blandford. Blandford v. Mr. Douglas Smith's XI.

Easy victory for Blandford by an innings and 45 runs. Blandford batted first. Visitors in first innings

collapsed and had to follow on. [Details of play given.]
Blandford: 165; D. Smith's XI: 1: 42; 2: 78 [complete]
[3 August 1889, p. 5]

Wednesday 7 August 1889 at Blandford. Blandford v. Mr. Steele's XI.

Very interesting game.

Mr. Steele's Eleven: 1: 59; 2: 52; Blandford: 1: 72; 2: 14 (four wickets) [6 scores, 2 not out]
[10 August 1889, p. 5]

Thursday 15 August 1889 at Blandford. Ringwood v. Blandford.

[listed 10 August 1889, p. 2 but no report found on 17 August, but the "Offside" column on p. 2 says Blandford had arranged three matches at the latter end of last week, of which one was abandoned owing to the rain, one was won and one was lost.]

Friday 16 August 1889 [or 9 August?] at Blandford. Blandford v. Balham [London] (Newman's benefit - second attempt).

Very inclement weather made cricket out of the question.

[17 August 1889, p. 2]

Tuesday 20 August 1889 at Blandford. Blandford v. Isle of Purbeck.

Win for the visitors on the first innings. Islanders batted first. Home team reached 40 for 3 wickets by the luncheon interval. After resumption the remaining 7 batsmen added only 9 runs. After the visitors' second innings the game terminated. [Details of play given.]

Isle of Purbeck: 1: 57; 2: 89 [complete]; Blandford: 51
[24 August 1889, p. 2]

Saturday 24 August 1889 at Sherborne. Blandford v. Sherborne.

The locals won easily and W. Seymour, White and Woolmington all batted well.

Totals only reported: Blandford: 58; Sherborne 96.

[31 August 1889, p. 2]

Tuesday 27 August 1889 at Blandford. Mr. D. Smith's XI v. Blandford.

[listed 24 August 1889, p. 2 but no report found.]

Thursday 29 August 1889 at Charlton. Charlton Marshall v. Blandford Liberal Club.

Totals only reported. Blandford Liberal Club: 12; Charlton Marshall: 39.

[31 August 1889, p. 5]

Friday 30 August 1889 at Wareham. Blandford v. Isle of Purbeck.

[listed 24 August 1889, p. 2 but no report found.]

Thursday 5 September 1889 at Blandford. Ringwood v. Blandford (Newman's benefit - third attempt)

Return match. Easy win for the home team. Arranged for the benefit of C. Newman, the Blandford pro.

Blandford: 1: 77; 2: 71; Ringwood: 1: 41; 2: 36 [complete]

[7 September 1889, p. 4]

Tuesday 10 September 1889 at Blandford. Mr. E. B. Smith's XI v. Mr. Douglas Smith's XI.

Return match. Win for former on first innings. Players and a numerous company entertained at tea in the pavilion.

Mr E. B. Smith's XI: 1: 66; 2: 86 for four wickets [6 scores, 1 not out]; Mr D. Smith's XI: 51

[14 September 1889, p. 2]

Report of annual cricket dinner in connection with Blandford Recreation Ground on Friday [18 December?].

Mr. J. H. Evans (Hon. Sec.) presented report and said he was afraid it had not been up to the average either in number of matches played or number won. He sent challenges to 20 clubs and for various reasons only 9 were accepted. 13 matches were played, of which 9 won, 3 lost and 1 scratched, viz., Bournemouth, who, I consider, behaved very cowardly and unmanly. After hollow victory of B at Dean Park by 4 wickets and 41 runs, received letter stating that our wicket was too bad for them to play on and that they were unable to get a team.

[There are reports above of 11 matches played apparently by the Blandford first XI, and 3 for which reports were not found.]

[26 December 1889]