

TOFT CRICKET CLUB

Apart from the 1939 scorebook there are no written records of cricket in Toft. The game was played regularly in the village from 1840. It would appear that Toft had a team in the 1920s, playing in the field (Home Meadow) behind the yard of Old Farm. The Club was still playing there in the 1930s, as cited by the late Bert Sparks; Papworth was one of the visiting village teams. The team was likely to have been in the Milton and District League, certainly in 1939, and were also playing friendlies. Play was suspended for the duration of the War and there are indications of matches resuming in 1947/48 in the Old Farm field.

In 1951/52 the Club was active and playing in the "Twenty acre" meadow (Home Close) at the rear of Manor Farm, in the ownership of Mr Butler at the time. This team played in the Cambridgeshire League, its division not known. Colin Ward remembers playing against Gamlingay on this pitch. The club had dark green caps with an embroidered yellow-gold coloured "T". More latterly the club played in the field owned by Ken Tebbit at the rear of Manor cottages in Church Lane. Geoff Balcombe has memories in the early 1960s of Toft playing for two or three seasons playing on Home Meadow. The team played in the lower divisions of The Cambridgeshire League. Players included Koren, Paul, Malcolm, Peter and Derick Collett, Reg, Bernie, Pat and Ronnie Ward, Geoff Balcombe and Len Halsall. Visiting teams included Over CC, NCI III, Stetchworth, Harlton, Granchester, and Coton cricket clubs. The first game, against Stetchworth, was played in jumpers and jackets because of the cold weather. Aside from frozen fingers the result is unknown.

Celebratory matches were played on Home Meadow as part of the 777 fundraising events marking the heritage of church fellowship in the village, in 1994, and at the Millennium sports weekend in 2000.

Compiled by Colin Ward and Geoff Balcombe



Back row: Mark Catley, Stephen Sykes, Trevor Jacklin, Dave Stewart, Kevin Jacklin, Brian Mitchell, Richard Preece, David Mahony, Jake Tebbit, Andrew Mckearney, Paul Hollow, Robert Jackson, Jake Stewart, Alex Hoskins, Stephen Pugh, Patrick Hoskin, Oliver Pugh
Front row: Keith Jacklin, Philip Jacklin, George Hoskin, Ian Mahony, Peter Johnson, Joseph Hodson, Michael Tebbit, Clive Jacklin, Philip Ling, Gary Marsh



Batsman; Rt. Reverend Stephen Sykes, Bishop of Ely





9.6/6



9.6/7



9.6/8



9.6/9



9.6/10



9.6/11



9.6/12

captions

9.6/6 Twenty Acre pitch, Manor Farm - Reg Ward out to bat (with cap) 1951/52

9.6/7 777 - cricket teams 1994

back row l. to r. Mark Catley, Stephen Sykes, Trevor Jacklin, Dave Stewart, Kevin Jacklin, Brian Mitchell, Richard Preece, David Mahony, Jake Tebbit, Andrew Mckearney, Paul Hollow, Robert Jackson, Jake Stewart, Alex Hoskins, Stephen Pugh, Patrick Hoskin, Oliver Pugh

front row l. to r.Keith Jacklin, Philip Jacklin, George Hoskin, Ian Mahony, Peter Johnson, Joseph Hodson, Michael Tebbit, Clive Jacklin, Philip Ling, Gary Marsh

- 9.6/8 777 - cricket on Home Meadow
- 9.6/9 777 - on not keeping a straight bat - Rev. Andrew Mckearny batsman, Richard Preece, Brian Elsdon wicketkeeper
- 9.6/10 777 - this one is for the Angels - batsman Rev. Stephen Sykes, Bishop of Ely
- 9.6/11 Pat Ward on Parker's Piece, late1960s
- 9.6/12 Millenium Sports Weekend cricket match 2000
Paul Hollow captain's team v Kevin Jacklin's
l. to r. Peter Cullingford, Philip Jacklin, unknown, Philip Cook, Keith and Kevin Jacklin
unknown, Adam Chapman, Dave Warton, unknown, Jake Stewart, unknown, Richard
Preece, Peter Johnson, Brian Mitchell, unknown, Martin Yeadon, Paul Hollow kneeling,
Jason Howlins, unknown, unknown, Steve Pugh kneeling, Sean Hughes, Patrick Hoskin

In the absence of written records, these notes on the history of football and cricket clubs in Toft, are based on the memories of past players. The Historical Society would welcome any additional information, memories or photographs that would contribute to this archive.