CRICKET

AT

BOURNE PARK

AND ITS OWNER

SIR HORATIO MANN

Horatio Mann and his Hound by Hugh Douglas Hamilton

EXTRACTS FROM WIKIPEDIA

Sir Horatio Mann, 2nd Baronet

Sir Horatio (Horace) Mann, 2nd Baronet (2 February 1744 – 2 April 1814) was a British politician who sat in the House of Commons between 1774 and 1807. He is remembered as a member of the Hambledon Club in Hampshire and a patron of Kent cricket. He was an occasional player but rarely in first-class matches.

Early life

Mann was the only surviving son of Galfridus Mann, an army clothier, of Boughton Place in Boughton Malherbe, Kent and his wife Sarah Gregory, daughter of John Gregory of London. He was educated at Charterhouse School and entered Peterhouse, Cambridge in 1760. His father died on 21 December 1756 and he succeeded to his estates at Boughton and Linton. He also inherited over £100,000 from his father. Mann married Lady Lucy Noel, daughter of Baptist Noel, 4th Earl of Gainsborough, on 13 April 1765.[1]

Cricket

Mann had a number of influential friends including John Frederick Sackville, 3rd Duke of Dorset, with whom he shared a keen cricketing rivalry. He owned Boughton Place in Boughton Malherbe and Linton Park in Linton, both near Maidstone, and later had his family seat at Bourne, near Canterbury. Within its grounds he had his own cricket ground Bishopsbourne Paddock which staged many first-class matches in the 1770s and 1780s. He later moved to Dandelion, near Margate, and established another ground there which was used for some first-class games towards the end of the 18th century.

Mann was a member of the *Committee of Noblemen and Gentlemen of Kent, Hampshire, Surrey, Sussex, Middlesex and London. He was a member of the committee at The Star and Garter* in Pall Mall, which drew up a new revision of the Laws of Cricket on 25 February 1774.[2]

Political career

Mann was nephew of Sir Horace Mann, 1st Baronet who was a British diplomat in Tuscany from 1738 to 1786. He was knighted on 10 June 1772, to act as proxy for his uncle at the installation of the Bath.[1]

Mann's ownership of Linton gave him electoral interest at Maidstone. At the 1774 general election he contested Maidstone, having deferred a planned journey abroad for his wife's health. He topped the poll and was returned as Member of Parliament for the seat. In 1775 his uncle made over to him the family estate at Bourne, in return for an annuity. He did go abroad and after visiting France, Tuscany, and Austria, returned to England in November 1778. From then on he travelled to his uncle in Florence nearly every summer. At the 1780 general election he was again returned for Maidstone at the head of the poll. He joined Brooks in 1780, and was a member of the St. Alban's Tavern group of country gentlemen who tried to reconcile Fox and Pitt. He did not stand in the 1784 general election.[1]

Mann was in Florence when his uncle died on 6 November 1786 and succeeded to the baronetcy as second baronet. He acted as chargé d'affaires in Florence for six months.[1] He was angered by the poor recompense he received for his services and returned to Italy in 1788 ostensibly to sort out the financial problems which resulted from running his uncle's establishment. [3]

Mann joined the Whig Club in January 1790 and at the following 1790 general election was elected in a contest as MP for Sandwich. He was returned unopposed in 1796 and 1802. By this time he was becoming increasingly absent in parliament mainly through ill-health when gout struck him. He avoided a contest and was returned in the 1806 general election, but was defeated in 1807.

Later life and legacy

Mann was described by Samuel Egerton Brydges as a wild, fickle, rattling man, who made no impression. In 1811 it was said that his estate would have been the largest in Kent but by his extravagance he reduced his income to not more than £4,000 a year. He died on 2 April 1814. He had three daughters, but no son and the baronetcy became extinct. His property went to his nephew James Cornwallis. Cornwallis's father wrote soon after "My son has had a great deal of trouble in consequence of succeeding a person really ruined. The sums Sir Horace expended are beyond all belief, or rather squandered."

Mann is variously called Sir Horatio and Sir Horace in the sources. Horace was used as a diminutive of Horatio so both names can be regarded as correct usage. He was always called Horace in *Scores and Biographies*, the main source for his cricketing activities.

	Parliament of Great Britain	
Preceded by **Charles Marsham** **Robert Gregory**	**Member of Parliament for Maidstone** 1774–1784 With: **Lord Guernsey 1774–1777** **Charles Finch 1777–1780** **Clement Taylor 1780–1784**	Succeeded by **Sir Gerard Noel** **Clement Taylor**
Preceded by **Sir Philip Stephens** **Charles Brett**	**Member of Parliament for Sandwich** 1790–1800 With: **Sir Philip Stephens**	Succeeded by **Parliament of the United Kingdom**
	Parliament of the United Kingdom	
Preceded by **Parliament of Great Britain**	**Member of Parliament for Sandwich** 1801–1807 With: **Sir Philip Stephens 1801–1806** **Sir Thomas Fremantle 1806–1807**	Succeeded by **Peter Rainier** **Charles Jenkinson**
	Baronetage of Great Britain	
Preceded by **Horace Mann**	**Baronet** (of Linton Hall) 1786–1814	**Extinct**

EXTRACTS FROM " MORE THAN A GAME"

by JOHN MAJOR

The Later Patrons

By the middle of the eighteenth century, cricket was poised for changes that would make it the game we know today. It was emerging from its infancy in a small world of contrast and paradox. The fortunate few lived pampered lives. A lady of means would dine in mid-afternoon before going out to the theatre, following which she would play card games at a friend's house, at which dancing might begin at a late hour with the arrival of the male guests. Her male counterpart could be expected to breakfast late, possibly with friends, and then visit one of London's two thousand or so coffee houses to gamble, read or discuss business and politics. He might shop before dining in the late afternoon and visit the theatre at around 6 p.m. Wife, mistresses or friends might occupy his evening. From such a society came the patrons of cricket.

But life was very different for most people. Incomes were dreadfully low. Half of all families in England lived on less than £25 per annum. The 'nearly poor' families of tradesmen and builders might have £40 a year with which to keep a large family, but £50 a year turned a family into consumers. Many families bought only second-hand clothing, thus enabling them to dress above their income. Clothes might make up half of a man's net worth, for few owned houses or possessed material wealth. The limit of ambition for most was sufficient clothes and food, and a rented roof. Twenty people died each week of starvation in London. Life expectancy was under thirty-seven years for the population as a whole, but even less for Londoners, with their unhealthy diet and insanitary and overcrowded homes.

Against this background of such social inequality, the second wave of cricket patrons carried the game to a wholly new dimension. When their work was done, the great Hambledon teams had earned immortality and the MCC had begun its long domination of the game. These patrons were few in number, but their influence was lasting. Another Sackville, the third Duke of Dorset, and Sir Horace Mann were the fount from which Kentish cricket flourished, while the Earl of Tankerville was a prominent sponsor for Surrey.

Sir Horace, a Kentish landowner and lifelong devotee of the game, was the most amiable of all the early benefactors. In 1765, at the age of twenty-one, he inherited around £100,000 (about £10 million today) from his father, a clothier who had amassed his fortune from army contracts. Ten years later his wealth was supplemented when his uncle Horace Mann Senior – the long-time recipient of the acid-infused letters of Horace Walpole – made over his estates in return for an annuity. This act of generosity made the young Horace one of the richest landowners in Kent. He married Lucy Noel, a daughter of the Earl of Gainsborough, in April 1765, and rented Bourne Place, a delightful mansion midway between Canterbury and Dover. Among the first summer visitors welcomed by Horace and Lucy were the Mozart family from Austria, including their talented nine-year-old son Wolfgang Amadeus. Young Wolfgang, probably the greatest child prodigy in history, had already toured Europe, met Marie Antoinette, played at the royal Courts in London and Vienna, and composed minuets and symphonies. Upon hearing a pig squeal, his musical ear absorbed the noise and his infant tongue proclaimed, 'G sharp.'

The Mozarts must have talked of music and their plans, and Horace, in imparting his own views, may have been lyrical about his preparations to build a cricket pitch in his grounds. At the age of twenty-two Horace founded the Bourne Club, and set the team up to play in Bourne Paddock, in front of his mansion. He laid out an attractive ground, described by John Burnby in 1773 as having 'smooth grass . . . laid compleat . . . a sweet lawn, with shady trees encompass[ed] round'. It was a beautiful setting. Bourne Paddock was to host many famous cricket encounters and inspire great nostalgia among those who knew it. Almost seventy years later, in 1840, the *Kentish Telegraph* recalled whimsically that 'In our hot days . . . this manly game met with great patronage at Bourne Place, and there are yet a few of our contemporaries left, who would give a little to throw away their cares and crutches, and renew those old recollections of Sir Horace and his merry friends.'

And merry they were, for the open-handed Horace and Lucy Mann entertained with style. Every match day was a great event. A game between teams styled 'Hampshire' and 'All-England' in August 1772 gives some flavour of the scene. A large ring was formed beyond the boundary, where booths offered food and drink. Seats and benches were set out to enable spectators to enjoy the game in comfort, and grandstands were erected for the elite, who included many prominent figures of the county. It must have been a magical occasion, with fifteen to twenty thousand spectators on the first day. The match lasted two days, each of seven hours' duration, with 'England' winning a hard-fought game by one wicket. One attraction for the crowd was that cricket was developing 'stars', and in this game two of the greatest, whom we shall meet later, were in the opposing

teams: 'Lumpy' Stevens caused astonishment by clean-bowling John Small, which according to the *Kentish Gazette* 'had not been done for some years'.

Not all games were on such a grand scale. Between the opening of the new ground and 1771 the Bourne Club played all over Kent, as far afield as Cranbrook, Wrotham, Leigh, Dartford and Tenterden; that they endured the difficulties of travelling such distances by horse and cart is a tribute to the enthusiasm of the players and the growing popularity of the game. In May 1768 Mann took his team to London for a five-a-side game at the Artillery Ground, where they were beaten by Lord John Sackville after a two-day contest. One month later, on 10 June, the Bourne Club travelled to Westerham and lost to a combined Westerham and Caterham team by 14 runs: this game is memorable insofar as it was the first time that the full score of an eleven-a-side game was published in a newspaper, the *Kentish Post* of 11 June.

The interest of the press reflected the rising interest of the public. Bourne Paddock was becoming famous. A 'numerous and genteel company of spectators' was there on 28 and 29 August 1771 for a game against Middlesex and Surrey. The popular enthusiasm for cricket was so great that a competing event, a benefit for the actress Mrs Dyer, had to be postponed – which, no doubt, caused her intense frustration.

Apart from Mann's liberality, a further reason for the popularity of games at Bourne Paddock was that, year upon year, he engaged the most eminent cricketers to play in his team. An early acquisition was Richard Miller,* who made his first known appearance against '22 of Dover' in 1771. John Burnby regarded Miller as 'of England's cricketers, the best'. He was a batsman, famous for scoring 95 for Kent against Hampshire in 1774, which remained Kent's record score for nearly fifty years. John Nyren, the most celebrated chronicler of cricket's early days, remembered him as 'a beautiful player, and always to be depended upon; there was no flash – no cock-a-whoop about him, but firm he was, and steady as the pyramids'.

A later arrival was James Aylward, son of a Hampshire farmer, who played for his own county until 1779, and in 1777 batted from 5 p.m. on Wednesday to 3 p.m. on Friday to score 167 against England – at the time the highest score ever made. He is shown on the scorecard as batting at number ten, but in fact he opened the innings: the scorecard is a tribute to social class – gentlemen first, professionals next and rustics last. Aylward was a rustic. He played for Mann for four years from 1780, until he became landlord of the nearby White Horse inn and was awarded catering rights at Bourne Paddock; he continued thereafter as both player and caterer. He also served Mann as bailiff, a post for which he was, Nyren observed, 'but ill qualified'.

A few years after Aylward's arrival, John Ring, one of the best batsmen of the day, was added to Mann's team's strength. Ring was

* Not 'Joseph', as is sometimes stated; nor, as is also claimed, was he employed by Dorset or Tankerville.

short – no more than five feet five inches – thickset, and played in Bourne Paddock for many years before an accident at cricket practice cost him his life. Apparently his brother George was bowling to him when a ball reared and broke his nose. While recuperating he caught a fever and died. Other lesser-known figures such as the May brothers – Dick the bowler and Thomas the batsman – also spent time in Mann's employ: spectators were rarely without famous figures to attract them to Bourne Paddock.

The genial Horace Mann had other preoccupations in the early summer of 1772. His uncle, Horace Mann Senior, was installed as a Knight of the Bath, and his nephew acted as his proxy while he was overwhelmed with ceremonies. Young Horace organised a magnificent ball in his uncle's honour and, extraordinary though it may seem today, was awarded a knighthood for his work as deputy to his uncle. His wealth and social position no doubt aided his preferment. The contemporary diarist John Baker notes Horace's knighthood with no surprise at its cause, and then goes on to paint a vivid picture of the general atmosphere at a game of cricket on 23 July 1772:

> to cricket match at Guildford between the Hamilton [he means Hambledon] Club . . . and Sir Horace . . . Buller of 'White Hart' had a very good stand with benches above one another over his booth . . . the booth below had so many ladies and gentlemen we could not get seats . . . but I found a small booth where we had a good dinner and good cider and ale.

Baker returned the next morning, but the second day was less satisfactory:

> Rode to cricket match before ten, began at half past ten . . . Dined today at Butlers [possibly a misprint for Buller, or some other proprietor] booth; no ladies but one only – who was in Stand in brown riding habit. Much worse dinner than in little booth yesterday and ordinary half crown and pay for liquors (with waiters and all it came to a crown) and the whole with better dinner and better liquors [was] but half crown yesterday.

As Baker's postscript shows, he was not alone in his irritation at having to pay *more* money for a *less* satisfactory meal:

> Yesterday, Mrs Cayley complained, the ladies – though invited – were all called on for a crown for their ordinary and one shilling for tea. At which, they were surprised and offended, thinking they were all at free cost from the invitation.

Bourne Paddock raised no such hackles. In July 1773 a grandstand was erected for a Kent vs Surrey match, won comfortably by Surrey, and Sir Horace's popularity inspired two poems in his honour. In 'Surry Triumphant', John Duncombe described his performance at the wicket:

At last, Sir Horace took the field,
A batter of great might,
Mov'd like a lion, he awhile
Put Surrey in a fright.

He swung, 'till both his arms did ache,
His bat of season'd wood,
'Till down his azure sleeves the sweat
Ran trickling like a flood.

As Sir Horace scored only 3 and 22, and Surrey won by 153 runs, the poem is a little over the top – but perhaps Sir Horace's hospitality flowed through the poet's veins, and much may be forgiven for that. If so, it flowed through other veins too. John Burnby wrote in 'The Kentish Cricketers' (1773):

Sir Horace Mann, with justice may
Be term'd the hero of the play
His gen'rous temper will support
The game of cricket's pleasing sport.

And few there are that play the game
Which merit a superior name
He hits with judgment, throws to please
And stops the speedy ball with ease.

The clue to this sycophancy may lie in the poet's tribute to 'gen'rous temper', since Sir Horace's highest known score was 23, and his five innings that season yielded a mere 44 runs. We may surmise that the two poets were not dog-lovers, for they make no mention of the fact that at Bourne Paddock, people 'were desired to keep their dogs at home, otherwise they will be shot'.*

In 1774, fate cast a shadow over the idyllic life of the Manns. The year started well for Sir Horace: his growing prestige earned him membership of the famous committee that revised the laws of cricket at the Star and Garter (see page 104), and at the age of thirty he was elected the Member of Parliament for Maidstone. But any hopes of combining sport and politics were soon cast aside: Lucy was taken ill, and Sir Horace moved his family to the warmer climate of the Continent, at the home of his uncle in sunny Florence. But Lucy's health did not improve, and after three years' absence from his new constituency Sir Horace offered his resignation. It was not accepted. Lucy's condition worsened, and she died in February 1778. The grief-stricken Sir Horace did not return home until November of that year. Lucy had been the love of his life, and he would never remarry.

On his return to England he sought solace in his other great love, cricket, but no longer as a player. Sir Horace played in only one more game, scoring 0 and 1 for Six of Kent against Six of Hants at Moulsey

Hurst in August 1782. He did however resume his role as patron and benefactor, sponsoring a five-a-side game against the Duke of Dorset and hosting a Kent–Surrey game at Bourne Paddock, both in June 1779, before returning to Italy. For the next eight years this lost and restless soul was a constant traveller, and as Horace Walpole noted in 1783, 'he makes no more of a journey to Florence than of going to York races'.

During Sir Horace's spells in England, Bourne Paddock was a lively place due to cricket and his continued largesse. When 'Hampshire' with Lumpy Stevens played 'All-England' for a thousand

* Presumably the dogs, not the people.

guineas in July 1782, one spectator, Lady Hales – a near neighbour – wrote to her friend Susan Burney:

> Tomorrow Sir Horace Mann begins his fetes by a great cricket match between His Grace of Dorset and himself, to which all this part of the world will be assembled . . . many out of compliment to Sir Horace, who is never so happy as when he has all the world about him, and as he gives a very magnificent Ball and Supper on Friday, it would not be polite to attend that – without paying a compliment to his favourite amusement.*

This letter speaks well of Lady Hales's sensitivity, and paints a vivid picture of the occasion. 'All this part of the world will be assembled', and Sir Horace 'is never so happy as when he has all the world about him', whether it be for the game itself or his post-match entertainment. But Lady Hales was wrong in one respect: Sir Horace and the Duke of Dorset were backing 'All-England', leaving Hampshire gentlemen to back their own county.

It seems that Sir Horace attempted to offset his loneliness following the loss of Lucy with these great events: certainly his reputation for hospitality grew in the 1780s, and his good nature and open-handed way of life earned him many admirers. After a Kent against All-England game in August 1786, the *Kentish Gazette* reported not only that a multitude had attended the game, enlivened by 'the very splendid appearance of ladies', but that

> the very generous and liberal hospitality so conspicuous at Bourne House, does infinite honour to the very respectable and benevolent owner who, whilst he is patronising in the field the manly sport of cricket, is endeavouring to entertain his numerous guests with the most splendid entertainment in his house.

The Kent–All-England game was an annual event and a social highlight. It was repeated in August 1787, with the usual post-match ball (on this occasion in a new room built for the purpose) to which all the principal families of the county were invited. Among the guests

* Quoted in Lord Harris and F.S. Ashley-Cooper, *Kent Cricket Matches* (1929).

was the Marquess of Lansdowne, who as Lord Shelburne had been Prime Minister a few years earlier.

When his uncle died in 1786 Sir Horace inherited a baronetcy, together with the family seat at Linton Park. Four years later he left his beloved Bourne, the house and the cricket ground that had provided him with so much happiness over the years, and moved to Linton. But Linton failed to capture his heart as Bourne had done, and Sir Horace lived there only briefly before offering it to his daughter and son-in-law. Thereafter, he divided his time between far smaller homes at Egerton and Margate.

Politics re-entered his life. Sir Horace had retired from the Commons in 1784, but in 1790 he was re-elected for the constituency of Sandwich, which he would represent for the following seventeen years. Cricket, however, was a passion he couldn't assuage, and at leisure in Margate he once again turned to arranging matches as well as watching them. He helped promote clubs, and was a prominent member of the newly formed Marylebone Cricket Club (see page 106), and when Kent played the MCC at Lord's in August 1791 the *Kentish Chronicle* noted that Sir Horace was a spectator and 'remained the whole day at the ground with his book and pencil' – presumably either scoring or, just possibly, noting wagers. On 20–22 July 1807, at a game between twenty-three of Kent and thirteen of England at Penenden Heath, near Maidstone, it was recorded: 'that old amateur of the bat, Sir Horace Mann, was present every day and dined at the ordinary, which was sumptuously furnished and well attended' (for more on this match, see pages 128–9).

His cricketing afterlife was not easy: his open generosity exceeded the means with which he could subsidise it. As early as 1767 his uncle was worrying, and with good cause, that he would dissipate his fortune. By the 1780s he was wagering huge sums on matches, borrowing from relatives and raising money against the security of the Linton estate. By 1800 he was heavily in debt to local traders and farmers. As an old man, in 1808, he was declared bankrupt.

His enthusiasm for the game never dimmed, and John Nyren, writing several decades later, recalled Sir Horace at a match at Hambledon, 'walking about, outside the ground, cutting down the daisies with his stick – a habit with him when he was agitated'. It is a lovely image, and one with which we might leave the life of the greatest, and most amiable, of the early benefactors. Horace Mann's kind and generous spirit had done much to promote the early growth of the game. His contribution was immense.

EXTRACTS FROM " START OF PLAY"
by DAVID UNDERDOWN

As in Surrey, cricket in Kent in the 1770s depended heavily on the involvement of upper-class patrons. 'Mr Louch's Club' at Chatham and 'Squire Farrar's Club' in the Isle of Thanet were both important local sides. But there were bigger men than these behind Kent cricket: Sir Horace Mann at Bishopsbourne and the third Duke of Dorset at Knole. Sir Horace's father was a clothier who got a nice contract to supply army uniforms, and was thus able to leave Horace an inheritance of over £100,000, as well as an estate at Linton, near Maidstone. His uncle (and namesake) was Horace Walpole's friend, the British agent at Florence; the wonderful Walpole correspondence gives us a lot of information about the younger Horace's interests and character. Walpole greatly liked Linton, telling his friend in Florence that 'the house is fine and stands like the citadel of Kent; the whole county is its garden'. In 1765, however, when he was twenty-one, Mann moved to Bishopsbourne, laid out a cricket ground and quickly made it *the* centre of cricket in East Kent. The Bourne Club, of which Mann was the moving spirit, and for whom he sometimes played, was soon involved in matches against other Kent teams such as Chatham and Dover, and the Bishopsbourne 'Paddock' became the site of major county games – Surrey played Kent there, for example, in 1773.[45]

Bishopsbourne Paddock had more elaborate accommodation than most cricket grounds of the period. At first spectators had to go to the nearby Bridge Hill House for their refreshments, but by 1767 there were the usual booths on the ground selling food and drink, including one for gentlemen 'in a tent pitched for that purpose, separate from all the other booths'. Until 1780 John Farley held the concession; after that date several publicans from Bridge and Canterbury were allowed to set up booths, though they in turn had to compete with rivals who operated just outside the Paddock. When Hambledon played 'England' there in August 1772 a grandstand was built to accommodate the huge crowd that was expected; a few years later tickets for it cost a shilling. But there was no admission charge for the rest of the ground, and it is clear that most of the spectators (20,000 were said to have been there on the first day of the 1772 match) were ordinary Kentish folk. A poem celebrating Surrey's victory in 1773 describes the Bishopsbourne crowd as follows:

> From Marsh and Weald their hay forks left,
> To Bourne the rustics hied,
> From Romney, Cranbrook, Tenterden,
> And Durent's verdant side.

Pleased as he was by Surrey's win, the author nevertheless deplored the temptation given to labourers to neglect their work, and hoped that such 'idle games / In harvest time may cease'.[46]

Like Tankerville at Mount Felix, Sir Horace collected cricketers. James Aylward was his most famous catch. Aylward never produced the form at Bishopsbourne that he had shown at Broadhalfpenny, but he did well enough for Mann to retain him in spite of his incompetence

as a bailiff. By 1786 he was keeping a pub at Bridge, setting up his booth at the Paddock for Kent matches. Another of Mann's players was his huntsman, John Ring. Beldham recalls Ring's coming in to bat in a single-wicket match when Mann's side appeared to be losing. Sir Horace promised him £10 a year for life if they won and he was not out at the end; Ring was out for 57 when only two runs were needed, which Aylward painstakingly obtained. Ring had virtually won the match singlehanded, but Beldham does not tell us whether Mann kept his part of the bargain – the man, after all, had been out. Silver Billy vividly describes Sir Horace walking agitatedly around the boundary during Ring's innings, 'cutting about with his stick, and cheering every run', as if 'his whole fortune . . . was staked on the game'. Perhaps it was, for as Beldham knew, Mann 'always did bet some hundreds'.[47]

Sometimes more than hundreds. Mann's gambling was getting him into trouble as early as 1767, when his uncle worried about his 'thoughtless behaviour' in 'dissipating the fortune which his father had gained with so much industry'. Matters were no better six years later, when reports in the London newspapers convinced his uncle that young Horace was 'ruining himself at cricket'. Even the nephew admitted that his cricket was an 'idle pursuit', but he was unable to stay away from it. Cricket led not only to gambling, but also to extravagant entertaining. Sir Horace was a sociable person, who loved, it was said, to have 'all the world about him'. There was obvious rivalry between Mann and Dorset, expressed both on the cricket field and in the magnificent balls and suppers that accompanied their matches. When Hambledon played at Sevenoaks early in July 1782, the Duke gave a great ball and supper at Knole on the second evening of the match; when Hambledon played 'England' at Bishopsbourne three weeks later Mann responded with an equally elaborate entertainment. There was another expensive party in 1786 during a match between Kent and the White Conduit Club. The ball, a Kentish newspaper reported, attracted 'the most brilliant company that has been assembled in this part of the county for many years': Dorset, the Earls of Winchilsea and Thanet, and virtually all the 'principal families' of East Kent. After a lavish supper, they danced until six in the morning. The paper commended Sir Horace's generous hospitality, which, it said, 'ranks him with the first characters in the kingdom'. No doubt the tribute pleased Sir Horace, but his attempts to keep up with the Duke of Dorset eventually bankrupted him.[48]

A few of the more determined patrons did still manage to promote the local game: in 1792, for example, young Lord Barrymore played for a combined Wargrave and Twyford side against Wokingham, and in the following year Thomas Assheton Smith raised an Andover XI to play against Newbury. Cricket continued in some of the larger Hampshire towns such as Portsmouth, Southampton and Winchester, who in 1800 played home and away matches against the much smaller Micheldever. There was also still a fair amount of local cricket in Kent and Sussex: at Hawkhurst and Steyning, for example. In 1794 visitors to the house of William Frankland at Findon left five shillings to be split among the workmen. They all got their share, the steward recorded, 'except Dick and Thorp, who were at cricket'. In Kent, the Bridge Hill Club survived, and there were still a few great matches at Bishopsbourne as long as Sir Horace was there. In 1794 the Gentlemen of East Kent played the Isle of Thanet at Mann's other ground, Dandelion Paddock near Margate. And there were many lesser games, such as the one at Tenterden in 1790 when the local team played a combined team from Brenchley and several other parishes, for five shillings a man.

In London these were the years of the macaroni – the affected, foppish, Italianate young men who ostentatiously rejected the solid, traditional, English virtues of their parents, and proclaimed their contempt for convention by their defiantly effeminate styles of dress, manners and speech. Dorset might be idle and irresponsible, but even his critics could not accuse him of being a macaroni. Indeed, a newspaper in 1782 complimented him on being one of the few noblemen to unite 'the elegancies of modern luxury with the more manly sports of the old English times'.[57]

Lower down the social scale, provincial prejudices against London were always freely expressed. It was in the capital, declared Canterbury lawyer and cricket-lover John Burnby, that 'vile effeminacy reigns'; there can be no doubt that he was thinking of the macaroni.

EXTRACTS FROM "A SOCIAL HISTORY OF ENGLISH CRICKET" by DEREK BIRLEY

Patrons and Plebeians

The Duke of Dorset also figures in a story about the dignified John Small:

> The Duke ... having been informed of his musical talent, sent him as a present a handsome violin, and paid the carriage. Small, like a true and simple-hearted Englishman, returned the compliment by sending his Grace two bats and balls, also paying the carriage.

Nyren admired these qualities in his own father, who, at a slightly higher social level than the rustics, acted as a intermediary between them and the great men:

> I never saw a finer specimen of the thoroughbred old English yeoman than Richard Nyren. He was a good face-to-face, unflinching, uncompromising, independent man. He placed a full and just value on the station he held in society, and he maintained it without insolence or assumption. He could differ with a superior without trenching on his dignity, or losing his own. I have known him hold an opinion with great firmness against the Duke of Dorset and Sir Horace Mann, and when ... proved ... right, the latter has afterwards crossed the ground and shaken him heartily by the hand.

If this last sentence means, as it seems to do, that Sir Horace was more amenable to suggestion from inferiors than the Duke, it would be in line with the evidence we have of the character of both men. Sir Horace, who was no great shakes as a player, seems to have been amiable but weak, and so firmly hooked on cricket – and betting on it – that he went bankrupt and had to give up the Bishopsbourne estate where he staged his matches. Great crowds were attracted there – a reputed 20,000 for Kent v. Hambledon in 1772 – and afterwards a certain discipline was required:

> People are requested to keep their dogs at home, otherwise they will be shot, as at the last match they greatly obstructed the players.

Sir Horace is shown, in Nyren, deep in conversation with Aylward, a Hambledon player, who, it later appears, has been lured away by a job as a bailiff, at which he proved notoriously bad without keeping his form as a cricketer. Mann's obituary categorised him as 'rather dedicated to pleasure than business', and he ended his days commuting between Bath and Margate in pursuit of whist and similar diversions.

Played at Bishopsbourne, near Canterbury, July 19th, 20th and 21st, 1773.

SURREY.

4th Earl of Tankerville, b May (T.)	0	c Davis	3
Mr. Bartholomew, c Simmons	3	b Miller	10
Mr. Lewis, b Dorset	0	not out	21
Mr. Stone, b Dorset	12	b Miller	24
Lumpy, b Miller	6	b Miller	8
T. Wood, c Mann	6	c May (R.)	6
— Palmer, c Davis	22	c Dorset	38
T. White, b Dorset	5	c Hussey	60
W. Yalden, not out	17	b Dorset	1
— Child, b May (T.)	0	b Dorset	3
R. Francis, b Dorset	5	c Wood	36
B	1	B	7
	77		217

KENT.

3rd Duke of Dorset, b Wood	25	b Wood	1
Sir H. Mann, b Wood	3	c Tankerville	22
Sir J. B. Davis, b Wood	4	c Lewis	0
Mr. E. Hussey, not out	0	b Wood	0
J. Miller, c Yalden	13	run out	10
— Simmons, b Lumpy	5	c Yalden	4
R. May, b Wood	0	not out	0
T. May, b Lumpy	4	c Child	5
Mr. G. Louch, c Stone	5	b Lumpy	26
W. Pattenden, c Lewis	0	b Lumpy	1
J. Wood, c Wood	1	c Bartholomew	9
B	3	B	0
	63		78

Surrey won by 153 *runs.*

"Played for £2,000." This match was described in verse by the Rev. J. Duncombe in *Surry Triumphant: or the Kentish Men's Defeat.*