



Douglas Miller is a life-long cricket enthusiast who moved over 40 years ago from his native Cheshire to Buckinghamshire, where he is still active as a player and umpire. Currently chairman of the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians, he has written widely on the game. Recently published titles are: *Cricket Grounds of Gloucestershire* (ACS), *Born to Bowl*, *The Life and Times of Don Shepherd* and *Charles Palmer – More Than Just a Gentleman* (both published by Fairfield Books).

Tracing the growth of the game from its earliest references in the county through to the age of helmets and isotonic drinks, the author unveils a story of triumphs and struggles. A first attempt to start a Bucks County Cricket Club in 1864 was destined to founder, but an historic meeting at the Charing Cross Hotel in 1891 launched the club whose nine championship titles place Bucks second only to Staffordshire among the Minor Counties.

The history tells of extravagant hopes for a new county ground in the 1890s soon to make way for a desperate battle for financial survival before Bucks cricket moves into its golden age in the inter-war years. With a martinet skipper, Walter Franklin, at the helm and Frank Edwards' masterly left-arm spinners bringing him 1,059 wickets, were there thoughts of first-class status for Bucks? The author has his own views as the story moves on to describe post-war successes, highlighted by victory over Somerset in the NatWest Trophy. It is a story interlaced with off-the-field politics and seasons starved of victory, but ending on a note of undisguised optimism as Paul Atkins prepares for his eighth season as county captain.

'As with all good books, once I started reading it I could hardly put it down.'  
*Robin Peppiatt in the Foreword*

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Bucks County Cricket Club**

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ACS PUBLICATIONS



The Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians was formed in 1973. The object of the Association is to promote and encourage research into the statistical and historical aspects of cricket throughout the world at all levels and to publish the findings.

Membership is open to anyone, whether they wish to engage in active research and statistical compilation, or whether they are interested in reading and studying the results of fellow members' researches – or indeed both! Membership includes four issues of *The Cricket Statistician* and one other ACS publication annually.

For full details of the Association visit the website ([www.acscricket.com](http://www.acscricket.com)) or contact the Membership officer at: "Meads Place", 40 Sergison Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 1HX or e-mail: [membership@acscricket.com](mailto:membership@acscricket.com)

The cover features the three longest-serving Bucks captains: PJ de Paravicini (1893-1907), WB Franklin (1919-46) and PD Atkins (1999-2006).