

A GAME TAKEN SERIOUSLY

THE FOUNDATIONS OF YORKSHIRE'S CRICKETING POWER

'A very good book indeed; a worthy addition to cricket's history'

The Cricket Society newsletter

'all self-respecting Yorkshire cricket-lovers might do themselves a favour by acquiring this chunky book. In its aim of painting a broad and comprehensive study of the development of the game across the Broad Acres it is completely successful.'

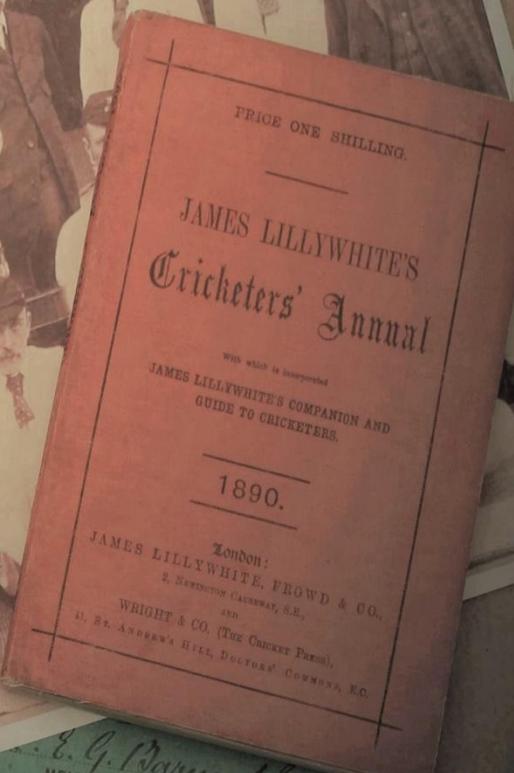
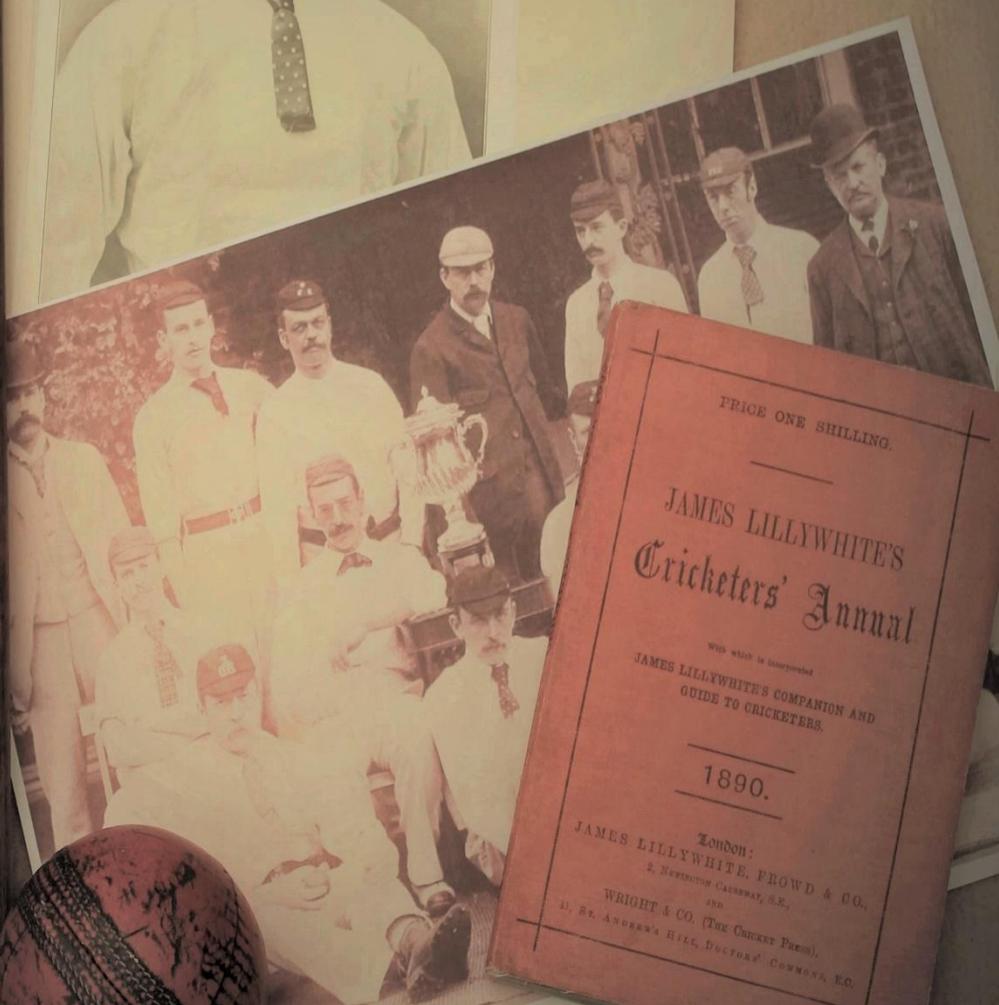
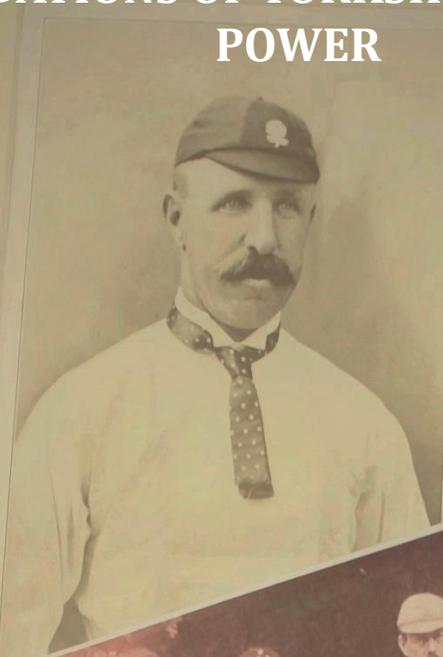
David Frith, ACS Journal

'revealing....invaluable...There must be more books about the history of Yorkshire cricket than that of any other county, which makes Jeremy Lonsdale's feat in looking at part of the subject from a new perspective all the more impressive.'

Cricket Web

'Highly recommended... demonstrates a deep affection and respect for Yorkshire cricket..a worthwhile read [also] for anyone whose primary interest lies in Yorkshire history, or social history, rather than cricket history.'

Yorkshire CCC Southern Group newsletter



Jeremy Lonsdale



'A significant piece of original research...offering us a more rounded and in-depth study of the factors that influenced the growth of cricket in Yorkshire than ever before.'

Mick Pope, Yorkshire cricket researcher/historian and author of 'Headingley Ghosts'

The season of 1893 is a great turning point in the history of cricket in Yorkshire. Established three decades earlier, Yorkshire County Cricket Club won the county championship that summer after years of mixed performances, disappointments and division. So began several generations of sporting success, stretching through to the late 1960s.

This book examines the foundations of that success back where it started - in the 19th century. It focuses on the period between the opening of the first purpose-built commercial cricket ground in Sheffield in 1822 to the early 1890s, when the county club was reformed, league cricket took off, and a number of great players came to the fore. It considers what the game meant to people, how it developed, how local clubs were organised and financed, and why some formats of the game were more popular than others. It also looks at how the best players made it to the county side, examines Yorkshire cricket crowds, and considers the role of press coverage in popularising cricket.

It argues that only when the longstanding differences between Sheffield, other towns in the West Riding, and representatives of clubs in the North and East Ridings were resolved did the full potential of Yorkshire cricket emerge. This book explains how this long running animosity was, in part, due to the varying pace of the game's growth around the county, shaped in turn by significant differences in economic development, and by deep pride in local cricketing traditions.

The book describes how people in all parts of Yorkshire embraced cricket, and in many different ways provided the energy and enthusiasm to create a powerful sporting force. Whether setting up or funding clubs, playing and watching the game, or nurturing young talent, thousands contributed to making cricket popular throughout the county. Based on extensive research, this book is the story of how, in Yorkshire, cricket truly became 'A GAME TAKEN SERIOUSLY'.

Jeremy Lonsdale has been following Yorkshire CCC since the early 1970s. His previous cricket book was 'The Army's Grace: The life of Brigadier General RM Poore', the record-breaking Hampshire batsman. He studied history at King's College, University of London.

Published by the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians, 2017. 336 pages, 43 photographs
ISBN 978-1-908165-71-8
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