

in the country: in 1851 it defeated an All England XI with the help of professionals who bowled throughout. During the Second World War the club ceased playing, and the Banbury Twenty Club was formed to continue senior cricket. In 1949 the Banbury Club was reformed, and in 1969 there were three cricket clubs in Banbury, the two already described and the Banbury Town Originals.”⁸ On page 60 it records “In 1888 the Mayor felt that bank holidays and cricket matches had done away with the need for pleasure fairs.”

William Potts’ *A History of Banbury* (2nd edition, ed. E.T. Clark, Gulliver Press, 1978, p.341) refers in passing to the Banbury Cricket Club and the Twenty Cricket Club having ‘attractive grounds’, whilst Banbury & District Cricket League embraced many clubs in annual competition. Such activities were outside the scope of Potts’ 1st edition.

Barrie Trinder in his *Victorian Banbury* refers to a cricket ground on the Oxford Road, used by a cricket club founded in 1836.⁹ He deals with the sport more extensively on pp.137-138, focusing on the 1850s. Cricket was part of the social cohesion encouraged and facilitated by enlightened employers such as Bernhard Samuelson. His company’s departmental matches were first played on part of the former racecourse, and in 1869 new playing fields were acquired near the Great Western Railway, “and the old ground was made available for wider use by the landlord of the *Cricketers* public house on its perimeter”.¹⁰ Trinder comments that other employers imitated Samuelson’s provision, but could not afford to match them. “the role of the workplace as a recreational agency was significant”. The Oddfellows Friendly Society had a cricket team in 1858.¹¹

The library of the MCC, which has a massive collection of cricketing literature, contains nothing specifically about Banbury or Deddington. The index to *Wisden’s Cricketer’s Almanack* 1864-1984 has no entry under Banbury, Bicester or Deddington.

⁸ *VCH* p.15. The recently issued computer index to *Cake & Cockhorse* might provide additional leads.

⁹ Trinder, *Victorian Banbury* (BHS 19, Phillimore 1982), p.75. He cites a report in *The Banbury Guardian* of 19th December 1844.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* pp.137-8, citing *Banbury Advertiser* 27 Feb 1866; *Banbury Advertiser* 25 March 1869. Vera Wood, in her *Licensees of Inns, Taverns and Beerhouses of Banbury*, says that the ‘Cricketers’, Middleton Road (the only pub of that name in Banbury), was first licensed as a beerhouse in 1869. Centre for Banburyshire Studies, Banbury Library.

¹¹ Trinder, *Victorian Banbury*, p.138.