

Page's. Wednesday "the players and their friends dined together with at Mr Hayward's T.R. Cobb Esq., the President of the Club took the chair and W. Ridding, Esq. joined the Club".<sup>26</sup>

There then follows a day-by-day account of the match which would do credit to today's *Test Match Special*. This report also resolves a personal query for me. Although the records of all such matches show that all 22 players batted, this was the first time I had seen it specifically reported that they all also fielded simultaneously.<sup>27</sup>

After setting out the score-card, the *Banbury Guardian* writes "Mr F. Lillywhite attended the ground with his printing press, and the fall of each wicket printed the score, for which we were glad to see he had a large demand".<sup>28</sup> The account concludes with vignettes of the eleven players of England, from *Lillywhite's Guide to Cricketers*.<sup>29</sup>

The 1852 game is described in Volume 4 of *Scores and Biographies* (pp. 372-373.) Again it gives the venue as "At Banbury in Oxfordshire, June 28, 29 & 30<sup>th</sup> 1852". The narrative account follows the printing of the scorecard. Again, it is reproduced on page 000 as it appeared in the *Banbury Guardian* of 1<sup>st</sup> July 1852.

The England Eleven differed from that of 1851 by the exclusion of Sampson, Pilch, Felix, Ridding (who played for Banbury, having joined the club at the conclusion of the previous year's game), and Day. In compensation, maybe, Bickley moved the other way. The new men were:-

**Alfred Clarke**, 1831-1878, son of William Clarke.

**William Martingell**, 1818-1897. "One of the great bowlers of his day."

**Thomas Box**, 1808-1876. "He was regarded in his day as the best wicket-keeper in England."

**Julius Caesar**, 1830-1878. "He was one of the best batsmen of his day and excelled at the on-drive." [He is the subject of a recent biography.]

(No bowling analysis is recorded.)

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<sup>26</sup> I have reproduced the capitals as in the *Banbury Guardian's* report.

<sup>27</sup> *Scores and Biographies* reports one game of 11 v 56 – the mind boggles at the logistical exercise of placing 56 fielders.

<sup>28</sup> See footnote 6 in respect of Frederick Lillywhite. I do not remember when this practice ceased. Most County grounds had their own printing presses until the 1960s at least, usually striving to provide printed up-dates at the fall of each wicket. In the matches of 1851 and especially that of 1852 this must have been a mammoth task. A coloured painting of *The United England XI "in front of the printing tent"* (date and artist not given) appears at p.56 of *Lord's, The Cathedral of Cricket*, Stephen Green, Tempus 2003.

<sup>29</sup> These are somewhat fuller than my brief précis from *The Who's Who of Cricketers*.