

The Cricketers

Lot One in a sales prospectus dated June 1872 was a modern brick-built and slated freehold house known by the 'Sign of the Cricketers'. It was described as a licensed beerhouse with an adjoining bakehouse and ten bushel oven. The accommodation included a front shop, two parlours and a tap room, with five bedrooms on the first floor and two good beer cellars.

At the time of the sale the premises were let to Messrs Hodson and Baverstock and occupied by Mr George Saxby. Thomas Bosville Bolden Baverstock of Godalming, and John Hodson of 3 The Terrace, Clapham Common, had formed a co-partnership as brewers on 2nd November 1870.



The census returns show that George Saxby and Martha Coleman had been associated with the premises for several years although it was not until 1871 that the 'The Cricketers' is mentioned by name, and not until 1881 that Martha Coleman's occupation is recorded as beer retailer.

An indenture dated 23 December 1872 refers to a dwelling house, shop, bakehouse and outbuildings in the occupation of Mr George Saxby and used as a beerhouse known by the Sign of The Cricketers (SHC 3935). Martha Coleman was the licensee from 7 Jul 1877

Between 1887 and 1882 The Cricketers and the adjoining cottages frequently featured in the reports issued by the Dorking Rural Inspector of Nuisances

1877	2 cottages	Mrs M Coleman	Sample of well water sent to Dr Jacob who reports that it is quite unfit to drink NB well supplies 5 cottages and the Cricketers Inn and notice has been given to clean the at once.
1881	Cricketers Inn	Mr Baverstock (Brewery Godalming)	Drains in yard have broken up and sewage matter is running about close to cottage c The cover of well is rotten and dangerous to children.
1881	6 Cottages	Baverstock	3 privies overflowing yard and neighbouring premises.
1882	The Cricketers	Baverstock	Complaint from occupant (Mrs M Coleman) that there was a foul privy n the on pren .

Thomas Baverstock's interest continued until 19 May 1895 when he sold both the beerhouse and the adjacent cottages and ground that he had purchased from Mrs Martha Coleman on 12 September 1881 to Lascelles, Tickner & Co of Castle Brewery, Guildford. At that time Joseph Westgate was the tenant and described as 'miller and beer house keeper'. By 1901 James Bishop was the 'beer house keeper' but his tenure was short lived as the Holy Trinity burial register records that he was buried on 23 July 1907, aged 58

The Dorking Rate Book for October 1913 shows Edward Henry Woodnutt as the tenant at The Cricketers and he was still there in 1922 when the parish registers records the death of his son, Ernest Arthur Woodnutt, age 27. In fact he was licensee for 14 years according to a report in the Dorking Advertiser announcing his death in 1938: *E H Woodnutt died aged 79. He had spent 31 years in Westcott; 4 as the licensee of The Cabin and then 14 at The Cricketers before retiring to Sunnyside Cottage.*

Lascalles, Tickner and Co. were based at the Castle Brewery in Guildford. They had a retail outlet at 53 High Street, Dorking for wines, spirits and bottled beers but their advert in the Dorking Advertiser in July 1898 concentrated on the availability of barrels of beer. The smallest of these, a pin (4½ gallons), of Stock Pale Ale cost 6/9 (33p).

In 1931 William Smith successfully applied for a wine licence for the Cricketers. He had been the licensee for six years and did a considerable amount of catering particularly during the Summer. He often received requests for wine with luncheon.

In 1939 The Cricketers was full when Winifred May Neal, the daughter of Mrs Smith and stepdaughter of licensee W Smith, married. Harold Shaw.

1951 Directory	Cricketers	Mrs A M Smith
1972 Directory	Cricketers	Muchmore, W

In 1981 the property was owned by Ind Coope who decided to cease trading. In March 1981 the Dorking Advertiser reported that 200 people were present when Robert Crutchett, the landlord since 1970, retired and was presented with a workbench, tools and a cheque for £40. Ind Coope were hoping to turn the building into a shop or house and on 23 Feb 1981 the Dorking Advertiser reported that the Mole Valley District Council had approved a plan to convert the ground floor into a retail shop and to establish two separate houses. In the event this was not pursued and after a spell as a night club known as 'Wizard' it reopened once again as The Cricketers. It later incorporated a 'Beau Thai' restaurant. In 2007 the public house closed and is now Bay Leaf, an Indian Restaurant.

Mr & Mrs Webb 9th November 2004

Mrs Webb used to work in the Cricketers c1972. It was an old fashioned pub at that time. Always full on a Saturday night. The landlord was Bob Crutchitt and his wife Ellen. Old 'Pug' Gatford was a regular. Possibility of a ghost – heard above the off licence.

In the early 1970s the Cricketers had two entrances. That off the main road led into one bar – with a dartboard just inside the door. This led into another room that had a fireplace against the east wall. There was also a piano and a large table in the middle of the room. The other door led into a passage way at the end of which was the off license bar; just inside the door was the entrance to the cellar. On the south side of the pub was the saloon.

A newspaper report of the wedding of Caroline Nash – Westcott's Beauty Queen in 1947 - to Grenadier Guardsman Raymond Newsome in January 1948 noted that the reception attended by 38 guests was held at The Cricketers Hotel and that the bride and groom cut the cake with a sword lent by Mr A Upfold reputedly made in 1800.
