

Frederick James Heather
English Immigrant
Empress of Britain
March 4, 1921

Frederick James Heather's Lifelong
Contribution to Cricket

Fred Heather's introduction to
cricket started in England. He was
born in Godalming, England on
January 27, 1890. As a boy, he put up score tins for the Broadwater
C.C. (C.C. stands for cricket club).



Here he learned to play cricket and eventually captained a team in Cobham, Surrey in 1916. Emigrating to Canada in 1921, he continued to play the game and was a member of the St. George's C.C. that won the Toronto Championship in 1922. Heather also played for the Bell Telephone C.C., the Toronto & District Champions in 1927 and J. R. Robertson Finalists for the Canadian Championship, 1928.

Upon retiring as a player, Fred Heather embarked on a career as a Canadian cricket umpire. He started umpiring in Toronto in the late 1920's. His first international experience came when the Toronto C.C. faced the Bermuda Wanderer's C.C. on August 4, 1931, marking Bermuda's first visit to Canada.

In 1932, he umpired for the "Good Will Tour". This was an Australian team that toured North America featuring Don Bradman and many Australian Test level players. Heather umpired for the Eastern Canada vs. Australia matches. With an estimated 8 000 fans, this set an attendance record for the sport of cricket in Toronto.

Additional experience includes: Sir Julien Cahn's Touring Team (First class caliber team of all-stars), 1933; Cambridge University Vandals, 1934; M.C.C. (England) Tour of Canada 1937, 1951, 1959. Held over three days, the 1951 M.C.C. Tour was the inaugural First Class status match ever held on Canadian soil. The 1959 M.C.C. Tour



commemorated the centennial anniversary of England's first cricket team to visit Canada.

Heather also umpired numerous inter-provincial matches for the John Ross Robertson Trophy starting in 1931, emblematic of the Canadian Cricket Championship. In 1951, he umpired for the Lord Atholstan Cup match between Ontario and Quebec. He also had the unique duty of umpiring the match between the Canadian Colts touring team which visited the prestigious Highgate School in London, England in 1967.

In addition to umpiring, Fred Heather contributed to the future success of cricket in numerous roles. He was both Secretary and player for the St. Georges C.C. and the Yorkshire C.C. in 1922 and 1926 respectively. He became a founding member and first Secretary-Treasurer for the Toronto and District Cricket Umpire's Association in 1931. In 1935, he became the first Secretary of the newly formed Umpire's Control Board, responsible for 125 scheduled games and 250 umpire appointments that year. During a 1938 Umpire's Control Board meeting, Heather voiced his concern for the image of cricket stating it was deplorable to light a cigarette during the fall of a wicket.

Caring about the future of cricket, Heather started a school for cricket umpires, attended by both umpires and players. As principal and professor of the Cricket Umpire's School, Heather set the curriculum to ensure a high standard of officials for future Canadian cricket matches. He was instrumental in starting a junior cricket league in Toronto, resulting in the formation of 18 junior cricket clubs in 1931. Heather was the Secretary for the new Toronto Junior Cricket League. This league provided cricket for 300 junior players each season. In 1933, two junior teams from this league were the first to play cricket at the Canadian National Exhibition. Furthermore, Heather was the Vice-President of the Dentonia Park C.C. in Toronto, which won the Godin Cup in 1937 and the Continental Life Trophy in 1938 as City Champions. Heather became the Public Relations Officer for Dentonia Park Cricket in 1941. Lastly, Heather authored numerous articles for newspapers and magazines to



increase awareness and support for Canadian cricket. Financial support for cricket resulted from Heather's fundraising skills which included a donation from Charles Aubrey Smith of the Hollywood C.C.

As of August 12, 1961, Fred Heather had umpired in 1 002 consecutive matches without missing a game. He was a Canadian cricket umpire of high caliber for 38 years until his retirement in 1967, making him the longest serving umpire in Canada. Recognizing Fred Heather's achievements, the High Commissioner for Canada requested the honour of his company to attend the ceremony in Westminster Abbey to commemorate Canada's Centennial Year. As one of the first Canadians



to be a member of the Association of Cricket Umpires (ACU) of England, he earned "Full Member Status" on June 7, 1968. This association is recognized worldwide and members must pass a written examination with 80% or higher and perform two years of field experience at a level acceptable to the ACU Passing Committee. As the highest level awarded by the ACU, it is equivalent to a Level 5 umpire recognized by Cricket Canada's Umpiring Certification Committee (highest level for Canadian umpires). Furthermore, he was made the first Life

Member of the Toronto Cricket Umpire's Association on January 12, 1970. This motion was passed unanimously. The cricket community lost a legend of cricket when Frederick James Heather died February 22, 1976, in Toronto. Fred Heather transformed Canadian cricket by giving youth a league to play in, a school for umpires to learn in, and holding cricket to a higher standard through his consistent actions to serve the sport.

Thirty-three years since his death, 2009 has become a year of recognition for Frederick Heather. He became only the ninth person to be awarded the Jack Kyle Development Award for Outstanding Achievement in fostering the growth and development of cricket in Canada. Heather's contributions to cricket were published in the Cricket Statistician journal and Referee magazine. The Ontario Cricket Association nominated him for the Syl Apps Special Achievement Award. Heather's story was added

to the Godalming Museum's Wall of Faces, the Cricket Hall of Fame in the United States and the Pier 21 National Museum in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Pier 21 has international importance as it acknowledges the significance of immigration to the building of Canada as a nation. Frederick James Heather contributed to the building of Canada through cricket and his story is one to be celebrated and remembered.



TORONTO AND DISTRICT CRICKET UMPIRES' ASSOCIATION, 1932

TOP ROW—left to right—H. Bedford, G. Graham, J. W. Priestly, W. Galloway, E. K. Carpenter, R. Tate, W. E. Whendon, C. W. Maxwell, F. Godfrey, W. Butterfield, B. Butt, P. H. Hancock, F. Cancellor, F. Geldard, G. Hart, J. E. Joy.
BOTTOM ROW—left to right—M. Baker, A. Panter, E. Watson, G. W. Currell, F. J. Heather (Secretary), T. P. Wood, J. H. Gould (Treasurer), J. Stirk (President), E. Malcher (Vice-President), A. Schofield, J. W. Collett, C. H. Rastrick, W. Jacks.

Frederick Heather



Hero of the Canadian game

A CAMPAIGN to induct a cricketer into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame for the first time is gathering momentum.

You may not have heard of him but Frederick Heather **above far left** is a Canadian cricket hero. I must admit a vested interest – he was my great uncle. I was only two when he died in 1976 but have taken care of Heather's unique and large cricket collection, which includes a letter from Jack Hobbs.

Heather emigrated to Canada from England aged 31 in 1921 and took his love of the game with him. He had deep roots in the development of Canadian cricket and, as a player, Heather won two Toronto City Championships in 1922 and 1927 and competed for the national title in 1928.



Standing for fame: umpire Frederick Heather

On retiring he embarked on an umpiring career that would span 38 years and more than 1,000 consecutive games, making him the longest-serving umpire in Canada. He umpired in the first match of first-class status held on Canadian soil when MCC visited in 1951. Heather's contributions did not stop at umpiring. He set up numerous leagues across the country and a school for umpires.

His nomination for the Sports Hall of Fame is endorsed by many Canadians. "Fred Heather's involvement in and dedication to cricket and its development in Canada is second to none," says the MP Gord Brown. "His induction into the Sports Hall of Fame is long overdue and would help elevate the history of the sport in Canada."

Senator Nancy Raine, who won a gold medal at the 1968 Winter Olympics in the giant slalom, also approves of Heather's nomination. "All sports benefit from unique individuals who contribute their time and passion to help others enjoy their sport," she says. "Frederick Heather's legendary career as an umpire and, perhaps more importantly, his work establishing youth leagues were a major contribution to the development of cricket in Canada."

The Sports Hall of Fame has offered hope, saying Heather's nomination is under consideration.

Chris Redford

More than a game

Cricket in unusual places ...

“ [Nelson] discovered that under certain conditions he could get more destructive results from his cannon balls by making them ricochet off the sea ... Usually he pitched them quite short, about two thirds of the way between his guns and the target, but there is some evidence to suggest that during the battle of the Nile he dismissed the French flagship with a yorker

”
Michael Redgrave as Barnes Wallis, The Dam Busters

Slips

BJT Bosanquet was an English spinner, not an Australian (TWC, March, p95).

News

\$2,000

Grant for cricket equipment received by each of the winners at the ICC's annual Development Programme Awards. Scotland took the overall award, Japan won Best Women's Cricket Initiative and this photo by Fiona Homes, entitled 'Stay Focused', won the Photo of the Year award for Bermuda.

Magnificent 7

The best things we've learned this month from



1 Harry Potter actor **Tom Felton's** girlfriend bought him a year's subscription to The Wisden Cricketer (page 114)

2 The parents of Kenya's Peter **Ongondo** had never heard of cricket (pages 36-39)

3 Not one of the 18 county coaches thinks **Mark Ramprakash** is the Championship's best batsman but they do think Somerset will win everything (pages 66-67)

4 **More Indians** watched the first match of the football World Cup on TV than the IPL's opening game last year (pages 44-46)

5 The **Middlesex** players spent their winter wrestling with a cage-fighter known as Giorgio (pages 68-78)

6 **Ryan Sidebottom** **above** thinks slip catching is the key to winning the Championship (pages 62-65)

7 **Simon Hughes**, at the beginning of his Middlesex career, had his signature rubbed out by a disgruntled autograph hunter who wanted more famous names (page 48-50)





Mundane 7

The worst things we've learned this month from



AFP/GETTY IMAGES (2), GRAHAM MORRIS



1 **Graham Onions** cooked his first ever chicken. He was pretty excited about it @BunnyOnions

2 **Andrew Gale** has had his lucky undies since he was 14. They have a large hole in them @GaleyLad

3 **Adil Rashid** was listening to some proper jamming tunes in Trinidad @Adilrashid3

4 **Monty Panesar** couldn't decide whether to watch Champions League football or the Brit Awards **above**. He didn't tell us which he chose. He also found parking at his gym a nightmare @Montyp713

5 **Robin Uthappa** says your love is a mountain underneath his feet @robbieu9

6 **Graham Onions** woke in the morning with incredibly itchy hands. He didn't know what this meant @BunnyOnions

7 **Danielle Wyatt** thinks Ugg boots are amazing @Danni_Wyatt

 Follow *The Wisden Cricketer* @wisdencricketer

Fixing the fix

A LEADING sports corruption investigator has called for a minimum wage at major cricket tournaments to stop players having their heads turned by bookmakers. Canadian-born Declan Hill, author of *The Fix*, believes the widespread financial inequality between teams makes it impossible to rule out match-fixing.

"You need a standard minimum wage paid directly into the players' bank accounts," says Hill. "Then you offer them incentives, for a hundred, for a catch, for a wicket." Hill also thinks an independent body is essential for the sport to rid itself of corruption for good.

"At the moment the same people that are running the sport are also in charge of cleaning it up and that's a conflict of interest," he says.

Richard Edwards

THE WORLD CUP IN NUMBERS

The stats that don't matter...

2.5 precise distance in metres at which Hawk-Eye suddenly becomes fallible, it turns out.

4 ICC-imposed limit on number of laptops allowed in dressing room per team, with the goal of making it harder for players to post hilarious in-play Tweets about their love-lives/a team-mate getting a stomach upset/some brilliant free stuff they just got from their sponsors; and also to stop them sending coded messages to bookies.

6 runs awarded for hitting the ball over ropes on the full. Discovered by England at this World Cup for the first time.

7 number of tickets available to valued customers for the next eagerly anticipated clash at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bangalore.

8 length in feet of stick used by police to ensure valued customers don't try any funny stuff, eg trying to buy tickets.

19 number of different jobs held by players from Associate nations to support their cricket habit. Other careers of competitors at the ICC World Cup include: tree surgeon, butler, pimp, professor of organic chemistry at Harvard, bookmaker, disgraced MP, cat-burglar and even a county cricketer.

1,155,347,678

number of Sachin's number-one fans.

34

over in which a new ball is introduced; also signals to spectators that it might be time to wake up after the Quiet Middle Overs.

35.714

percentage of the teams who are at the tournament only to make up the numbers.

338

runs scored by England and India; also odds to 1 at start of England's innings of them managing this.

1,782

number of items on list of banned objects and substances that may not be brought into a ground, including, but not limited to: water in sealed container, water in unsealed container, water in seal, seal, weapons other than official police issue, sun cream, sun hats, Sunny Gavaskar (unless clearly labelled), food, shelter, fire, pets, spectators.

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complexity of formula by which ticketing allocation for major matches is worked out.

By **Alan Tyers**. Illustration by **Beach**. *Crick!Leaks - The Secret Ashes Diaries* by Tyers and Beach is out on April 4



News

10 years' ban imposed on **Salman Butt right** (with five years suspended), a sentence Butt will appeal against to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Switzerland. Mohammad Amir will also appeal against his five-year ban by the ICC for spot-fixing during the England-Pakistan Test at Lord's last summer. Butt was due to appear in a London court on March 17 to face criminal charges relating to the same incident. In the meantime he has appeared as a pundit on a Pakistani television, to the chagrin of the ICC.

