

## ARKLEY CRICKET CLUB ON TOUR

### Enjoyable visit to Cornwall

Arkley Cricket Club, normally active on Parnet Playing Fields, travelled by car all through last Thursday night for a week-end's cricket against local clubs in mid-Cornwall.

Against Gorran on Friday they met powerful opposition, which included David Halfyard of Kent and two other first-class county players. Arkley were dismissed for 84, with J. Dolan (15), G. Trebilcock (19) and D. Parkin (24) making a great effort in the middle of the order. Gorran hit off the runs with the loss of two wickets.

During all Saturday and Sunday the weather, scenery and general atmosphere of conviviality and well-being were wholly ideal for cricket touring. Play itself had several moments that matched this excellence. One recalls particularly a majestic six by H. Darby of Finchley, a superb catch among the nettles on the boundary by J. Dolan, a brilliant combined slip-gully catch by P. Sharma and R. Wickens, a remarkable fast-medium delivery by G. Trebilcock to dismiss St. Lawgan's century-scoring top batsman for only 2, and a stumping by Arkley's captain and keeper A. Brown that needed to be seen to be believed.

(26) In the Saturday match against St. Lawgan Arkley came into their own. P. Sharma (13), R. Wickens (23), and G. Coppola all batted well, while H. Darby contributed a sparkling 38, a performance he was to equal next day against even stronger opponents. Arkley set the local side 132 to win, and by a sustained, varied, searching bowling attack dismissed them for 75, G. Trebilcock, D. Parkin and P. Sharma all taking a wicket apiece, and H. Darby and E. Lloyd, with three and four wickets respectively putting a seal of something like greatness on the Arkley spectacle in the field.

All cricketers talk sometimes of the "glorious uncertainty" of the game. Next day Arkley was again to find, though the sun shone and the skies beamed, that the smile of Fortune was occluded, and her favours bestowed elsewhere. Pencarrow offered a perfect setting, but Arkley's performance was hardly commensurate. Against a powerful attack, including the bowling of an excellent minor counties and M.C.C. player, only D. Parkin (13), P. Sharma (13) and H. Darby with a gay and beautifully stroked 38 showed signs of real mastery at the crease. The total of 88 was not enough, and Pencarrow strode home with a margin of seven wickets. Here alone did the captaincy falter. R. Purnell, hilariously promoted for the occasion, revealed a tentativeness, not to say bewilderment, in his field placings which were remorselessly exploited by the batsmen. His single over, bowled to the rising mirth of spectators and players alike, produced 17 quite unstoppable runs.

Cricket, it is notorious, is a great revealer of character. One will long recall the massive calm of A. Brown at the wicket, the cavalier exuberance of H. Darby, the judicious steadiness of E. Lloyd, the delicate reflectiveness of P. Sharma, the patient watchfulness of G. Trebilcock, the gay grace of R. Wickens, the bluff and hearty vigour of J. Dolan and G. Coppola, the youthful zest of D. Parkin, the good intentions at the wicket (alas! so seldom realised!) of R. Purnell. And what could have been finer in its way, or a more inspiring example to all, than to watch J. Graham, a naturally free, forcing bat, hobbling gamely to his duty at the crease with a severely jarred and curiously rainbow-coloured great toe (and a runner)? Handicapped (or footcapped?) as he was, J. Graham yet smote seven splendid runs, a last gesture of defiance at the thunders of the local ~~cricketing~~ cricketers.

Arkley's hosts entertained them sumptuously with Cornish pasties and strawberries and cream (a ploy to slow Arkley up in the field?) and each delightful day was rounded off suitably in whatever pub was handiest. It is of course hoped to repeat and perhaps to extend the tour next season. With an average age of nearly thirty-five, the club yet hopes to go on playing for many summers to come.