

49/76BournemouthPRINCE PHILIP LEADS ENGLAND CRICKETERS

Bournemouth sees a cricket match that won't go down in Wisden. The Duke of Edinburgh leads a near England eleven (that includes Denis Compton) against Hampshire - now batting - and proves that he is a Prince among cricketers. It is all in aid of a good cause - the National Playing Fields Association and Prince Philip makes it very much an off-duty occasion. Himself taking a turn with the ball, he has the action of a good medium-paced bowler.

In his seventh over, Prince Philip nabs a wicket - that of Dawson - to make his final analysis 9 overs, 25 runs, one wicket - better than many a county bowler. Hampshire's declaration gives the Duke's eleven just over two hours to make the runs. Going in fifth wicket down with Walter Robins as partner, Prince Philip hits out at Hampshire's bowling and goes for the runs. The crowd love it, for the Prince had set the right note for the match from the start, when, like any Naval Officer taking a day off, he changed in the same dressing room as his team. This lucky escape only adds to the crowd's delight.

After scoring a fast dozen, Prince Philip is clean bowled by veteran Gerald Hill.

Deffing his Zingari cap to the crowd, Prince Philip acknowledges their cheers for a gallant innings. Happy ending to the story - the Duke's eleven won by a wicket!