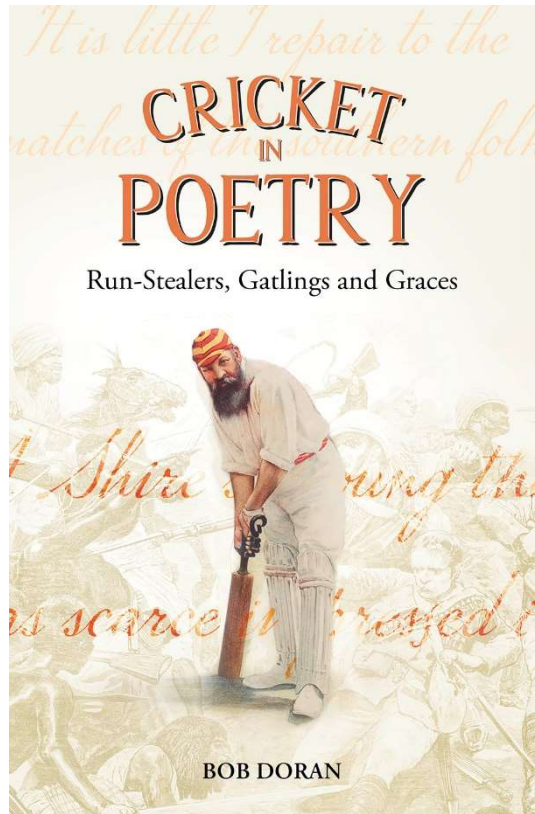




Title information



Cricket in Poetry

Run-Stealers, Gatlings and Graces

By Bob Doran

Key features

- Cricket has probably inspired more poems than every other sport put together
- Two stand out: *At Lord's* by Francis Thompson, a religious poet and Jack the Ripper suspect, and *Vitai Lampada* by Henry Newbolt
- How the Grace brothers finally made it to Old Trafford
- When a Clifton College pupil set a world batting record and how an Indian schoolboy broke it a century later
- How Ranjitsinhji, 'Light of the East', transformed batting
- Sherlock Holmes dismissing W.G. and how Lord Beginner and Lord Kitchener immortalised their little pals Ramadhin and Valentine
- Publicity campaign planned including radio, newspapers, websites, podcasts and magazines

Description

Cricket in Poetry tells the fascinating story of cricket's strong ties with poetry. It may be cricket's rural origins, its slow pace or the literary ambitions of its aristocratic patrons, but the game has inspired more poetry than any other. Some of it is moving, some is funny, and some is arch and clunky. Two poems stand out: *Vitai Lampada* and *At Lord's*. Both were penned by the sons of prosperous families. One poet, Henry Newbolt, was a toff. The other, Francis Thompson, was a religious writer and Jack the Ripper suspect. While the two were growing up, county cricket was coming of age. The book charts the game's early days from the countryside of the south to the industrial towns and cities of the Midlands and the north. It recalls the famous matches, W.G. Grace and Gloucestershire on their first visit to Old Trafford and the first Ashes Test. And it celebrates the heroes, from Hornby and Barlow to Ranjitsinhji and the great victory calypsos of those 'two little pals', Ramadhin and Valentine.

Details

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Telephone: 01256 302692
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