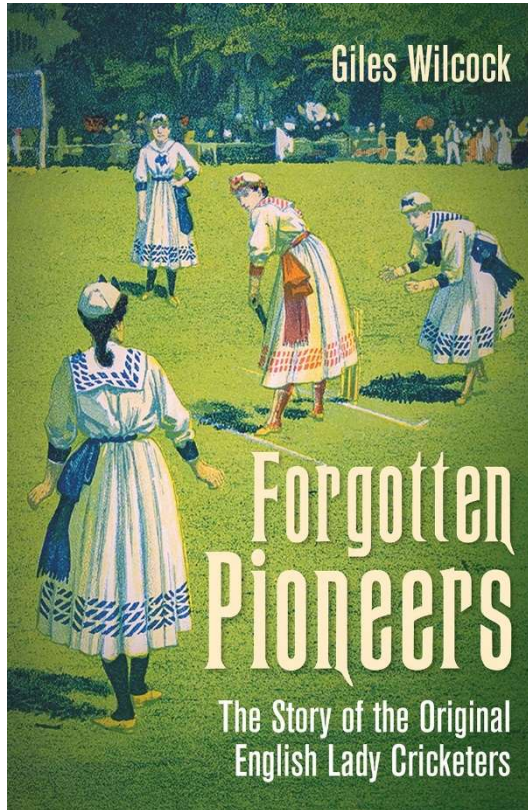




## Title information



### Forgotten Pioneers

The Story of the Original English Lady Cricketers

By Giles Wilcock

#### Key features

- As women's cricket reaches new heights, this is a timely look at the first attempt at a professional women's team
- A thorough examination of the creation, progress and collapse of the 'Original English Lady Cricketers'
- Detailed story of the team, most of which has been untold since the 1890s
- Analysis of the team's reception by the press and public
- Full context for the events, including the changing attitudes of (and towards) women in late-Victorian Britain
- Uncovers many long-forgotten details to tell the stories of the players' lives
- Publicity campaign planned including radio, newspapers, websites, podcasts and magazines

#### Description

*Forgotten Pioneers* tells the extraordinary tale of the world's first professional women cricketers. Founded in 1890, the 'Original English Lady Cricketers' played exhibition matches all over Britain. Enormous crowds flocked to see them and sceptical journalists were gradually won over by their obvious skill. However, the women were more than just cricketers: most evenings, they performed in local theatres and music halls, singing, dancing, fencing and putting on acrobatic displays. But after their triumphant first season, something went wrong; midway through 1891 the organisation collapsed acrimoniously. Although poor weather and changes in personnel played a part, there was a strong suspicion of fraud by the team's (largely male) managers. A court case followed in 1892 and the OELC vanished from the headlines. As women's cricket continues to reach new heights in the 21st century, this book tells the story of the forerunners of today's professional stars.

#### Details

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