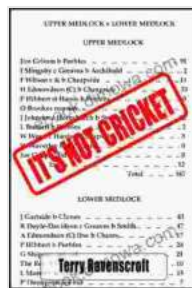


It's Not Cricket: A Journey Through the Curious History of the Gentleman's Game

In the annals of sport, few games have captured the imagination and affection of people around the world quite like cricket. With its unique blend of skill, strategy, and tradition, cricket has become an integral part of the sporting landscape for centuries.



It's Not Cricket! by Terry Ravenscroft

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 938 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 216 pages
Lending	: Enabled
Paperback	: 24 pages
Item Weight	: 1.92 ounces
Dimensions	: 6 x 0.06 x 9 inches



But beneath the surface of this beloved pastime lies a rich tapestry of curious and often forgotten stories. In his captivating book, "It's Not Cricket", renowned cricket historian Terry Ravenscroft takes readers on a fascinating journey through the hidden history of the gentleman's game.

The Origins of Cricket

The origins of cricket are shrouded in mystery. Some believe it evolved from a medieval game called "club-ball", while others trace its roots to even earlier stick-and-ball games played in the Middle Ages. Whatever its true origins, by the 17th century, cricket had emerged as a popular sport in England, particularly among the nobility and upper classes.

Initially, cricket was played on vast expanses of land, with matches often lasting for days or even weeks. The early rules were rudimentary, and players experimented with different ways of hitting the ball and taking wickets. It was during this formative period that many of the game's essential elements, such as the bat, wicket, and ball, took shape.

The Golden Age of Cricket

The 18th century marked a golden age for cricket. The game spread to other parts of the British Empire, including the West Indies, Australia, and India. Formal cricket clubs were established, and standardized rules and regulations were developed. This period also saw the emergence of some of the game's greatest early stars, such as W.G. Grace, known as "the Grand Old Man of Cricket".

The growing popularity of cricket was reflected in the construction of grand cricket grounds and the establishment of major tournaments. The first Test match, between England and Australia, was played in 1877. The Ashes, one of the most famous rivalries in Test cricket, began in 1882.

The Controversies and Curiosities of Cricket

Beyond its illustrious history, "It's Not Cricket" also delves into the game's more controversial and curious aspects. Ravenscroft explores the use of bodyline bowling in the 1930s, a tactic that strained relations between

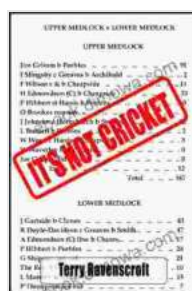
England and Australia. He also examines the issue of match-fixing and corruption in modern cricket.

The book is filled with a host of fascinating anecdotes and trivia. Readers will learn about the time a match was interrupted by a swarm of bees, the batsman who was dismissed by a ball that hit his spectacles, and the team that traveled to a match by hot air balloon.

The Future of Cricket

As "It's Not Cricket" concludes, Ravenscroft looks to the future of the game. He discusses the challenges facing cricket in the modern era, such as the rise of Twenty20 cricket and the decline of Test cricket. However, he also remains optimistic about the game's enduring appeal.

Whether you're a seasoned cricket enthusiast or a newcomer to the sport, "It's Not Cricket" is an essential read. Terry Ravenscroft's witty and informative writing style brings the history of the gentleman's game to life. It's a book that will entertain, inform, and leave you with a newfound appreciation for the curious world of cricket.



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