

Chapter 14

The Cricket Ground at Rodney Parade is Sold 1980 - 1989

Historic Newport ground is doomed



● Newport cricket ground, where the bulldozers could be digging up the cricket square before long.

The Historic Rodney Parade Cricket Ground is Sold for the replacement Maindee Primary School in 1988



1980's



The battle to save Rodney Parade Welsh The Battle to Save Rodney Parade

The very existence of Newport Cricket Club was placed in jeopardy.

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1983

1985

1987



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150th Year Anniversary, with six of the Club's Glamorgan players involved in a Captain's v Chairman's match.

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Western League Runners Up, Welsh League Winners.

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The 'Historic' Rodney Parade Ground



The Eighties – 'Shaping the Destiny of the Club'

The mid 1980's was also a period when the whole future of the Club was put in jeopardy. Ultimately, the Eighties became the decade which would shape the destiny and future direction of Newport Cricket Club.

Famous Grouse Western League

The Western League was arguably one of the best leagues in the country, with the League team winning the President's Trophy in 1981. Newport's Dave Knight starred in the Semi-Final win over The Merseyside Competition League, claiming 6 wickets for just 8 runs. He also claimed 2 wickets for 29 runs off 10 overs, including the wicket of Test player Mushtaq Mohammed in the Final, which the Western League team won by 2 wickets against the Birmingham League.

A Decade of Outstanding Achievement

The decade started well, winning the Gwent Macey 20 over Trophy in 1980, for the first time for twelve years, led by Robert Brown. David Porter topped the batting averages (260 runs, Av. 28.89). Dave Knight topped the Western League bowling averages with 41 wickets (Av. 10.93, econ 2.68) - an achievement which no other Newport player accomplished.

Twin brothers Mike and Dave Knight were becoming major players and were taking on more responsibility in the running of the Club, with Mike captaining the Club for three consecutive seasons in 1981, 1982 and again in 1983, when he led the Club to the last 16 of the National K.O, losing to Keynsham (Bristol). In 1981, Graham Reynolds (214 runs, Av. 30.57) and Dr Peter Brown (24 wickets, Av. 11.96, econ 2.81) topped the batting and bowling averages. In 1982, Graham Kingston (382 runs, Av. 34.72) topped the batting averages and Derek Porter (35 wickets, Av. 11.37, econ 3.09), the bowling.

Mike Knight set the batting standards and brother Dave set the bowling standards at this time. Mike scoring 1,015 runs in 1983, a feat he repeated in 1984, with 1,124 runs. In 1983, Dave Knight topped both the batting (377 runs, Av. 47.13) and bowling averages (18 wickets, Av. 18.11, econ 2.88) and was awarded Western League Player of the Year (3rd Place).

Ex-Glamorgan player, Graham Kingston captained the Club in 1984 and 1985, leading the team to a Gwent Macey 20 over Cup win in 1984. In 1984, long serving wicket keeper, Mike Rutledge claimed his 100th victim for the Club. Dave Knight topped the batting averages (432 runs, Av. 39.27) and youngster Phil North the bowling (46 wickets, Av. 10.87, econ 3.11)

Young Guns Come into the 1st XI

In 1983, Mike Knight introduced five teenagers into the team - Phil North, Paul Morris, Kevin Corten, Ian Lewis and Martyn Williams. It was a good decision with North taking 110 wickets in 1984 and 35 League wickets in 1985, Morris scored over 1,000 runs in 1984 and topped the averages (32.66) in 1985, gaining selection for Wales against Zimbabwe. In 1985 Lewis topped the bowling averages (21 wickets at 13.00). Together with John Kitson a young quick bowler, all became key figures.

150th Anniversary Celebrations (1985)

In 1985, ex-Glamorgan player Graham Kingston oversaw the Club's 150th Anniversary celebrations with a match played between a Chairman's XI and a 1st XI. Six of the Club's Glamorgan players during this period were involved in the match - Arthur Porter (Scorer), Willie Whitehill, Keith Jarrett, Graham Kingston, Len Hill and Martin Roberts. Martin Roberts and Phil North made their Glamorgan County Championship debuts in 1985. Two senior Newport players won Western League 2nd XI Awards - Fred Wangler (Bowler) and Peter Brown (All-rounder).

Dave Knight captained the Club in 1986 winning the Gwent Ansells Sunday Cup, in what was an injury curtailed season for him. Ultimately the back injury sustained put an untimely end to his fast bowling career. Brother, Mike covered as captain.

In 1987, a strong, experienced team embarked on a significant run of success. Two Western League Runners-Up seasons (1987 & 1988) under veteran captain Graham Reynolds, were followed by five successive Welsh Sunday League Titles (1988 -1992), two Gwent Macey 20 over Cup wins (1989 & 1990) and three Touche Ross / Classic Bat (60 over) Sunday Cup wins (1989, 1991 & 1992). Martin Roberts and Phil North were instrumental in these successes, Roberts heading the batting averages in 1986 with 398 (Av. 36.18) and again in 1987 with 299 runs (37.38). Peter Brown headed the bowling averages in both 1986 (26 wickets, Av. 14.62) and 1987 (29 wickets, Av. 14.28).

'The Battle to Save Rodney Parade'

The later part of the decade was embroiled in a 'Battle to Save Rodney Parade'. The ground had been the Club's home since land was donated by Lord Tredegar in 1882, but the Club's NAC Landlords were determined to cash in on a valuable asset, to fund a smooth path for the onset of Professional Rugby. Over the course of several years, the Athletic Club's Management Committee was taken over by the Rugby Club and with the onset of Professional Rugby (officially), Newport Athletic Club was losing money fast and saw a quick sale of the cricket ground as a potential saviour.

In 1986, a proposal was made to the NAC Management Committee to allow the Cricket section to become self sufficient within the NAC, but the proposal was rejected. In a further attempt to safeguard their future, the Cricket and Hockey sections offered to purchase a proportionate share of the freehold of the Cricket ground for £50,000, but this offer was also rejected.

By May 1987 the Athletic Club, had made its intentions clear. The original idea, of being a major sports club catering for many sports had long since disappeared. With several of the original sports sections of the club already being forced out, the famous Newport Athletic Club was by now, little more than a Rugby and Bowls Club. The Management Committee's intention to sell the Cricket Ground was the next step to create a Rugby powerhouse from the proceeds of a sale! The Cricket Ground was on prime land adjoining the Rugby ground, close to the town centre and developers and Councils clamoured to secure the purchase. Despite strong protests the sale of the ground was inevitable.



Newport Cricket Club 150th Anniversary Match (1985)



Facts about Newport Cricket Club 1985 (Captain - G. Kingston)
 Newport Cricket Club celebrated it's 150th Anniversary in 1985, with a match amongst the Club's players.
 Back Row L - R : Mike Grace, Ally Ashworth, Paul Morris, Mike Rutledge, Keith Jarrett, Bob Marsh (Umpire)
 2nd Back Row L - R : John Holloway (Umpire), Martyn Williams, Andy Knight, Dave Knight, Martin Roberts, Dave Kershaw, Ben Williams, Willie Whitehill,
 Fred Wangler, Arthur Porter (Scorer).
 Front L - R : Mike Knight, Robert Brown, Eddie Mogford, Ian Frost, Bill Jones (Chairman), Graham Kingston (Capt.), Len Hill. Sitting : John Blake, John Kitson.





The 'Historic' Rodney Parade Ground



The 'Battle To Save Rodney Parade' (1987 – 1990)

'Rodney Parade - The End Is Nigh! (1987 NAC Cricket Report - Alan Brown NAC Cricket Secretary)

'The 1987 season was dominated by the possibility that the Rugby section proposal that the cricket field be sold would be accepted. Every effort had been made to persuade the Management Committee that this would be the wrong course to follow and that there were other means to make NAC more viable. Even though, as founder members of Newport Athletic Club, we may be forced to follow Hockey, Badminton, Netball, Athletics etc in leaving the NAC, the section members have no doubts about the future of Newport Cricket, whether it be under the mantle of Newport Athletic Club or as an independent Club. If Gwent County Council purchase the field it is to be hoped that the cricketers will have use of it, and the pavilion, until building is ready to start, allowing us time to find and develop a new ground. In this connection we look forward to receiving some funding from NAC as previously agreed by Management Committee'.

All Ties to NAC Severed

Although the Club was generally recognised as Newport Cricket Club, it's official title was the Newport Athletic Club Cricket section, However, in 1988 the Rodney Parade Ground was finally sold and bought by Gwent County Council for £1 million, to build a new Maindee Primary School. Following the ground sale, all ties to the NAC were formally severed.

The 'New' Newport Cricket Club

At the end of the 1988 season, the Club was officially recognised as Newport Cricket Club. Dave and Mike Knight both headed the batting averages with an identical average (48.33) and Robert Brown the bowling taking 26 wickets (Av. 15.42, Econ 2.95). Graham Reynolds was elected to lead the 'new' Newport Cricket Club in 1989, a season which saw the Club win the Touche Ross (60 over) Trophy and also became Welsh Sunday League & Macey 20 over (Gwent KO) Winners. In 1989, Martin Roberts topped the batting averages again, scoring 682 runs (Av. 42.6), just above Mike Knight 632 runs (Av. 39.5). To score 500 Western League runs was outstanding, by scoring over 600 League runs both deserve special praise. Phil North topped the bowling averages, bowling 202 overs, taking 32 wickets (Av. 22.03).

County Cricket Returns To Rodney Parade (1988)

First Class Cricket hadn't been played at Rodney Parade, since the last of Glamorgan's Championship matches against Warwickshire in 1965. However, in 1988, Glamorgan were celebrating their own Centenary and decided to visit many of their 'out grounds' to mark the occasion. With the 'Death Knell' looming it was a fitting time to play at Rodney Parade, a ground they had not played First Class cricket on for 23 years. On 22nd May 1988, First Class cricket returned to Newport when Glamorgan CCC played Derbyshire in the Refuge Assurance 40 over Sunday League.

The club won many new friends leading up to and after the Glamorgan match and had continued to forge good relationships with many parties, including the Town Council. But despite the game being a major success, played in front of a large crowd, the days of cricket at Rodney Parade were coming to an end and it was not long before the 'Deal was Done!' In August 1988, Gwent County Council made a Compulsory Purchase Order on the ground and bought it for close to £1 Million, to build a replacement Maindee Primary School. The end of the historic Rodney Parade Ground was in sight. The Club was given 2 year's grace to continue playing on the ground, while plans were finalised to build the new school. County Cricket was still being played at Rodney Parade and on May 7th 1989 Glamorgan returned to the ground to play Gloucestershire in another Refuge Assurance 40 over Sunday League match, again proving to be an outstanding success.

Shane Warne plays at Rodney Parade (1989)

1989 saw one of the true greats of the game play at Rodney Parade, A young Shane Warne came to the UK to further his cricket education, playing for Bristol Imperial in the prestigious Famous Grouse Western League. He enjoyed a very successful season with Imperial, but his visit to Rodney Parade for a League encounter was less memorable, being run out for 9 in an Imperial total of 149-6 in their allotted 45 overs. Bowling unchanged at the Power Station End Warne was unable to take a wicket as Newport scored 150-1, to romp to a 9 wicket victory. Mike Knight scored an excellent 74 not out, including a six off Warne, who finished with figures of 16 overs, 2 maidens, 0 wickets for 51 runs. Warne made his Test debut for Australia in 1992 and returned to England in 1993 with Australia to terrorise the England batsmen. Warne's Test record over a 16 year period puts him up among the greats of the game.

'The Final Countdown' at Rodney Parade

Every game on the now doomed ground was treated like a Cup Final and the ground had never looked better in all its history. A very strong Newport team were sweeping all before them, but the icing on the cake was the announcement that on June 24th 1990, the last First Class match would be played at Rodney Parade, when Glamorgan CCC would return to play Yorkshire in the Refuge Assurance 40 over Sunday League..... What a way to go!

'Viv's Back'

It was fitting that one of the 'All Time Greats' and 'Legend' of the game Viv Richards would tread the sacred turf during the last season of cricket at Rodney Parade. Playing for a very successful Glamorgan team, Viv no doubt recalled the previous time he had played on the ground, back in 1973 as a youngster, learning his trade for Lansdown playing against Newport.

With Newport's Glamorgan left arm spinner, Phil North missing out on playing on his home ground in the Glamorgan match v Derbyshire at Rodney Parade in 1988, a similar fate was bestowed on Newport's other Glamorgan player during this period, the popular wicket keeper Martin Roberts who was left out against Yorkshire in 1990.

Unfortunately, the game against Yorkshire was abandoned without a ball being bowled as rain ruined the final spectacle. 'The Gods are shedding one final tear for the ground,' quipped Club President and Newport legend, Bill Jones.



The 'Battle To Save Rodney Parade'

1987

Don't sell us out say NAC cricketers
CRICKETERS ACCUSE N A C OF PIRACY
07/05/87

Cricket club fate hangs on meeting
11/01/87

Cricket covers drawn on 150 years of cricket
03/12/87

Cricket pitch goes to umpire
18/05/88

Developers given outline approval for cricket land
07/07/88

Newport light to stay at Parade
07/05/88

Council are set to pay £1m for club's ground
17/05/88

Cricket club gets year's reprieve
14/05/87

Cricket Newport AC fight over
17/05/88

Ground sale Newport cricket in the balance
15/10/87

Newport cricket bowls out in the balance cricket club

1988

Cricket club's fate sealed
07/06/88

Cricket pitch sale fight hots up
15/05/88

Sports club is caught out in new ball game
19/05/88

Newport innings almost over
24/05/88

Cricket club's fate sealed
15/05/88

Cricket pitch sale fight hots up
15/05/88

Sports club is caught out in new ball game
19/05/88

Newport innings almost over
24/05/88

1990

New ground plan for cricket club
05/05/88

It's close of play at NAC
10/05/88

Cricket club's fate sealed
07/06/88

Cricket pitch sale fight hots up
15/05/88

Sports club is caught out in new ball game
19/05/88

Newport innings almost over
24/05/88

1987

Ground sale Newport cricket in the balance cricket club
15/10/87

The battle to save Rodney Parade
The battle had been raging for several years and the very existence of Newport Cricket Club was put in jeopardy ... but from adversity the Club's destiny was created.

Historic Newport ground is doomed

Y frwydr i achub Rodney Parade
Bu'r frwydr yn rhuo am sawl blywyddyn ac roedd bodolaeth Clwb Cricod Casnewydd yn y fantol ... ond o adfyd cnewydd llynged y clwb.

Newspaper cuttings relating to the sale of Rodney Parade



The 'Historic' Rodney Parade Ground



A Final Farewell – The 'Ashes Match'

'Rodney Parade - The End! (1988 NAC Cricket Report)

'The tumult and the shouting dies, the Captains and the Kings depart, wishing well to those who linger.'

'In the season which Management Committee has decided would be our last as a part of Newport Athletic Club, the Cricket Section maintained their high standard'. The Report concludes :-

'So to the future Newport Cricket Club has been formed with Bill Jones as President and Eddie Mogford as Chairman and with an enthusiastic membership we are sure that our 155 year history will continue for many years to come. Our sincere thanks are offered to Gwent County Council for allowing us to use the field until it is required for building and to NAC for the use of the Pavilion'.

'In the meantime, with morale and spirits high, we are taking active and positive steps to find a ground which will be suitable for first class and top level club cricket; a facility which a town like Newport should not lack and it is hoped that Newport Athletic Club will make a significant financial contribution from the proceeds of the sale of the cricket field towards this end. Wherever we may find ourselves it is our firm intention that the old traditions and sportsmanship we valued at NAC will be continued'.

'They who go feel not the pain of parting, it is they who stay behind oft suffer'

Alan Brown NAC Cricket Secretary (with apologies to Longfellow)

Broken Promises!

As the bulldozers moved in and the dust settled on Rodney Parade, the Cricket Club were left to pursue new pastures and after lengthy discussions with the Town Council a new site at Spytty Park was identified. Despite initial promises of a Compensation by the Athletic Club Officers, this did not materialise and the Cricket Club were left to relocate without a penny! Still to this day, the rugby dominated Athletic Club has offered no financial assistance or support to the Club!

September 16th, 1990 - The Final 'Ashes' Match at Rodney Parade

In 1990, following the enforced sale of its Rodney Parade home, the sad day had finally arrived the last match was played at Rodney Parade - ever! The final match at the famous old ground was played in Victorian costume, against old rivals Cardiff in the 'Ashes Match'. It was a fitting end to the Rodney Parade ground, as Cardiff had also been the opponents when the new pavilion was opened at the ground in 1901. Both captains, Mike Knight (Newport) and K.D Williams (Cardiff), dressed in Victorian style blazers and hats and took part in a 'ceremonial toss' before the game.

The End - A Lone Bugler Plays 'The Last Post'

At the end of the 'Ashes Match' the bails were burnt and placed in a commemorative Urn and presented to the Club's oldest (Fred Wangler) and youngest (Doug Kershaw) players. Shortly afterwards long serving NAC groundsman Fred Cox, lowered the Club flag for the last time, as a lone bugler played 'Sunset'. A fitting finale to the old Rodney Parade ground!

Alas, the massive roar of discontent by people associated with cricket around the country, regarding the controversial Sale of Rodney Parade, had not been enough. Everyone did what they could have done to save the ground, politicians, the press, club members but it was all to no avail..... the inevitable time had arrived! The long, hard fought battle was over..... the 'final curtain' had come down.

The historic Rodney Parade Cricket ground, first donated by Lord Tredegar in 1892, had survived two World Wars in its 97 years existence. The ground had staged First Class Cricket since 1935, but had now been lost to fund the onset of Professional Rugby!

Achievements/Milestones of Newport Cricket Club (1980 – 1990)

- 1980 Gwent K.O Winners (first time for 12 years)
- 1983 Last 16 National K.O, losing to Keynsham (A)
- 1984 Macey (Gwent KO) Winners v Pontymister
- 1985 NCC 150th Anniversary, Gwent Ansells Sunday Cup Winners
- 1986 Ansells Sunday Cup Winners - Arthur Porter retired as Fixture Secretary and 1st X1 Scorer
The old heavy Roller underwent a complete overhaul - Harry Knight, saving it from the scrap heap
- 1987 Western League Runners Up, Disqualified Welsh Cup (SF) - Phil North deemed ineligible
- 1988 Western League Runners Up, Welsh League Winners
First Class Cricket returns to Rodney Parade Glamorgan CCC v Derby (Sunday League)
Rodney Parade is sold and bought by Gwent County Council for a new Maindee Primary School
All ties severed to NAC, the Club becomes Newport Cricket Club
- 1989 Shane Warne plays for Bristol Imperial. Winners - Touche Ross (60 over), Welsh League & Macey KO Winners
Glamorgan CCC play Gloucestershire at Rodney Parade (Sunday League)

Glamorgan C.C.C. (1st X1) - Martin Roberts and Phil North appeared for Glamorgan CCC. in First Class matches

Newport Cricket Club Captains (1980 - 1989)

1980 : R. P. Brown	1981 : M. J. Knight
1982 : M. J. Knight	1983 : M. J. Knight
1984 : G. C. Kingston	1985 : G. C. Kingston
1986 : D. C. Knight	1987 : G. E. A. Reynolds
1988 : G. E. A. Reynolds	1989 : G. E. A. Reynolds



The Last Game at Rodney Parade - The 'Ashes Match' Sept 16th, 1990



The Newport and Cardiff Teams



Fred Cox lowers the Club Flag



Captains Mike Knight (R) & Ken Williams



The 'Burning of the Ashes'

CARDIFF CC '13' v NEWPORT CC '13'

AT: RODNEY PARADE, NEWPORT

ON: 16th September 1990

TOSS WON BY: NEWPORT.

CARDIFF CC '13'		INNINGS		Fall of Wkts	
1	K D WILLIAMS +	12	S SPENCE P Morgan	2	
2	P F GOOD	17	Y Alf Evans	17	
3	DBP O'SULLIVAN +			11	1 46 1
4	E P C MEGGITT			9	2 92 2
5	D J R HERBERT			92	3 100 3
6	A POWELL			0	4 140 4
7	R M C MEGGITT			4	5 144 5
8	R G LEWIS			13	6 147 6
9	P MORGAN I Courtney			0	7 144 7
10	R SWALLOW'S Dyke			0	8 172 8
11	G HIBBERT			18	9 180 9
EXTRAS				16	
TOTAL				16	182 - 10

(43-10overs).

BOWLING				
Innings	M	R	W	
I. Lewis	7	0	44	1
A. Ashworth	10	2	41	-
P. North	12	2	28	5
G. Wood	8	1	29	1
G. Kingston	3+1	0	9	2
A. Thomas	1	0	1	-
A. Knight	1	0	13	-
P. Morris	1	0	4	1

* Captain

+ Wicket Keeper

COMMEMORATIVE FIXTURE

UMPIRES: A Brown, A Jones and J D H Riches, G T Eccles

SCORERS: M Lewis and C Foulkes

Result: Newport won by 92 runs.

NEWPORT CC '13'		INNINGS		Fall of Wkts	
1	M KNIGHT *				
2	D KNIGHT			78	13 A THOMAS
3	M ROBERTS +			125	
4	G KINGSTON			6	
5	P NORTH				
6	P MORRIS				
7	G WOOD			48	
8	I LEWIS				
9	A HARRIS				
10	A KNIGHT				
11	D KERSHAW				
EXTRAS				17	
TOTAL				17	274-2

(45 overs)

BOWLING				
Innings	M	R	W	
I. Courtney	9	2	34	-
A. Powell	9	1	72	-
R. Lewis	8	1	23	1
G. Hibbert	9	0	53	-
Evans	3	0	30	-
K.D. Williams	1	0	3	-
P Morgan	6	0	53	1

Today's historic match is supported by Solicitors Francis & Co. - Professional Advice/Practical Solutions.

Dave Knight scored the last run by a Newport batsman on the ground

ASW and Glamorgan Cricket - A great Welsh partnership



Famous 'First Class Feats' at Rodney Parade



First Class Cricket at Rodney Parade 'Famous Feats'

Twenty Five County Championship matches were played at Rodney Parade, by Glamorgan in fifty first class seasons and the Rodney Parade ground figures prominently in the County's record books.

'That Match!' (Glamorgan v Gloucester.)

May 31st, June 1st & 2nd 1939 - Wally Hammond & Emrys Davies.

Wally Hammond 302 (2 sixes and 35 fours), was the joint highest individual score against the Welsh County, (equalling his own 302 not out at Bristol in 1934).

Emrys Davies' 287 not out in the same game was the highest individual innings total by a Glamorgan player.

Other 'Famous Feats' at Rodney Parade

Tom Graveney (Gloucestershire) scored 200 out of a total of 298 at Newport in 1956 – the lowest innings total ever to include a double century.

Don Ward's record in the same match, batted 68 minutes before being out for a duck – a Glamorgan record.

Other notable achievements at Rodney Parade include :-

Arnold Dyson twice carried his bat throughout an innings in the late Thirties.

1936, Gloucestershire's *Reg Sinfield* produced match figures of 12-126, including 7-58 in the 2nd innings. Newport's *A. E. Hodges* (3 & 0) made his Glamorgan debut in this game following outstanding Club form.

1937, *Tom Goddard* had match figures of 13 for 99 in Gloucestershire's win over Glamorgan.

1937, Glamorgan's *Johnny Clay* with 12 for 180, still couldn't prevent defeat against Somerset.

1948, *Cyril Washbrook* (6&83) and *Winston Place* (3&16) who both played for England in the same season, opened the batting for Lancashire in their drawn game with Glamorgan at Rodney Parade.

1949, *Len Hutton* (51&29) and *Frank Lowson* (72&47), who both played for England in the same season, opened the batting for Yorkshire v Glamorgan at Rodney Parade. Yorkshire won by 278 runs in two days. Glamorgan slumped to 69 all out in their 2nd innings. England left arm spinner, *J. H. Wardle* finishing with match figures of 9-62.

1950, *Trevor Bailey* of Essex & England, completed a hat-trick on the ground in the Glamorgan first innings (Pleass, Hever, & Shepherd), but it couldn't prevent Essex from losing by an innings and 25 runs.

In 1953, *Derek Shackleton* (Hampshire & England) took 9-77 one of his best innings bowling analyses in a First Class match, in the Glamorgan 1st innings.

1960, Newport's *Jim McConnon* had match figures of 10-134, including 7-74 in the 1st Innings, but couldn't prevent Glamorgan losing to Essex.
(*Jim McConnon, was Newport's only England Player*)

In 1961, *Don Shepherd* took 6 wickets for 5 runs against Nottinghamshire.

1962, *Bob Gale* scored 200 for Middlesex v Glamorgan (*caught by Newport's Willie Whitehill (Sub fielder)*)

Sunday June 24th 1990, the 'Death Knell'

Glamorgan v Yorkshire (Sunday League) the final First Class match played at Rodney Parade, before the ground was sold to build Maindee Primary School.





Famous 'First Class Feats' at Rodney Parade



Best Bowling in an Innings in First Class Cricket at Rodney Parade

9-77	D Shackleton	Hampshire v Glamorgan	1953
8-41	TWJ Goddard	Gloucestershire v Glamorgan	1937
7-58	RA Sinfield	Gloucestershire v Glamorgan	1936
7-66	BD Wells	Nottinghamshire v Glamorgan	1961
7-74	JE McConnon	Glamorgan v Essex	1960
7-92	WE Jones	Glamorgan v Kent	1947
Hat Trick	T. Bailey	Essex v Glamorgan	1950

Best Bowling in a Match in First Class Cricket at Rodney Parade

13-99	TWJ Goddard	Gloucestershire v Glamorgan	1937
12-126	RA Sinfield	Gloucestershire v Glamorgan	1936
12-180	JC Clay	Glamorgan v Somerset	1937

First Class Centuries at Rodney Parade

302	WR Hammond	Gloucestershire v Glamorgan	1939
287*	DE Davies	Glamorgan v Gloucestershire	1939
216	D Davies	Glamorgan v Somerset	1939
200	TW Graveney	Gloucestershire v Glamorgan	1956
200	RA Gale	Middlesex v Glamorgan	1962
141	CC Smart	Glamorgan v Somerset	1939
140	MJL Turnbull	Glamorgan v Leicestershire	1935
129*	H Gimblett	Somerset v Glamorgan	1937
121	WR Hammond	Gloucestershire v Glamorgan	1937
120	AH Dyson	Glamorgan v Gloucestershire	1939
112*	WE Jones	Glamorgan v Somerset	1955
112*	PM Walker	Glamorgan v Nottinghamshire	1961
110	DE Davies	Glamorgan v Essex	1950
103	EDR Eagar	Hampshire v Glamorgan	1953
102	AH Dyson	Glamorgan v Kent	1947

Rodney Parade - The Last First Class Match



A view from the Power Station End

Glamorgan v Yorkshire (24th June 1990)

On June 24th 1990, the last First Class match was played at Rodney Parade, when Glamorgan played Yorkshire in the Refuge Assurance Sunday League (40 overs).

Unfortunately, the game against Yorkshire was abandoned without a ball being bowled as rain ruined the final spectacle.

*Club President and Newport CC legend,
Bill Jones quipped;
'The Gods are shedding one final tear
for the ground'.*



A view from the Pavilion End



Memories of Rodney Parade



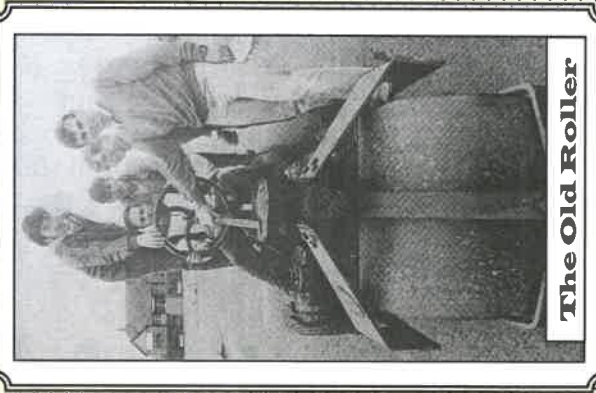
The Rodney Parade Pavilion and Old Roller (1988)

The historic Rodney Parade Cricket ground, first donated by Lord Tredegar in 1892, had survived two World Wars in its 97 years existence. The ground had staged First Class Cricket since 1935, but had now been lost to fund the onset of Professional Rugby!

RODNEY PARADE CRICKET CLUB
CRICKET CAPTAINS

1892	J. P. PUGH
1893	J. P. PUGH
1894	J. P. PUGH
1895	J. P. PUGH
1896	J. P. PUGH
1897	J. P. PUGH
1898	J. P. PUGH
1899	J. P. PUGH
1900	J. P. PUGH
1901	J. P. PUGH
1902	J. P. PUGH
1903	J. P. PUGH
1904	J. P. PUGH
1905	J. P. PUGH
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The Captains Board



The Old Roller

 **RIP Rodney Parade** 



Photo taken from the TV Gantry, the night before the Glamorgan v Yorkshire match (24th June, 1990)

NEWPORT CRICKET CLUB

How The Proceeds From The Sale Of The Cricket Ground Were Spent By NAC

NEWPORT ATHLETIC CLUB

Rodney Parade,
Newport, Gwent.

9th October, 1989.

Dear Member,

Your Management Committee believe that Members would be interested to learn what work has been achieved at Rodney Parade following the sale of the Cricket Field in October, 1988.

Grandstand

Southern end completely clad in colorsteel. 5000
New Doors and Frames at each end of Subway 9974
New Drainage System to take away water from the grandstand roof out of the Enclosure. 2000
All back windows bricked up. 1000

Fencing

New Fencing from Grandstand to Rodney Road Turnstile 1331
New Fencing across the North end of the ground. 1878
Area behind Grandstand cleared and fenced. 3400

Terracing

Complete New Terracing on Popular side. 155,000

Clubhouse

Complete refurbishment of Toilets and Shower area. 6000
Dressing room (visitors) panelled and new floor.
Room carpeted and multi-gym installed.
Brecon Lounge refurbished to high standard. 27300
Main Bar carpeted and new furniture.
Rodney Hall, Snelling Lounge and Entrance Hall - all decorated. 700
New Floor in cellar. 300

Equipment

New Glass Washing Machine.
New Vacuum Cleaner
New Photocopier for office 1000
New Ransome Mowing machine 3000

Machine Storage Shed

New Shed to be constructed south of Bowls Pavilion. 9700

Groundsmans House

Bathroom extension built and Central Heating installed. 6000

The net sum available, after Tax and all other deductions, from the sale of land was approximately £600,000 from which all the above work has been financed.

Under Contract (work to commence within a month).

Installation of new floodlights on Popular Terrace side.

Provision of 4 new Tarmac Tennis Courts to replace out-dated Shale courts.

Under consideration

New toilets around Rodney Parade.
Covering for Popular side terracing
Extensive repair to cellar roof
Re-treading of Main Staircase. 365,000

Yours sincerely,

B.V. WILLIAMS.
GENERAL HON. SECRETARY.

After a long battle throughout the late 1980's the historic Rodney Parade Cricket Ground was sold by the Rugby dominated NAC Management Committee for a replacement Maindee Primary School. The Cricket section who were founder members of the NAC received not a penny, with the proceeds of the sale going largely to finance Newport Rugby Club.