

Chapter 3

Newport Cricket Club

1880 - 1889



Fred Phillips of the Famous Phillips Brewing Family



1880s & 1890s



The Phillips Brewing Family feature prominently The Phillips Brewing Family feature prominently

W. G. Grace stars against Newport
An All England X1 play at Newport

1880s

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1880

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1881

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1883

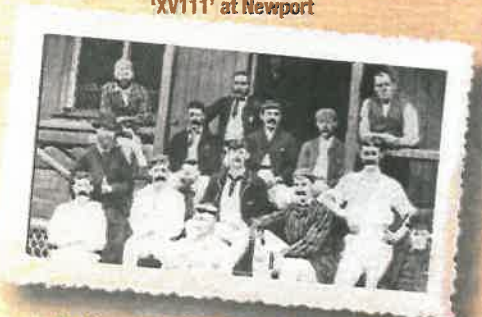
- Lord Tredegar donated land for new Rugby ground
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1886

- Club Legend Fred Phillips elected 1st X1 captain
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1887

- England X1 played a District 'XV111' at Newport
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The Newport Cricket Team in 1886
The Newport Cricket Team in 1886

Lord Tredegar donates land for a New Cricket Ground
Silverlock and Steeples Club Professionals

1890s

Lord Tredegar donates land for a New Cricket Ground
Silverlock and Steeples Club Professionals

1891

- Mee (Club Pro) takes 9 – 21 v Dr. E. M. Grace's Thornbury
- Rugby ground opens, freeing the old ground for Cricket.
- Arthur Gould, Tom Graham and Arthur Boucher (Wales & Newport Rugby) star for Newport C.C.
- Joseph Gould – first captain and one of the Club's founders died



Arthur Gould



Tom Graham



Arthur Boucher

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1892



- Arthur Silverlock engaged as Club Professional
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- Fred Phillips, captain for seven consecutive seasons (1886 – 1892)
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1896

- Dick Steeples appointed Club Professional with Silverlock
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1897

Pavilion plans deferred due to heavy ground expenditure
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The 'Historic' Rodney Parade Ground



Rodney Parade - 'W. G. Grace Destroys Newport : the Club's Only Defeat in 1881'

In 1880, the Club played 16, won 8, lost 5 with 3 drawn. Joseph Gould completed his seventh and last season as 1st XI captain. Clifton a very strong club who always drew upon Gloucestershire players, were beaten by Newport for the first time. A thing much appreciated by members also took place – a bath room was installed for the first time at the pavilion!

In 1881, Joseph Gould resigned the captaincy and Dr. R. E. W. Brewer was elected, with G. F. Harding vice captain, whilst Beresford had entered into business and did not seek re-engagement, so Thomas Killick of Tunbridge Wells was appointed as club Professional.

W. G. Grace scores a Century against Newport

In 1881, the club played 15 matches, winning 9, drawing 5 and losing only 1 - an away match with Clifton C.C., which was captained by the famous Dr. W.G. Grace and included seven Gloucestershire County players in the team. The game was of one innings a side, Grace scoring 109 runs out of a Clifton total of 251. Newport's innings was a disaster, as W.G. Grace clean bowled the first six Newport batsmen for 27 runs, the team being all out for 30. The Merlin reporting on the match stated '*Newport had to fight against overwhelming odds and it is no wonder that they made only a small score.*'

John 'Slingshot' Williams skittles Cardiff

In 1881, John 'Slingshot' Williams, had a memorable feat of bowling against Cardiff (A) on Sept. 2nd - his analysis was:-

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Wides
1st innings	8	8	0	6	-
2nd innings	10	6	5	4	1

George Rosser was the bowler for Newport at the other end, and took 3 for 9 runs in the 1st innings and 3 for 8 runs in the 2nd, and Cardiff were out for 16 and 15 runs in the two innings. The players of the two X1's were, Cardiff : B. F. Pearson, Colour-Sergt. Clieve, Charles Riches, A. E. Taylor, T. M. Barlow, E. W. Jones, W. David, J. H. Brown, W. A. Morgan, H. Bird, and C. M. Berkeley. The Newport team was : John Pritchard, Fred Scrivener, George Rosser, A. E. Lee, Henry Ivins, F. T. Purdon, John Williams, Joseph Gould, R. Gould, W. Daniell, and A. J. Gould. Newport made 122 runs, H. Ivins (19), T. M. Barlow (absent). John Pritchard topped the batting (45.0), and John Williams the bowling (48 wickets, average 4.25). It is also worth recording that Dr. O. E. B. Marsh made a score of 100n.o.

All England X1 play at Newport

On Sept. 8th, 9th and 10th 1881, an All England X1, captained by Dr. W. G. Grace played 22 of South Wales on the Club's ground. The All England side consisted of the famous brothers, Dr's W. G. and E. M. Grace, W. R. Gilbert, A. T. Smith, W. Kennedy, L. M. Day, Selby, Bond, Humphrey, Pooley and Woof. The 22 mainly consisted of Newport players Ivins, Pritchard, Lee, Taylor, Purdon, John Williams, Daniell, Rosser, J. Gould, R. Gould, A. W. Redwood, Newman, the other players being A. Currie, T. W. Tailing, E. A. Jones, W. E. Lewis, C. P. Lewis, W. H. Davies, A. Richards, L. J. Kempthorne, T. E. Lewis, and W. Payne. The District obtained 72 and 108 (H. Ivins 13 and C. P. Lewis 13, top scoring in both innings. All England made 96 in their first venture (the doctor brothers scoring 17 and 21 respectively) and 62 for 5 wickets in their second, when rain stopped play and the match was left drawn. It was 20 years since such an event had taken place in the District, and nearly £80 was taken in gate money, but the occasion was much spoilt by the weather.

In 1881, Newport had a strong X1, helped by the enthusiastic George Rosser, a very good batsman and one of the finest all round athletes the club ever had. He bowled medium to fast right arm, taking a lot of wickets and assisted the club for many years. Others were Wales Rugby player, G. F. Harding, a hard hitter who made lots of runs and a good judge of a short run, he also bowled a dangerous fast ball. A. W. Redwood, a medium right arm bowler and batsman; G. B. Taylor, a useful round arm bowler who could make runs; H. C. B. Phillips, the biggest hitter the club had at this time and a good fielder; E. A. Lee a good all round player and others.

In 1882, E. A. Lee was elected captain, with G. B. Taylor vice captain, Taylor was also appointed Secretary for Cricket. Newport had a strong fixture list, including a 3 day Newport & District match against All England but there is no record of the match being played.

The Average Bat

In 1882, the club's record was 17 matches played, 10 won, 2 lost and 5 drawn. Henry Ivins took the Average Bat with an average of 49.1 runs. The regulations governing the qualification for the average then were much more favourable to the batsmen than later. Then he could choose the best six innings with the first team, later to qualify for the Average Bat the member must play in at least eight matches, four away from home, before counting towards his average.



NEWPORT CRICKET CLUB

1870 : 'Slingshot' Williams Skittles Mandoverly

John 'Slingshot' Williams Records Remarkable Bowling Figures

John 'Slingshot' Williams played cricket for Newport CC from the Club's inception in 1874 and was reputedly the best bowler of his time in South Wales. He bowled with a round arm action, keeping the ball very low and was a dangerous bowler on all wickets. He also played as a forward for the Newport Rugby team in 1875/76 & 1876/77.

Newport moved from the 'Marshes' to their new Rodney Parade home in 1877 and John 'Slingshot' Williams became Newport's main bowler.

In an 1879 cup match v Llandoverly John Williams 'Slingshot' brought off a wonderful bowling performance :-

Bowling 13 five ball overs, 12 maidens, 8 wickets for 1 run.

This was no fluke as his figures against Cardiff in 1881 (opposite) show.

'Slingshot' Williams Presented with 'Silver' Match Ball

John 'Slingshot' Williams

8 Overs, 8 Maidens, 0 Runs, 6 Wickets v Cardiff
 'Slingshot' Williams was presented with a 'Silver' match ball to commemorate his feat against Cardiff. The ball sat proudly in the Rodney Parade Pavilion for many years, before being stolen in the 1980's.

John 'Slingshot' Williams

Venue		Cardiff v Newport		Runs Balls Mins	
Balls per over		Cardiff Amis Park, Cardiff on 2nd September 1881 (1-day match)		Other matches in England 1881	
Toss not known		Match drawn			
Result					
mhc254607		Cardiff first innings		Runs Balls Mins	
Clive		c Pardon b Rosser		2	
BF Penzion		b Williams		0	
C. Riches		b Williams		0	
AE Taylor		b Williams		0	
M. Jones		b Rosser		3	
Y. David		b Williams		0	
TH Brown		b Williams		1	
WA Morgan		b Williams		0	
H. Bird		c sub b Rosser		4	
CM Beckwith		not out		0	
TM Barlow		absent		0	
Extras		(all out, 16.2 overs)		16	
Total		16			
Fall of wickets:		1-7, 2-7, 3-7, 4-7, 5-7, 6-7, 7-7, 8-7, 9-16 (16.2 ov)			
Newport bowling		Overs Mins Runs Wkts Wides No-Balls			
Williams		8 6 0 6 -			
Rosser		7.2 7 10 3 -			
Newport first innings		Runs Balls Mins			
J. Pritchard		c Clive b Beckwith		0	
T. Scrivner		c David b Riches		12	
G. Rosser		b Beckwith		10	
AE Lee		c Riches b Beckwith		7	
H. Ivins		c Brown b Clive		19	
T. Pardon		lbw b Beckwith		8	
J. Williams		c David b Riches		15	
J. Gould		b Clive		7	
R. Gould		not out		15	
W. Daniell		c sub b Beckwith		3	
AJ Gould		c Clive b Beckwith		1	
Extras		(all out)		10	
Total		122			
Fall of wickets:		1-7, 2-7, 3-7, 4-7, 5-7, 6-7, 7-7, 8-7, 9-7, 10-122			
Cardiff bowling		Overs Mins Runs Wkts Wides No-Balls			
Beckwith		7 7 7 6 -			
Riches		7 7 7 2 -			
Clive		7 7 7 2 -			
Cardiff second innings		Runs Balls Mins			
Clive		b Williams		0	
BF Penzion		b Rosser		0	
AE Taylor		c J. Gould b Rosser		3	
M. Jones		not out		0	
W. David		b Williams		0	
TH Brown		not out		4	
WA Morgan		b Rosser		0	
H. Bird		b Williams		2	
CM Beckwith		b Williams		2	
C. Pritchard		did not bat		-	
TM Barlow		did not bat		-	
Extras		(7 Wickets, 19 overs)		2	
Total		15			
Fall of wickets:		1-7, 2-7, 3-7, 4-7, 5-7, 6-7, 7-7			
Newport bowling		Overs Mins Runs Wkts Wides No-Balls			
Williams		10 7 6 4 1 -			
Rosser		9 7 8 3 -			

1881 : Slingshot Williams Skittles Cardiff

John 'Slingshot' Williams skittles Cardiff

In 1881, John 'Slingshot' Williams, had a memorable feat of bowling against Cardiff at Cardiff Arms Park, on Sept. 2nd - his analysis was:-

1st innings	8	8	0	6
2nd innings	10	6	5	4
Overs	8	8	0	6
Maidens	10	6	5	4
Runs	0	6	5	4
Wickets	6	0	4	1
Wides	-	-	-	-

George Rosser was the bowler for Newport at the other end, and took 3 for 9 runs in the 1st innings and 3 for 8 runs in the 2nd. Cardiff were out for 16 and 15 runs in the two innings.

In 1881, John Pritchard topped the batting (45.0), and John 'Slingshot' Williams the bowling (48 wickets, average 4.25). It is also worth recording that Dr. O. E. B. Marsh made a score of 100n.o.

1881 : Slingshot Williams Plays Against All England

John 'Slingshot' Williams plays against All England

On Sept. 8th, 9th and 10th 1881, an All England XI, captained by Dr. W. C. Grace played 22 of South Wales on the Club's ground. The All England side consisted of the famous brothers, Dr's W. C. and E. M. Grace, W. R. Gilbert, A. T. Smith, W. Kennedy, L. M. Day, Selby, Bond, Humphrey, Pooley and Woolf.

The 22 mainly consisted of Newport players Ivins, Pritchard, Lee, Taylor, Purdon, John Williams, Daniell, Rosser, J. Gould, R. Gould, A. W. Redwood, Newman.



The 'Historic' Rodney Parade Ground



Rodney Parade - 'A New Ground For Rugby Is Announced'

Until this time the club's Professional was always a bowler who could bowl fast, but in 1882 H. Richardson, of Gloucester, a slow bowler, was appointed. Playing against Newport Working Men's Club, George Rosser, scored 129 n.o. and Bob Gould 110, in a first wicket partnership of 193, Newport declaring on 320-5. The two, then set about getting the other side out for 66 runs between them. It was a record first wicket partnership, and it was declared that Rosser's score of 129 n.o. was the largest individual score made in South Wales at that time. A notable victory over Swansea followed, Newport making 239 (H. Ivins 73, Clifford Phillips 59, Bob Gould 44 n.o.) and dismissing Swansea for 24 runs, due to the bowling of Richardson, who's slow deliveries much puzzled the batsmen.

In 1883, E. A. Lee was elected captain, playing 29 matches, with 12 won, 12 lost and 5 drawn. The fixture list had been extended, with some very strong opponents, including the powerful Gloucestershire club Knowle Park, captained by Dr. W. G. Grace. Newport enjoyed a very good away victory against a team containing renowned players such as Dr. W. G. Grace, W. O. Moberley (carried his bat for 27 n.o.), F. Townsend and R. F. Miles. George Rosser won the 1st X1 Average Bat (42.2). Beresford, was back as the Professional, Playing Against Monmouth, T. J. S. Clapp made 128, George Rosser 101 n.o., Beresford 74, the side being all out for 372. They were not so keen in declaring and Monmouth were given only half an hours batting, as they had to catch an early train back to Monmouth!

A New Ground for Rugby

In 1883, thanks to the help of Colonel Justice, and the readiness of Mr. J. L. Lloyd to relinquish his tenancy, additional ground was acquired. The principle objectives were to procure a drier ground for football, a better protection of the cricket pitch, and to provide a larger field for practice for the juvenile members who joined for cricket. The extension, which included the removal and enlargement of the pavilion, costing over £300, heavy expenditure for those days. Until 1891 Rugby and cricket continued to be played on the same ground, but on November 21st, 1891 the Rugby ground was opened, and Rugby was not played on the old cricket ground again.

In 1884, E. A. Lee and G. B. Taylor continued as captain and vice captain and the 1st X1 played 19, won 9, lost 9 and 1 drawn. George Rosser again headed the club's batting averages (20.13) to win the Average Bat, followed by Edward Phillips (14.12) in a season of low scoring. Interest in cricket had flagged and the club engaged H. Jupp, the old Surrey batsman, as coach for part of the season, with the cost partly defrayed by subscription. His methods soon began to show in the improvement of some of the younger members. The engagement of Jupp was in addition to Beresford. The only century in 1884 was by George Rosser who scored 123 against Brecon.

South Wales X1 Players - George Rosser and John Pritchard

For several years Newport had been represented in the South Wales X1, in annual matches against the MCC & Ground and Surrey CC & Ground, by John Pritchard as wicket keeper and George Rosser as bowler and batsman. Pritchard made quite a reputation as a wicket keeper, and Rosser as a bowler, but probably the best thing the latter did in those matches was an innings of 66 against the famous George Lohmann and other bowlers at the Oval in August. The famous Bobby Abel scored 106 for Surrey in the same match.

In 1885 E. A. Lee was re-elected 1st X1 captain, playing 17, with 9 won, 4 lost and 4 drawn. Ivins (35.9) again took the Average Bat, followed by W. Clifford Phillips (29.1), and F. T. Purdon (26.4). F. A. Smith won the 2nd X1 Average Bat. J. Flowers was the Professional bowler in place of Beresford, who did not wish re-engagement. He was assisted by H. Jupp, re-engaged for coaching.

Fred Phillips was elected 1st X1 captain in 1886, with H. Emmett the old Notts County player, engaged as Professional. The 1st X1 played 24, won 12, lost 6 and drew 6. Ivins again won the Average Bat (32.46), scoring 106 v Brecon. J. Jeremiah took the 2nd X1 Bat. W. Clifford Phillips made 108 against Newport Garrison, and Emmett 104 against Monmouth. Bob Gould headed the bowling list.

A Newport 3rd X1 is Formed

In 1886, for the first time there was a Junior or 3rd X1, under the captaincy of F. A. Smith. The team played 12 matches, winning 7, losing 2 with 3 drawn, it was an excellent result and was probably due to the outcome of Jupp's coaching.

In 1887, Fred Phillips was re-elected as 1st X1 Captain, the team played 18, won 9, lost 3 and drew 6. Ivins again topped the batting averages (31.0), closely followed by Mark Phillips 30.7. Centuries were scored by George Rosser, 127 against the Garrison, T. J. S. Clapp 110 n.o. against Monmouth Grammar School (in a 2nd X1 match) and Emmett made 121 in a match against Usk. George Rosser did a notable bowling performance against Cardiff at Cardiff, taking 8-15 against a strong X1, with Newport winning by 126 to 67. The club also beat a strong Gloucester X1, who were out for 110 runs, Newport replying with 253 for 6 wickets, with brothers Mark and Owen Phillips made 62 and 51 n.o. respectively. Scott, the Junior Professional (engaged in addition to Emmett) made 62.



Newport Cricket Club 'Teams of The Past'

Newport 1st XI 1886



Facts about Newport Cricket Club 1st XI 1886 (Captain Fred Phillips)

1st XI Playing Record : Played 24 matches, Won 12, Lost 6 and Drew 6 matches

Back (L - R) : H. Ivins, G. W. Taylor, Pritchard, A. Redwood (behind in back-ground), W. Clifford Phillips, F. J. Purdon, J. Butcher (Groundsman). Middle (L - R) : J. Gould, Logan, F. Phillips (Capt.), G. Rosser, not known. Front (L - R) : Emmett (Professional), Bob Gould, G. H. Gould (Junior)
Fred Phillips (middle with cap, blazer and tie) was elected 1st XI captain in 1886. H. Emmett the old Notts County player, was engaged as Professional, and was a useful batsman and bowler. Henry Ivins won the Average Bat (32.46), with a best score of 106 against Brecon. W. Clifford Phillips made 108 against Newport Garrison, and Emmett 104 against Monmouth. Bob Gould headed the bowling list. Fred Phillips was a member of the famous Phillips Brewing Family and he and his sons were key figures in the development of Newport Cricket Club. Fred Phillips was later elected Mayor of Newport in 1906 - 1907. In 1886, for the first time there was a Junior or 3rd XI, under the captaincy of F. A. Smith.



The 'Historic' Rodney Parade Ground



Rodney Parade - 'An England X1 Play at Newport'

Fred Phillips, who besides being an excellent captain was a very good slow bowler and a useful batsman, had with him in addition to the old brigade, his two brothers Mark and Owen Phillips. Both were very keen cricketers, and difficult men to get out once set. They often set up good partnerships. G. P. Reynolds could hit very hard, and also, in consequence of his height, his fast overhand deliveries were very difficult to play. H. W. Veall was a good wicketkeeper, and F. A. Smith a very good slow bowler and excellent in the outfield.

An England X1 play at Newport

In 1887 a match between an England X1 and a District 18 was played at Newport. The England X1 consisted of Wright (Notts), Cropper (Derby), Bean (Sussex), Quaife (Sussex), Burns (Lancashire), Humphrey (Sussex), Spillman (Middlesex), Wood-Sims (Derby), Clark (Middlesex), Disney (Derby), and Tester (Sussex). The District '18' were H. Ivins, W. Morgan, A. J. Tuckwell, Owen Phillips, Lindley, Emmett, Scott, A.W. Morris, R. D. Budworth, G. B. Taylor, Mark Phillips, T. J. S Clapp, Woof, G.P. Reynolds, Fred Phillips, J. Pritchard, H. W. Veall and J. H. Young. England, batted first scoring 300, Wright and Bean put on 145 in a 2nd wicket partnership (Wright 67, Bean 170). The District made 174 (Mark Phillips 41) and 126 (Emmett 20). In their second innings England were 87-5. From a financial point of view the match was not a success, and club enthusiasts found a sum of £30 to cover the deficit.

Nearly Undefeated in 1888

Under the continued captaincy of Fred Phillips the 1st X1, in 1888 had one of the best seasons in the annals of the club – 18 matches played, 13 won, 1 lost and 4 drawn. An unbeaten record was denied, once again by Knowle Park, losing by 10 runs (131 to 141) – always a thorn in their path. The famous Gloucestershire side had five County men. Owen Phillips obtained the Average bat (31.08), and new Professional Devey (23.4), also a very useful slow bowler. George Rosser topped the bowling with 50 wickets, (Av. 12.2), and Devey had 44 wickets (Av. 17.6). The 2nd X1 also had a good season under Veall (also a very popular captain) losing only 2 matches.

Some interesting finishes against Swansea in 1888

In 1888 there were some interesting finishes. Swansea made 196, and looked like making a much larger total, but Theo Harding went on to bowl at the fall of the fourth wicket, and in four overs took 5 wickets for 7 runs! In this match Mark Phillips made 114n.o, and it was not until the ninth wicket that Newport won, when Theo Harding joined Mark Phillips in a useful 31 run partnership. The return with Swansea ended in a tie, with a score of 89 each. W. H. Gwynne (Swansea) top scored with 24 and took 9 wickets. Owen Phillips obtained a century against Cardiff and G. F. Harding in the same match caused a collapse of Cardiff taking 4 wickets for 4 runs.

In 1889 Fred Phillips was again captain, and Tom C. Graham (Captain of the 'Invincible' Newport Rugby team in 1891-92) led the 2nd X1. The 1sts played 21, won 11, lost 5 and drew 5. Frank Rees had an average of 34.5, and Devey 26.5. Rees however, did not win the Average Bat as he had not qualified, and W. P. Levick took it (average 17.2). Devey as a Professional also couldn't qualify. Devey scored 129 against Handsworth, a touring side, and it is also worthy of mention that F. A. Smith, playing for the 2nd X1 made 118 runs and took 7 wickets for 18 in a match against Newport United Club.

Monmouthshire County Cricket is Resuscitated

During 1889, Monmouthshire County Cricket was resuscitated, after a lapse of many years, mainly through the efforts of Fred Phillips, who was appointed Secretary of the Club.

Achievements/Milestones of Newport Cricket Club (1880– 1889)

- 1881 - W. G Grace (109) scores a Century for Clifton against Newport
 - All England X1, captained by W. G. Grace, play a South Wales XX11 at Newport
 - John 'Slingshot' Williams skittles Cardiff (8-8-0-6 wkts)
- 1882 - The 'Average Bat' was first presented - won by Henry Ivins
- 1883 - Lord Tredegar donated land for a new Rugby ground (ready for 1991 season)
- 1884 - George Rosser and John Pritchard selected for South Wales XI.
- 1887 - England X1 played a District XV111 at Newport

Newport Cricket Club Captains (1880 - 1889)

1880 Joseph Gould	1881 Dr. R. E. Brewer
1882 E. A. Lee	1883 E. A. Lee
1884 E. A. Lee	1885 E. A. Lee
1886 Fred Phillips	1887 Fred Phillips
1888 Fred Phillips	1889 Fred Phillips



Phillips & Sons Ltd, Dock Road Brewery, Newport

Phillips & Sons Ltd, Dock Road Brewery, Newport. Founded in 1874 when Thomas Phillips, previously of the Northampton Brewery, bought the brewery of Thomas Floyde Lewis with 13 tied houses. Registered in March 1892. Sold to H & G Simonds Ltd in 1949 with 125 public houses, and brewing ceased in 1968.



The Phillips Family Connection to Newport Rugby Club

One day in 1874 a train arrived at the station on board which were Mr. Thomas Phillips and his family who were moving to Newport. One of his sons was carrying a rugby football - the first ever seen in the town. Although the Welsh Football Union, the forerunners of the W.R.U., had just been formed, Newportonians had no idea what the game of rugby was about, and were not particularly interested in this oval leather football. It was fortunate that some enterprising men, having heard that Swansea and Llanelly had already formed clubs, decided to hold a meeting in the Dock Street Brewery to discuss the matter of a town football team. It was decided to apply to the Football Association for fixtures but these proved impossible to obtain. However, towards the end of the season a fixture was obtained with the Glamorgan Rugby Football Club and on April 5th 1875 the game was played at Cardiff. The match was drawn, for though the Glamorgan team scored a try and a touch down to nothing, at that time a goal had to be scored or a match was drawn. From that date was the beginning of Newport Rugby Football Club and the fame of the name of Newport for evermore in the annals of Rugby Football.

The Phillips Family Connection to Newport Cricket Club

The Phillips Family Feature Prominently

It is worth recording that even in the first year of the club's history in 1874, W. Clifford Phillips and Fred Phillips, together with his brother Edward Phillips, were included in the club's side on a few occasions, and one might add that they have been interested ever since.



Fred Phillips Captain's the 1st XI for a 7th Consecutive season (1886-1892)

Fred Phillips held the captaincy for seven consecutive seasons between 1886 - 1892 and had raised the standard of cricket both in the Town and County, and proved one of the clubs most popular captains.

Newport Cricket Club 1886 - Capt Fred Phillips
(Front Row : wearing a Blazer, Cap and Tie)

The New Cricket Pavilion at Rodney Parade 1901

Although in 1899 the new ground was nearing completion, it was not much used in consequence of the lack of accommodation. In 1900, the new ground was practically completed, practice wickets were in full swing, and 2nd XI matches were played, but the lack of dressing accommodation was keenly felt. The Club were not in a position, in consequence of heavy expenditure on different parts of the ground, to provide a pavilion, and hints were thrown out that perhaps some generous benefactors would come forward to the Club's assistance in the matter. That the Club's SOS was responded to almost immediately is shown by the following extract which appeared in the Report for this year :-



THE proposed Cricket Pavilion will be a two-story building. The ground floor will contain boys' and gentlemen's (rooms, 100) and lavatory accommodation, kitchen, stores, etc.

On the first floor, provision is made for club dressing rooms 24 ft. x 18 ft., women's dressing room, 12 ft. by 12 ft., the former being fitted with lockers, and a changing room 24 ft. by 12 ft. Also a small bar is provided with seven 1½ litre bottles available. Access to women's locker, lavatories, etc., is gained by means of a staircase placed at each end of the building.

Fronting the garden, a terrace stand will be erected, constructed in brick, for the use of the members. A verandah is arranged on the top side of stand, extending the length of the dining room. The walls will be constructed of brickwork, and lined with local red pressed bricks and the roof covered with red iron. The design of the building is of a simple character—built for reasons of economy and its suitability for the purpose intended.

Messrs. Swain's and Bass, F.R.I.C.A., of Newport, are the architects.

List of Subscriptions already promised.

Messrs. Edward & Fred Phillips	600 0 0	Mr. Edward Davies	5 0 0
Lord Tredegar	200 0 0	— Foster Studman	5 0 0
Mr. T. G. Cartwright	50 0 0	— C. E. Parsons	5 0 0
— B. S. Lyle	20 0 0	— H. H. Parnall	5 0 0
— G. F. Harding	25 0 0	— A. W. Boucher	5 0 0
— W. J. Ordern	25 0 0	— A. J. Gould	5 0 0
— T. C. Graham	25 0 0	— H. Parker	5 0 0
— G. L. Lloyd	10 10 0	— E. Bollerby	5 0 0
— Theo. Harding	10 10 0	Dr. H. E. W. Brewer	5 0 0
— J. A. Muller	10 0 0	Mayor of Newport (W. H. Jones, Esq.)	5 0 0
		Mr. H. S. Phillips	1 1 0

The Newport Athletic Club.
NEW PAVILION FUND.

By Mr. HARRY PACKER.
I will subscribe the sum of £ towards the above Pavilion Fund.

Extract taken from the Cricket Club Annual Report in 1900

'It will be remembered that in last year's Report hopes were expressed that some generous members would come forward to the assistance of the Club in the funds necessary for building a pavilion on the New Cricket Ground. This hope was speedily fulfilled by the announcement at the Annual Meeting of a munificent offer of £500 for this purpose by Messrs. Edward and Fred Phillips, which was given by them in memory of their late father, Mr Thomas Phillips, known to all members as a keen sportsman and a staunch supporter of the Club. Your Committee gratefully accepted this offer, and, being further helped by the generous promise of £200 by Lord Tredegar, it was felt that the Club could at once proceed to obtain tenders for a pavilion worthy of its best traditions.'

Although the sum received in donations up to this time totalled £1,104 10s. 6d — 'a magnificent response to the Club's appeal', more money was still required to complete the Pavilion.

Lord Tredegar, who had already promised £200, increased the amount to £300, and Messrs Edward and Fred Phillips gave a further £208, thereby raising the amount of their joint donation to £708, a truly magnificent gift.

The total of donations up to this time in connection with the pavilion amounted to £1,534 17s. 6d

Many of the Phillips family played Cricket for Newport. Both Fred Phillips and Edward Phillips had sons who were outstanding Cricketers for the Club :-

Fred Phillips' son, Frederick Gordon Phillips Captained the Club before and after World War 1

Edward Stone Phillips was one of Edward Phillips' sons and was an outstanding Cricketer, who topped the Clubs Batting Averages on several occasions in the period from 1900 - 1914 — unfortunately he was killed early in World War 1. Another of his sons Leslie was also killed in the War.

Phillips & Son, Dock Road

The brewery started out life as Dock Road Brewery around 1851 and was owned by Thomas Floyde Lewis. However, in 1874 Lewis retired and on 25th March 1874 the brewery and 13 tied houses was sold to Thomas Phillips, previously of the Northampton Brewery.

The new business was much smaller than that at Northampton, with 13 pubs, of which 4 were owned and 9 leased. The output was only around 100 bpw. By 1875, Thomas Phillips had also established the Phillips Wine & Spirit Vaults at the Star Hotel at 65 (later 103) Dock Street. In February 1876, the 2 eldest sons of his 10 children entered the firm in partnership with their father. The sons were William and Edward (b1854). Their ages suggest that the purchase may have been linked to their coming of age.



From 50th Anniversary Commemorative Pamphlet

The Phillips Family

The 1881 census for Palmyra House Palmyra Place, Newport identifies the following:

Thomas Phillips	56	born Highworth :-		
E	54	born Bicester,	wife	
C	29	" "	son	brewer
E	27	" "	son (presumably Edward)	brewer
WC	25	born Stony Stratford,	son (presumably Walter Clifford)	solicitor
F	24	" "	son (presumably Frederick)	brewer
Amy	22	born Northampton,	daughter	
Sidney	20	" "	son	clerk
Owen	18	" "	son	clerk
Ethel	11	" "	daughter	
Mabel	9	" "	daughter	

Thomas' eldest son William (b1852) was a pupil at a Wrexham brewery at the time of the families move to Newport in 1874 and didn't initially become involved in the new concern. He "retired" from the Newport business in 1882 and went to live abroad and in 1895 was living in Texas. William died on 1st June 1910, when his widow was Ida Gertrude and his executor HC Phillips.

In June 1883 Frederick another son, set up a separate concern in Station Street with his father Thomas. This was to supply the private trade. Meanwhile his brother Edward looked after the original brewery. However, the two were amalgamated in 1884 and in 1892 "Fred" was the head of the private company. Station Street was used as offices and bottle store. Another brother Walter Clifford also joined the Newport concern.

In 1887 a new 25 quarter brewery was erected at Newport. On 6th December 1890, there was a fire at the old brewery, which was being used as stores in Station Street. It caused £10,000 damage.

Phillips & Sons Dock Road Brewery (1921)



Aerial Photo taken of the Dock Street Brewery located next to the Cattle Market (Photo 1921)

In 1892 Sidney, another son was at Dock Road and on March 18th 1892, a limited company was formed, trading as Phillips & Sons Ltd, capitalised at £100,000, with directors: T Phillips, E Phillips, F Phillips and FF Phillips.

The latter would be Thomas's brother Frederick Foster, presumably "F" was Thomas's son Fred. Thomas then retired from the firm, living at Kemerton Court, Tewkesbury, and Edward became the chairman. On 30 Dec 1899, Thomas Phillips aged 75, died whilst out with the Cotswold Hunt. Meanwhile, Sidney had moved to a brewery in Totnes.

In 1898 new maltings were built at Penner Wharf and the fire damaged ruins still remain in 2019.

Former Maltings House, Penner Wharf, East Dock Road, Newport – (Photo December 2013)



The building was the former premises of Phillip and Sons, Malsters, who operated a brewery in nearby Lower Dock Street. The Malting House was constructed on the former Penner and Tilley wharves c1898.

By December 2018, the building had become derelict after a fire, but is listed as a Grade 11 listed building of historical importance to Newport.

In 1902 a new stable block was built in Mellon Street.

Former stables, Mellon Street, Newport – (Photo July 2010)



When Phillips purchased the brewery they only had two horses to distribute the barrels, but by 1900 this number had increased to 36. This is when the stables at the George Street end of Mellon Street were constructed. Today (2019), the stables form part of the warehouse used by George Street Furnishers and the internal ramp that used to enable the horses to reach the first floor is still there.

Mayors of Newport

In 1903/4 Lt Col Walter Clifford was mayor of Newport and in 1906/7 brother Fred was elected as mayor.

Mr. Fred. Phillips, Mayor of Newport 1906-1907



Mr. Fred. Phillips, upon whom the choice of Mayor for 1906-7 fell unanimously, is the fourth son of the late Mr. Thomas Phillips and Mrs. Elizabeth Phillips, was born at Stoney-Stratford in 1857. In his infancy Mr. Phillips was taken to Northampton, where his father had acquired an interest in the firm of Phillips Brothers, brewers, a firm still in existence as the Northampton Brewery Company. When a dissolution of partnership took place some fifteen years later the late Mr. Phillips purchased the Dock-road Brewery, Newport, from the late Alderman Thos. Floyde Lewis, who was Mayor of the town in 1865.

It was about 1874 that Mr. Fred. Phillips returned from Clewer House School, Windsor, where he had completed his education. In 1875 he became a pupil at the engineering works of the old Monmouthshire Railway and Canal Company (which was absorbed soon after by the Great Western Railway Company) at Newport, under the management of the late Mr. Appleby, and completed his articles at Swindon.

When the Dock-road Brewery was rebuilt the now Mayor made himself responsible for the engineering work, and again some few years ago when there were extensive alterations he successfully carried through the work placed in his hands. With his brother, Mr. Edward Phillips, he has for years shared the management of the whole concern.

First returned to the Council in 1892 he has served on every Committee of the Corporation, and is at present Deputy-Chairman of the Electricity and Tramways Committee. Like the whole of his family the Mayor is a sportsman of the first water. As an athlete he was a champion at flat and hurdle racing, a football player for the Newport Club in its earliest days, a cyclist, and a cricketer. In the latter capacity he captained the Newport team for years, while he was mainly responsible for the formation of the Monmouthshire County Cricket Club, an organisation he was both secretary and captain of. The Mayor is a Churchman and Conservative.

His brother, Mr. W. Clifford Phillips, was Mayor of the town in 1903-4.

Another of Thomas's sons Owen did not become involved with brewing, living with his father and in 1892 described as a farm pupil. He died 2nd May 1907, his widow being Ellen Laura.

In May 1909 Frederick's son Frederick Gordon married. Then Frederick's daughter Frances married Mr Stratton on 6th Sep 1911. This was Maurice Stratton brewer, director of Newport in 1927, and later the MD. More importantly, Stratton's father was chairman of the Ashton Gate Brewery in Bristol, which may help to explain the later take-over. Another daughter Christine Mary married Major Joseph Edward Crawshay Partridge. The latter's third name may also reflect another brewing family.

In 1910 Benjamin Powell who had been at the brewery for 52 years was made a director, he died in 1916 aged 87.

On 1st October 1911 there was a small fire at the brewery, which was put out by the staff. On 27th June 1912, there was another fire, caused by overheating in a grain dryer. In 1912, they bought the Pontnewynydd Brewery, Osborne Road, Pontypool.

On 13th September 1912 Frederick Foster Phillips died at the age of 83 in Reading. He was described as having managed the Dock Road business.

In October 1915 Wallace R Willmott, who had joined as 2nd brewer from the Welch Ale Brewery, was appointed head brewer on the retirement of F Gulliver.

On 9th January 1924, Capt Forrest Blake Phillips MC died aged 33 (Blake as a first name might link with the Oxford wine merchants). He was the son of Edward the chairman, who himself died of acute pneumonia on 26th November 1924, at the age of 72. Edward had lost two other sons in World War 1 : Lt Edward Stone Phillips and Capt Leslie Phillips.

However, Edward's brothers Clifford and Frederick were ageing and hence in 1925, there were rumours of a merger with local rivals Lloyd & Yorath. Perhaps to bring in fresh blood, in 1927 Maurice Stratton and Henry James Powell were made directors, the latter eventually provided 60 years of service to the business.

In 1929, Fred Phillips was appointed High Sheriff of Monmouthshire.

In 1930s Phillips bought the Clytha Brewery, Dean Street Newport. On 23rd July 1936 Walter Clifford Phillips, solicitor died and on 23rd April 1936 Mark Thomas Phillips, described as a founder of the Newport Brewery, died in St Josephs Hospital in Victoria British Columbia aged 69.

Ald Fred Phillips Dies

On 22 February 1937 Ald Fred Phillips the chairman died aged 79 and in May his son Lt Col Frederick Gordon Phillips became the new chairman, whilst Andrew Norman Phillips was the joint MD with Maurice Stratton. Fred's son Reginald Maurice Phillips does not seem to have taken an active interest in the brewery. .

On 27 Feb 1947 Col Blethyn Treharne Rees became a director. He had married Edward's daughter Ethel Mary. (NB probably a coincidence, but in 1926 Rees Phillips was at the Camden Arms Brewery, Watton, Brecon).

Frederick Gordon Phillips Dies

On 19th January 1948 the chairman Frederick Gordon Phillips died and Andrew Norman the joint MD became the chairman (NB cousin Frank Henry died around 1947 was he a shareholder?).

In April 1949 the business was sold to Simonds and Lt Gen Sir Charles Allfrey became the joint MD (from Jacob Street Bwy Nov 1948). Directors: HJ Powell, Lt Col Herbert Phillips MC, RB St J Quarry, ED Simonds. On 24th Oct 1950 Lt Col Herbert Phillips died.

Maurice Stratton retired as general manager and was replaced by SC Saunders, the S Wales manager of Simonds. In April 1951 Frederick Gulliver the former head brewer died aged 90. In November 1954 the company was wound up, but brewed until 1968 and was then used as a depot for some years.

Phillip's & Sons Cricket Club (1924)
(Photo taken at Rodney Parade)

Phillips & Sons Ltd, even had there own Cricket team that played at Newport Cricket Club's Rodney Parade Ground.



Is the elderly gentleman on the back row (extreme right) Fred Phillips (66 in 1924)?

Could the other very old gentleman in the front row (L – R : 4th from left), be Fred Phillips' brother Edward Phillips. He died of acute pneumonia on 26th November 1924 aged 72.