

Chapter 4

Lord Tredegar Donates land for a New Cricket Ground 1890 - 1899



**In 1892 Lord Tredegar donated 4/5 acres
of land for a new Cricket Ground**



**Arthur Silverlock is appointed
Club Professional**



The 'Historic' Rodney Parade Ground



'Lord Tredegar Donates Land for a New Cricket Ground'

In 1890, Fred Phillips was again appointed as 1st X1 captain, playing 22, won 16, lost 5, with 1 drawn. Mee of Notts was Professional and was probably the fastest bowler who ever played for the club. He was a bit erratic on occasions, but had good performances : 123 and 6-25 v Gloucester and 7-10 v Bedminster. In a match v Llanelly, Newport were 57 all out (D. L. Joseph 7-26). Llanelly were 20- 9, but the last wicket took the score to 47, when Fred Phillips caught and bowled the last man. Mee took 5-11 and Fred Phillips 5 -34.

Wales & Newport Rugby Greats, playing Cricket for Newport

Fred Phillips was captain again in 1891, the team played 18, won 12, lost 4, with 2 drawn. Frank Rees won the 1st X1 Average Bat and Tom Graham the 2nd X1. Tom Graham, played Rugby for Wales and Captained the Invincible Newport Rugby team in 1891-92. His Rugby prowess is well known, but his cricket, like his rugby was of a strenuous type. He was very keen, hit every ball he could, and bowled as fast as he could – a real trier and a sportsman of the first order. Wales Rugby legend Arthur Gould, took cricket like all his sport, seriously. He wasn't a born cricketer, but got to be quite a good defensive bat. His speed running between wickets and brilliant fielding at cover point, made him worth his place in the side. Arthur Boucher, another Wales Rugby player was a good fast bowler.

Newport Beat E. M. Grace's Thornbury

In 1891, Newport recorded a fine win against Dr. E. M. Grace's Thornbury team. He brought a very strong X1 (as he usually did), but Mee played havoc with the batsmen taking 9-21, for a Newport win, much to the disgust of the Doctor.

A New Rugby Ground

Until 1891, Rugby and Cricket were played on the same ground, but on November 21st, the current Football ground was opened, and Rugby wasn't played on the old cricket ground. The cycle track around the cricket ground opened on Easter Monday of the same year.

Death of Joseph Gould

During 1891, Mr. Joseph Gould died, he was the first Newport Cricket Club Captain in 1875, and one of the founders of the club

Fred Phillips Captain's the 1st X1 for a 7th Consecutive season (1886-1892)

In 1892, Fred Phillips captained the 1st X1 for a seventh consecutive season, winning 8 matches, losing 3 and drawing 4. Fred Phillips had held the captaincy for seven years and had raised the standard of cricket both in the Town and County, and proved one of the clubs most popular captains. Frank Rees (1sts) and R. F. Morris (2nds) won the Average Bats.

Arthur John Silverlock Appointed as Club Professional

One of the most significant events in the history of the Club took place in 1892 – the engagement of Arthur John Silverlock as club Professional. He came when quite a youngster in the place of Mee, upon the recommendation (we believe) of the old Professional Devey. Silverlock immediately proved his worth, scoring 126 v Gloucester. Gloucester were out for 50, with captain, Fred Phillips claiming 6 for 29. Silverlock at this time bowled medium to fast, but he soon developed into a first class slow bowler. The club also had another young Professional, Webb, who was a good medium to fast bowler. Others in the 1892 Newport team included L. H. Hornby, Frank Rees, J. H. Stratton, Mark Phillips, F. A. Smith, H. W. Veall, W. P. Levick, P. C. Phillips and George Morgan.

Lord Tredegar Donates Land for a New Cricket Ground

In 1892, due to the growing popularity of tennis and the increased interest in cricket, it was decided to approach Lord Tredegar with reference to acquiring a portion of the old ballast bank beyond the football ground, which had lately been acquired, and his Lordship with his usual generosity promised to grant the club between 4 and 5 acres of land for a new cricket ground at a nominal rent. The work of levelling the ground commenced almost immediately, but some few years would elapse before it was in condition for cricket.

L. H. Hornby replaced Fred Phillips' as captain in 1893, in a wet season they played 17, won 8, lost 5 with 4 drawn. Frank Rees again won the Average Bat and Silverlock and Webb were Professionals. The work of levelling and turfing the new ground progressed, and £917 had been spent on with the work by the end of the year. H. W. Veall was acting as Assistant Secretary of cricket at this time.

L. H. Hornby was re-elected captain in 1894, in a very wet season, the 1st X1 played 13, won 5, lost 2 and drew 6. P. C. Phillips won the 1st X1 Average Bat and R. F. Morris the 2nd X1 Average Bat. Silverlock and Barclay (a fast medium bowler in place of Webb) were the club Professionals – Silverlock was fast becoming one of the finest batsmen in S. Wales.

L. H. Hornby was re-elected in 1895, the 1st X1 played 18, won 9, lost 4, drew 5. Arthur James the 2nd X1 captain was a most active committee member and he also won the 2nd team Average Bat. Under his captaincy the 2nd X1 enjoyed an unbeaten season, playing 13 matches and winning all 13. T. B. S. Wilson won the 1st X1 Average Bat.





The 'Historic' Rodney Parade Ground



Lord Tredegar Donates Land For A New Cricket Ground

Lord Tredegar Donates Land for the 'New' Rodney Parade Cricket Ground



The following extract was taken from The Evening Express Friday 13th May 1892 :-

'The annual banquet of the Newport Cricket, Athletic, Football, and Tennis Club was held at the Albert Hall on Thursday evening (12th May, 1892). Lord Tredegar, as President of the club, presided, and was supported by the mayor (Alderman H. J. Davis), Archdeacon Bruce, the Rev. O. D. Campbell, Captain Homfray, Captain Smeaton, Captain Reginald Herbert, Dr. Brewer, Mr. R. Laybourne, Alderman D. A. Vaughan, Colonel Justice, Alderman J. W. Jones, Mr. R. J. C. Simpkins, Alderman G. Hoskins, Mr. Willey, and others.

There was a very large attendance, something like 250 members and friends of the club sitting down to the dinner, of which Mr. D. E. Humphreys (Talbot Hotel) was the caterer. The occasion was rendered specifically interesting from the fact that the town presentation of gold watches to the football team was made from the chair.

The function was a pronounced success from start to finish. Mr. Isaacson's band occupied the orchestra. After dessert, Lord Tredegar proposed the loyal toasts. The Mayor gave The Bishop and Clergy and Ministers of All Denominations. "The Rev. J. Jones (Vicar of Bassalleg), the Rev. J. R. Phillips (Pontnewydd), and the Rev. O. D. Campbell (Baptist) replied. Alderman J. W. Jones proposed The Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces," to which Captain Smeaton and Colonel Justice responded. Mr. SIMPSON (Cardiff) gave Success to the Newport Cricket, Athletic, Football, and Tennis Club," and paid a high tribute to the football team, which had gone through the season with an unbroken record, and spoke in great praise of the officials. Lord Tredegar, who was loudly cheered on rising to respond expressed his thanks for coupling his name with the toast on behalf of the club. He was proud to be president of such a club, and was more proud now that it contained fifteen of the finest football players in the world. (Hear. hear.) He was one of the oldest members of the club. Captain Homfray and himself were, in fact, the two oldest members of the club.

The town presentation to the members of the invincible football team afterwards took place. It consisted of a handsome gold keyless watch to each of the fifteen and the four reserves. On the outer case was inscribed the borough arms, surmounted by the word Invicta," and inside was a record of the season's success. In the case of Mr. T. C. Graham, a massive gold albert was added, and a gold and diamond ring was presented to Mr. Theo. Harding, as touch judge.

Lord Tredegar, before making the presentation, said he had a very pleasant duty to perform, and he did so, not because it was late in the evening and he had put another bottle of wine inside him. He could assure them that his worthy friend the mayor, on his right, had been very carefully watching and measuring every drop of wine he had taken, but his friend and relative on his left (Captain Homfray) had been doing exactly the reverse. He had been filling up his glass whenever he (Lord Tredegar) had not been looking, and taken away the water from him. (Laughter.) He, no doubt, thought he would speak on the subject of the athletic ground. He thought the club would like to extend their ground a little further. (Hear, hear.) There was a small piece of land - something like four or five acres, that he (the speaker) should be very pleased to put at their disposal at a nominal rent. (Loud cheers.) He hoped that they would now be able to make it a very fine cricket ground. (Hear, hear) He was told that football was a much more popular game than cricket. But football was quite a modern institution, whilst cricket was an old one. He thought cricket would outlive football. (" No, no," and "Yes") Individually, he certainly considered that a long game of cricket was very dull, but football was all quick and rapid excitement. But he did not wonder at people looking at cricket. He saw that people played cricket long after they had got very long stomachs. He had, therefore, he hoped, provided a recreation for gentlemen with large stomachs and bald heads. (Laughter.) His lordship then paid a very warm tribute of praise to the football team. Mr Fred Phillips, on behalf of the cricket section of the Newport Club, thanked Lord Tredegar on behalf of the club for the generous intimation which he had made that evening. Other toasts, speeches, and songs followed, after which Mr. Millis, the ventriloquist from the Empire, gave a very amusing sketch'.





The 'Historic' Rodney Parade Ground



The 'New' Rodney Parade Ground

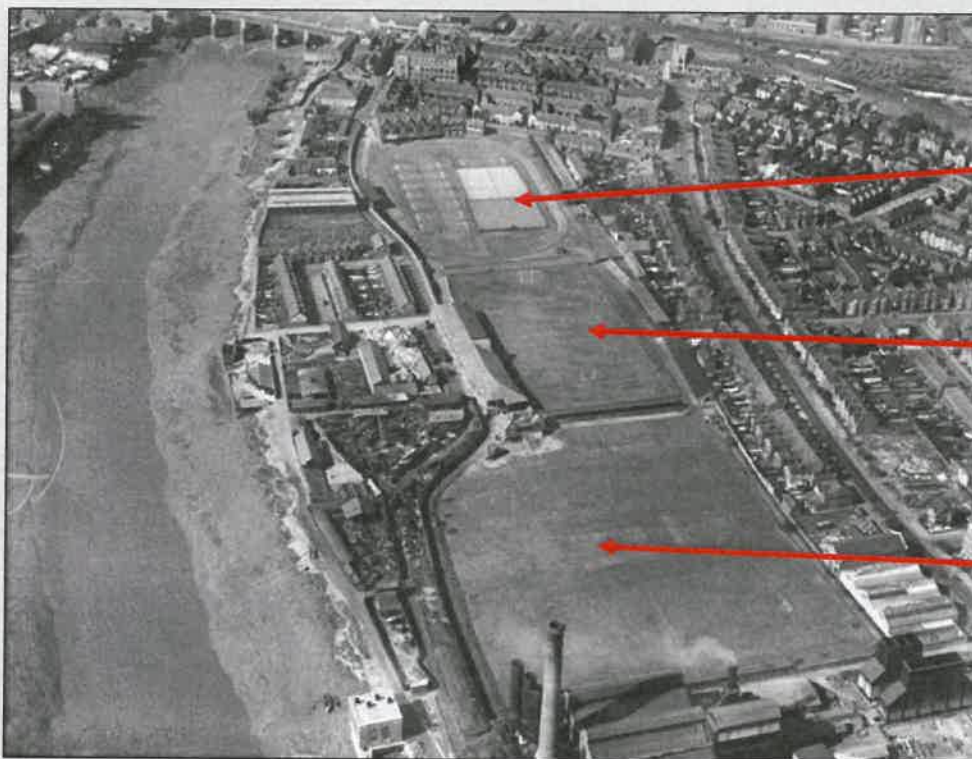
The 'New' Rodney Parade Ground (1893 – 1990)

In an extract taken from Newport Athletic Club '1875 – 1925' entitled 'Cricket In The NAC' written by H. Berrow, it was reported in 1892 ;

'In consequence of the growing popularity of tennis and the increased interest in Cricket, it was decided to approach Lord Tredegar with reference to acquiring a portion of the old ballast bank beyond the football ground, which had lately been acquired, and his lordship with his usual generosity promised to grant the Club between 4 and 5 acres of land for a new cricket ground at a nominal rent. The work of levelling the ground commenced almost immediately, although it was felt that some few years must elapse before it would be in condition for cricket.'

In 1893, the work of levelling and turfing the new ground progressed, and £917 had been spent in connection with the work by the end of the year. In 1896, although the new ground was not anywhere near completion, several matches were played upon a portion of it by the Third XI. There had been considerable trouble in getting hold of the right sort of turf, and here again the Club turned to the late Viscount Tredegar in their dilemma, and received considerable help from his lordship in the matter. 1897 saw further delay in completing the new Cricket ground owing to an exchange of land having been arranged with Viscount Tredegar, but a satisfactory arrangement was made with his lordship, much to the benefit of the Club, as under it an extension of the new ground was included. Plans for a pavilion on the ground were also put forward, but it was deferred for a time in consequence of the heavy expense entailed in the laying out of the new ground.

Aerial View of the Newport Athletic Club Site at Rodney Parade (1930's)



The 'original' Cricket Ground (1877 - 1893)

Newport Rugby Ground (1891 - to the present day).
Prior to 1891, Cricket, Rugby & Athletics meetings were held on the site of the 'original' 'Cricket Ground)

The 'new' Cricket Ground (1893 - 1990)





The 'Historic' Rodney Parade Ground



Plans For A New Cricket Pavilion

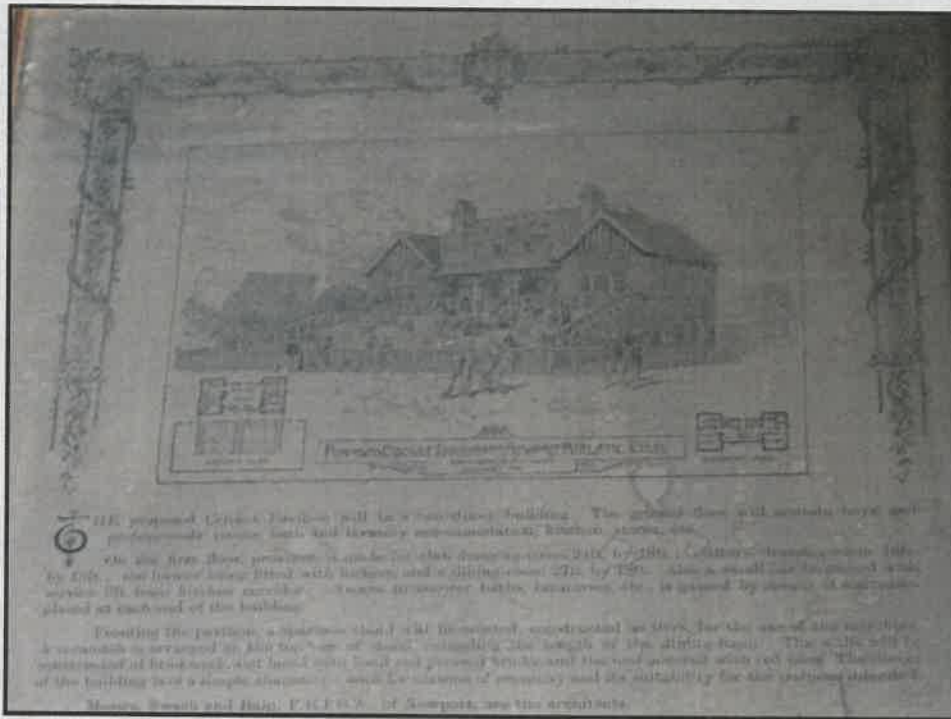
Plans for a 'new' Rodney Parade Cricket Pavilion

The following extract was taken from The Evening Express 20th August 1895 :-

NEW CRICKET PAVILION TO BE BUILT FOR THE NEWPORT ATHLETIC CLUB.

The Newport Athletic Club, with a view to provide properly for cricket, recently invited designs for a pavilion, and out of half a dozen submitted they, after careful consideration, selected that sent in by Messrs. Swash and Bain, architects, Newport. Tenders for the construction of the pavilion (which, it is estimated, will cost from £1,000 to £1,200) are to be invited in the course of a few days, and the work will be commenced as soon as the contract has been allotted.

The accepted design provides for a building in red brick, half timbered, with gables in two stories, and a terrace sloping from the entrance to the ground, affording sitting accommodation for 400 members. The ground floor, or, more correctly speaking, the floor corresponding with that designation, will contain the committee room, professionals' room, kitchen, store room, and bowlers' room (the latter for future bowling green purposes), as well as, suitable lavatory accommodation. On the first floor there will be a dining room, 36ft. 6in. by 19ft., centrally placed, on either side of which will be the dressing-rooms, one being allotted to members and the other to visitors. At the rear of both will be lavatories and shower baths. There will also be a veranda and balcony for the use of players. The pavilion will be erected in a diagonal position in the north-west corner of the ground. It has long been the desire of the committee to have a building of this character, as the present accommodation is altogether unsuitable, and we congratulate them and the club upon what they have decided in the matter. "When this pavilion and the new cricket pitch will have been completed, Newport will undoubtedly possess one of the most complete and attractive athletic grounds to be found in any part - of the kingdom'.



The following extract was taken from The Evening Express Sat 28th May 1898 :-

NEWPORT ATHLETIC CLUB.

The annual meeting of the Newport Athletic Club was held at the Westgate Hotel, Newport, on Thursday evening (26th May). Mr. H. S. Lyne presiding.

The report referred to an excellent arrangement having been made with Lord Tredegar as to the new cricket ground, which included an extension of the ground. The alterations were well in hand, and it was hoped that a new cricket pavilion would soon be erected. The finances of the Athletic club were reported to be in an excellent condition.





The 'Historic' Rodney Parade Ground



Newport Cricket Club - 1895 Season Report

Extract taken from *The Evening Express Newspaper* on Monday 9th September 1895

NEWPORT CRICKET CLUB- With their match against the Cardiff Water Rats on Saturday Newport concluded their fixture list for this season, and appendix will be found the batting and bowling averages. Altogether the record is a satisfactory one. Nineteen matches have been played, and of this number nine have been won, four lost, and six drawn. Up to a certain point the club did exceptionally well, winning six out of the first seven matches. This result was due to the magnificent batting of Silverlock, who throughout the season has played consistent good cricket. At one period, it will be remembered, the popular pro. had an average of 565, and a slight idea of the interest which his performances have aroused throughout the world may be gathered from the fact that he has had an excellent offer to go out to South Africa during the winter. Final arrangements have not yet been made, but it is highly probable that he will sail on Saturday next for Cape Town. He will return to Newport in April.

Barclay has been successful with the ball and although he takes seventh place in the analysis, it must be borne in mind that he bowls chiefly for catches, and that the fielding of the Newport team has at times been far from satisfactory. Mr. J. C. P. Thompson, the ex-Cheshire county man and Mr. T. S. B. Wilson, the Oxonian, have proved most valuable additions to the team, whilst every credit is due to Mr. L. H. Hornby and Mr. Fred Phillips for the judgment they have displayed in the matches which have been under their captaincy.

BATTING AVERAGES

	Inns	Runs	H. S	N. O.	Av.
Silverlock	16	869	158*	4	72*5
J C P Thompson	7	349	96	0	49.6
T S B Wilson	8	277	81	0	34.5
A W Boucher	3	53	42	1	16.1
T C Graham	5	64	32	2	21.1
P C Phillips	9	158	34	0	17.5
W T Jenkins	6	106	37	0	17.4
L H Hornby	12	164	48	0	13.8
Barclay	13	124	26*	4	13.7
F Rees	16	193	41	1	13.5
R F Morris	5	38	22	0	12.2
F Phillips	5	40	13*	1	10
B O Bircham	3	30	18	0	10
G L I Lloyd	6	48	21	1	9.3
J H Stratton	10	75	20	0	7.5
E R Brewer	8	42	12	2	7.0
J Porter	4	10	8*	2	5.0
F A Smith	5	14	10	1	4.2
G A Morgan	5	13	7	0	2.3

BOWLING AVERAGES

	Overs	Mdn s	Runs	Wkts	Av
T. S. B. Wilson	169.4	62	336	32	10.16
J. Withers	25.3	9	48	4	12.00
J. C. P. Thompson	77.1	22	189	14	13.7
A. W. Boucher	23.4	6	87	6	14.3
Silverlock	217.1	40	550	36	15.10
Barclay	259.1	63	715	45	15.40
T. Harding	20	0	106	5	21.1
J. Porter	38	6	111	5	22.1

The following also bowled :- L. F. Stedman, 3-1-3-0;
G. A. Morgan, 36-5-128-1; J. W. Jones, 6-1-13-0;
F. A. Smith, 8-0-38-1; B. O. Bircham, 11-1-41-1;
P. C. Phillips, 3-0-14-0.

Also batted :- L Foster-Stedman played once and scored 50;

G F Harding has an average of 41 for two innings;

A. W Morris 16 for two innings;

W H "Williams, scored 11 on one occasion;





The 'Historic' Rodney Parade Ground



The New Cricket Ground Nears Completion

Dick Steeples Joins Silverlock as Formidable Club Professionals

L. H. Hornby was re-appointed 1st XI captain in 1896, playing 14, won 4, lost 5 and drew 5. Frank Rees again won the 1st XI Average Bat. Silverlock was still the club's Professional, but Barclay was replaced by Dick Steeples – another who made history for the club. Steeples came as a stripling from the Alfreton Collieries, Derbyshire, where he worked underground – 'he sent down a fast ball, with a wonderfully easy action'. Although the new ground was not anywhere near completion, several matches were played on it by the 3rds

In 1897, L. H. Hornby was elected for a fifth consecutive term as captain, proving his popularity with the players. The 1st XI played 15 matches, winning 7, losing 5 and drawing 3. The 3rd XI had a good season, winning the Monmouthshire County Challenge Cup. G. Llewellyn Lloyd (another Wales Rugby player) won the 1st XI Average Bat (36.3). Silverlock averaged 41.5 and also bagged 62 wickets (10.35 apiece) and Steeples took 50 wickets (10.06), but of course, Professionals couldn't win the Average Bat. At this time other players included, E. R. Brewer, who was perhaps the best amateur wicket keeper Newport has seen. Captain Thompson, a good medium pace bowler and a very useful bat; T. S. B. Wilson a good fast bowler; Norton Deane a useful first wicket batsman; and Wyndham T. Jenkins a pretty bat to watch and an excellent fielder at cover point.

Pavilion Plans Deferred

There was further delay in completing the new cricket ground owing to an exchange of land having been arranged with Viscount Tredegar, but a satisfactory arrangement was made with his Lordship, with the club benefiting as an extension of new ground was included. Plans for a pavilion on the ground were proposed, but were deferred due to the heavy expense in laying out the new ground.

It was decided in 1898 to have an extended fixture list and to run only two elevens instead of three, with Fred Phillips appointed as captain. The 1st XI played 25 matches, won 17, lost 3 and drew 5. Frank Rees once again won the 1st XI Average Bat (30.4), with G. Ll. Lloyd close behind with 29.42. J. R. Porter perhaps the best amateur slow bowler the club ever had, topped the bowling with 36 wickets (Av. 5.67). He was a left hander with a natural swing and break back. Centuries were scored by Frank Rees (105 v Cardiff), George Llewellyn Lloyd (103 v Cowbridge) and Aubrey Butler (104 v The Barracks). Silverlock also scored 100 n.o v Cowbridge and had an average of 32.1 and also took 98 wicket (Av. 10.3). Steeples took 85 wickets at an average of 8.65. During the season a most useful coach was appointed to the Juniors, in the person of Hutchins, who 'was very painstaking with the younger members of the club'.

Wales & Newport Rugby Captain G. Llewellyn Lloyd to Lead 1st XI

In 1899, George Llewellyn Lloyd (Wales Rugby player & Newport Rugby Captain) was elected as 1st XI captain, R. H. Deane 2nds and as a 3rd XI was again run, W. H. Williams was appointed to the captaincy. The 1st XI playing record was, played 17, won 8, lost 5, drawn 4. P. C. Phillips won the 1st XI Average Bat (38.0). A side composed of club juniors was formed, probably as a result of coaching by Hutchins and captained by J. R. Rowlands, who promised great things as a youngster – he played a good deal for the 1st XI later.

New Ground Nears Completion

In 1899, although the new ground was nearing completion it was not much used in consequence of the lack of accommodation.

Achievements/Milestones of Newport Cricket Club (1890– 1999)

- 1891 - Mee (Club Professional) takes 9-21 v Dr. E. M. Grace's Thornbury
 - Football ground was opened, freeing the old ground for cricket.
 - Mr. Joseph Gould (first Club Cricket Captain in 1874), and one of the founders of the club died
- 1892 - Fred Phillips 1st XI captain for a seventh consecutive season (1886 – 1892)
 - Arthur John Silverlock engaged as Club Professional
 - Lord Tredegar donates land for a new cricket ground
- 1896 – Dick Steeples appointed Club Professional with Silverlock, providing a formidable partnership
- 1899 – New ground nears completion, but still no accommodation.

Newport Cricket Club Captains (1890 - 1899)

1890 Fred Phillips	1891 Fred Phillips
1892 Fred Phillips	1893 L. H. Hornby
1894 L. H. Hornby	1895 L. H. Hornby
1896 L. H. Hornby	1897 L. H. Hornby
1898 Fred Phillips	1899 G. Llewellyn Lloyd

