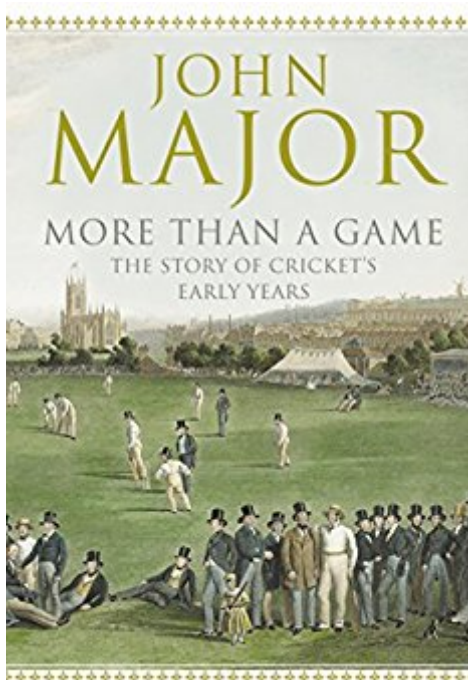


The book was found

# More Than A Game: The Story Of Cricket's Early Years



## Synopsis

The former Prime Minister examines the early history of one of the great loves of his life in a book that sheds new light on the summer game's social origins. All his life John Major has loved cricket. In *More Than a Game* he examines it from its origins up to the coming of the First World War. Along the way he considers the crucial role of the wealthy patrons who gambled huge sums on early matches; the truth behind the legends that have grown up around the famous Hambledon Club; changes in rules and techniques, including the transition from underarm to overarm bowling; the long-standing, but often blurred, distinction between 'gentlemen' and 'players'; the coming of the MCC and its role as the supreme arbiter of the game; the spread of cricket throughout the British Empire; and the emergence of the county game and international competition. It is a story rich in anecdote and colourful characters. Many of the great names from the 'Golden Age' of cricket – C.B. Fry, Ranjitsinhji, 'Demon' Spofforth and of course the towering figure of W.G. Grace – are still well-known today. But long before then the game already had its stars: men like the Kentish innkeeper's son 'Lumpy' Stevens, who played at the highest level until he was nearly sixty; 'Silver Billy' Beldham, who was taught how to play by a gingerbread baker; the notoriously avaricious and ill-tempered Lord Frederic Beauclerk, a direct descendant of Charles II and Nell Gwynne; and the mighty 'Lion of Kent' Alfred Mynn.

## Book Information

File Size: 1222 KB

Print Length: 448 pages

Publisher: HarperPress (February 16, 2009)

Publication Date: February 16, 2009

Language: English

ISBN-10: 000718364X

ISBN-13: 978-0007183647

ASIN: B002RI9R0C

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #361,762 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #20 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Sports > Other Team Sports > Cricket #37 in Kindle Store > Books > Sports & Outdoors > Other Team Sports > Cricket #200 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Sports > Miscellaneous > History of Sports

## Customer Reviews

I had seen a review of this book in the Economist a few years back, and had put it on my "to read" list. Finally got around to downloading it while on holiday in Hawaii. I've only started reading it, but I can tell you that it is very good. I know nothing whatsoever about cricket, and I wanted to learn. Mr. Major is an excellent writer and he brings the sport to life. If, like me, you know nothing about cricket and want to have a comfortable and enjoyable read, I recommend this book. Also, because Mr. Major followed Mrs. Thatcher as PM, I always had a view of him (as did, no doubt, others in the US) as somewhat bland; he is not. The book gives you an insight into Mr. Major's personality that makes for fascinating reading.

This is fabulous! This is a VERY pleasant reading experience. This author was wasted as a Prime Minister: he is a brilliant, enthusiastic, and precise cricket sportswriter. This is a pre-WW I history of cricket, and is unexpectedly detailed and brilliantly witty! My only complaint is that it stops at WW I. I'd like to have read about the aftermath of WW I on the game, and of the Interwar Years. Did the breakdown in the class system damage cricket, or alter its character? This is a love story for England. Well done!

One of the best written histories about the game. Yes, the author John Major is that Sir John the former Prime Minister of Great Britain! This is a superior piece of work and one that anyone who has an interest in Cricket will enjoy reading.

Very detailed, but boring

For More Than A Game, John Major uses the same formula he used for his autobiography: he starts with a chronological account then switches to topical subjects. In the first half he presents a chronology of cricket from the very early days when records reveal something called cricket was played but that was probably nothing more than hitting a ball with a stick, if even that. Major continues with successive chapters describing successive periods until he reaches the late 18th

century by which time cricket had become something fans would recognize today. Major then switches to topical chapters which are still in a loose chronological order but with considerable overlap. He has a chapter on the evolution of bowling from under hand to round arm to over hand. One chapter describes how troupes of players began being paid to tour the country while another describes the slow controversial ascendancy of these professionals. Major even devotes one whole chapter to the people who keep game records, and manages to keep it interesting! The last chapter ends with how the Great War killed many promising young cricketers. The book is wonderfully well written. Major's prose is clear direct and forceful; it's not perfect and he waxes a little too lyrical on occasion and quotes poetry that only a cricket lover could forgive. And the editor should really have insisted on a better title. Again, John Major shows himself to be a pragmatic conservative. As he valued the Tory party above the issues that tore it apart (e.g. Europe) Major values the institution of cricket above any single characteristic. He sees the game isn't now what it was at the beginning of the 20th century, but he recognizes that the game needs changes like one-day cricket if it is to maintain its place among other sports. While his book is about cricket's past, readers may feel cricket has a great future lying ahead. Vincent Poirier, Dublin

Like the author, this gem of a book is, on the surface, dry and serious, but as you get to know it you uncover self-deprecating charm and subtle humor as the former British prime minister expounds on the real love of his life, cricket. If you love cricket, give it a try-and give it a chance. Also like the author, it will, against all perceived odds, grow on you.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Cricket - The Definitive Guide to the Game of Cricket: The Game of Cricket Uncovered (Your Favorite Sports Book 6) More Than A Game: The Story of Cricket's Early Years When Cricket Was Cricket: A Nostalgic Look at a Century of the Greatest Game The Cricket in Times Square (Chester Cricket and His Friends) The Cricket Psychology Workbook: How to Use Advanced Sports Psychology to Succeed on the Cricket Field The Magic of Indian Cricket: Cricket and Society in India (Sport in the Global Society) Game of Thrones: 100 Question Trivia Game For True Fans (Epic Fantasy Series, Game of Thrones Books, Game of Thrones, Fantasy Books) (Epic Fantasy, Fantasy ... TV, TV Guide, Game of Thrones Book) Panama 1914 - The Early Years of the Big Dig: The early years of the Big Dig New England Waterfalls: A Guide to More Than 400 Cascades and Waterfalls (Second Edition) (New England Waterfalls: A Guide to More Than 200 Cascades & Waterfalls) Transformers: More Than Meets the Eye (2011-) Vol. 1: More Than Meets the Eye v. 1 More Than This (More Than Series Book 1) The Actor's Book of Contemporary Stage Monologues:

More Than 150 Monologues from More Than 70 Playwrights Lord's First: 200 Years of Making History at Lord's Cricket Ground Shadows Across the Playing Field: 60 Years of India Pakistan Cricket Years of Hope: Cambridge, Colonial Administrator in the South Seas, and Cricket Game for Anything: Writings on Cricket A Beautiful Game: My love affair with cricket Cricket: The Game of Life: Every reason to celebrate Insects Collection Coloring Book for Adults: Stunning Coloring Patterns of Grubs, Dragonfly, Hornet, Cricket, Grasshopper, Bee, Spider, Ant, Mosquito and More .. (insect coloring book) (Volume 1) IPL Cricket and Commerce: An Inside Story

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)