

Publication of book 'Horace Snary: Resolute Rutlander' by Jonathan Farmer

My book chronicles the life of Horace Snary, the finest of all Rutland cricketers. Horace played 183 matches for Leicestershire County Cricket Club between 1921 and 1933, taking 419 wickets and scoring 2,156 runs.

Born and bred in Whissendine, he is notable for being the most accurate bowler of his time – on average, runs were scored from him at the incredibly low rate of only 1.72 runs per over (putting that into perspective, no other bowler throughout the Twentieth Century in English cricket was more economical). A stubborn lower-order batsman, he proved difficult to dismiss, and had a moment of glory when scoring an unbeaten century against the 1932 Indian tourists. His best season was 1931 when he took 101 wickets, and for a time he was spoken of as a probable selection for the forthcoming tour of Australia. Sadly, his form declined, and he was not chosen.

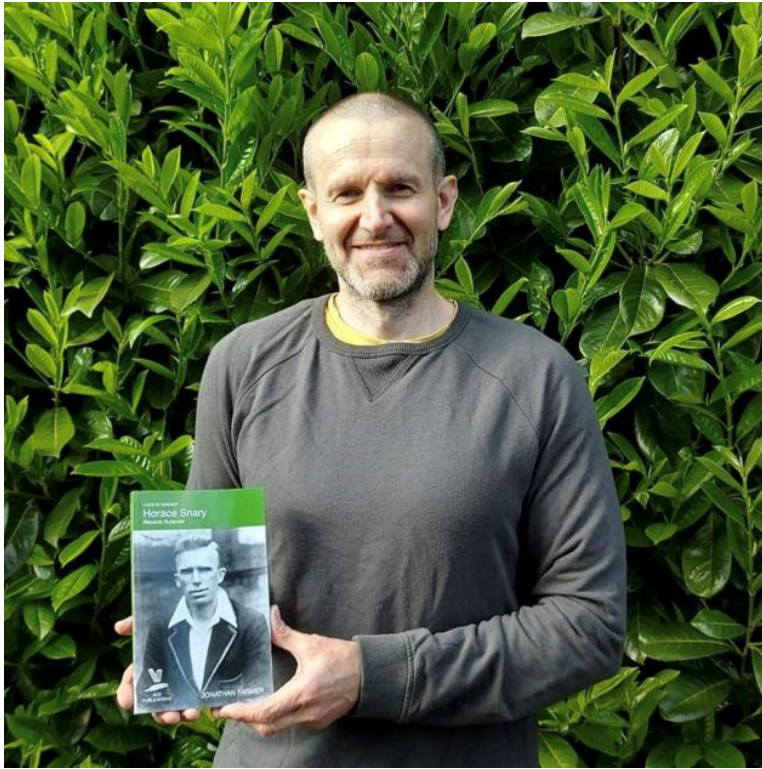
My book covers his whole life, including his wartime experiences. Joining the South Staffordshire Regiment as soon as he was old enough to enlist, weeks later he was sent to Dublin in response to the Easter Rising of 1916, then on to the trenches of France and Belgium. Enduring several months of hardship, he was gassed during the latter stages of Battle of Cambrai in November 1917, resulting in permanently damaged lungs. As if that wasn't enough, on his return to England he developed double-pneumonia, and it was thought he wouldn't survive – his parents were told to expect the worst and for some days his life hung in the balance. His twin brother Willie had been killed by an exploding shell only weeks earlier, placing a dreadful burden on his family. In the circumstances, it is remarkable that Horace was able to play cricket at any level, let alone meet the demands of the first-class game.

After injury curtailed his county career in 1934, he ran a successful poultry smallholding in Whissendine and supplemented his income with pitch maintenance – a skill he had learned during his time in county cricket. His love of cricket never left him, and he continued to play with pronounced success for his beloved Whissendine CC into middle-age. Much of the book covers the Whissendine matches and players of the period.

Also included is a chapter on the history of early Rutland cricket, an area that has previously received little attention from cricket historians. Readers may be surprised to learn that Rutland played an important role in the early development of the game in the Eighteenth century.

The book is well illustrated including many photos from the family albums. Copies can be purchased from the website of the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians (www.acscricket.com).

See sample photos below.





LIVES IN CRICKET
Horace Snary
Resolute Rutlander
JONATHAN FARMER

For several seasons between the wars, Horace Snary – one of the few first-class cricketers born in Rutland, the smallest of England's counties – formed an important part of the Leicestershire bowling attack. His record is significant for its extreme economy; throughout the 20th century, no regular bowler in English first-class cricket gave away less than his miserly 1.72 runs per over.

A doughty late-order batsman who surprised everyone with an unbeaten century against the 1932 Indian tourists, little has been written about Snary's cricket and life outside the game. Much new information has now been unearthed, in large part through access to the Snary family archives.

It is remarkable that he was able to play cricket at all, his lungs being permanently damaged by the severe gassing endured during the Battle of Cambrai in 1917, and subsequent contracting of double pneumonia. After injury compelled him to leave the county game he became a successful poultry farmer and returned to village cricket, playing with pronounced success until late middle-age. His death in 1966 went largely unnoticed, with no obituary appearing in *The Cricketer* or *Wisden*.

Many books have been written about the Test cricketers from this interesting period in cricket's history, but this work is different in that it explores the life of the journeyman county professional, putting into context the social, economic, and sporting challenges he faced and exploring how he achieved his extraordinary frugality with the ball. The text is accompanied by a comprehensive selection of photographs, many previously unpublished.

£16.00



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Whissendine CC, mid-1930s