



Harry Graham was born in Carlton, Melbourne, on 29 November, 1870. Educated at Barwick Grammar School he was a natural athlete, and at Australian Rules football in 1892 he kicked 42 goals for Melbourne to run second on the list of goal kickers. But it was with cricket that he was most talented and he made his debut for Victoria in 1893, and chosen for the Australian team to tour England that same year. In a test at Lord's, England had scored 334, and Australia had only 75 on the board after losing 5 key players. "The Little Dasher" as Graham was now known, joined Gregory ,

and they proceeded to add 142 runs in 100 minutes, with Graham ending with 107. It was the first century by an Australian at Lord's. Harry Graham was an instant hero! Back in Australia he played only spasmodically and it was reported that his health was not the best. He played some wonderful seasons until up until 1902, then seems to have decided to give up the world of cricket, drifting aimlessly, waiting for something to turn up.

In 1903 the Otago Boys High Old Boys' Association were looking for a cricket coach for the school, and after raising more than 100 pounds, they engaged Harry Graham at 5 pounds per week. The results for the school were great. More boys played cricket than had been the case for many years. However their arch rivals, Christ's College beat them again much to Graham's disgust.

Graham played two matches for Otago in 1903-04, and in the South Island Team he played against the North Island. The 1904-05 season saw him play for the Carisbrook Club for 40 pounds while also coaching at the school for three nights a week. This culminated in the school beating Christ's College for the first time in four years. Graham returned to Melbourne as no work could be found for him in Dunedin over the winter of 1905-06. Graham was retained again by the school in 1905-06 and he played for Albion. The coaching fund was replenished and Graham was retained for the 1906-07 season. He played only occasionally this season which seems to suggest he was again ill. His last game of cricket was in February 1907, and on July 27 he was admitted to Seacliff Mental Hospital where the admissions book records "patient in a state of acute alcoholic mania". He gradually failed mentally and physically and died on 7 February 1911.

In 1993, to mark its 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Albion Cricket Club decided it would place a plaque on Graham's grave in Dunedin's Southern Cemetery and Peter Sellers, Ken Rutherford and Warwick Larkins placed it there in his memory.

So at last the story ended, a sad one of a cricketer who fell from grace and sank into an incredible depression which he tried to cure by drink. So many other have tried the same remedy, with very few cures.

Prepared by the Historic Cemeteries Conservation Trust of New Zealand from an article by Warwick Larkins in "Wisden Cricket Monthly", April 1995.