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Cricket in Late Edo and Meiji Japan

MIKE GALBRAITH

INTRODUCTION

A CRICKET MATCH, played in 1863 in 'curious circumstances'¹ in Yokohama is the first documented game of cricket in Japan. It is



Courtesy of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), London
Photo 1: Yokohama team in Japan's first ever cricket match in 1863

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also the first recorded game in Japan involving a major western team sport.

The 1863 cricket match was played between a Yokohama team captained by a Scotsman, James Campbell Fraser, and a Royal Navy XI from the warships in the harbour including the flagship HMS *Euryalus*. The 16 April 1908 issue of the magazine *Cricket*² has a lengthy account of the game. According to the article³ 'a filled-in swamp at the back, but inside the settlement, furnished a mud cricket ground'. The article has lots of background but no scorecard and no information about the actual game except that the Navy gave Yokohama 'a jolly good licking'.⁴

Photographs of the two 1863 teams show that there was no shortage of cricket bats. Most of the bats were probably supplied by the cricket-loving naval officers, who would have found it much easier to bring their cricket equipment with them to the Far East than any businessman or traveller.

No date is given but Fraser refers to 'a certain day', which may well have been 25 June 1863. This was the date proclaimed in an order in the name of the shogun for the killing of foreigners who had not left the country before then. The expression 'curious circumstances' refers to the fact that marines guarded the ground and that the players carried guns.⁵ Fraser wrote that 'they played with their revolvers on, ready for any emergency. It was a most novel sensation for the wicket keeper, as he carried his revolver backwards and forwards from wicket to wicket and placed it behind the stumps. Fortunately, no attack took place either on that day or afterwards.'⁶

Tension was very high in Yokohama in 1863 and had been so since the murder of Charles Lenox Richardson a few miles outside of Yokohama while riding with friends in September 1862. The British government had demanded compensation for the attack on its citizens both from the Shogun and from the daimyo of the Satsuma fief whose samurai was responsible for the attack. Several warships had gathered in Yokohama to back up the demands with force if necessary but the shogun's officials kept prevaricating while Satsuma flatly dismissed the demands.

The Yokohama team included, in addition to Fraser, W.H. Smith – later well known as Public Spirited Smith – and Charles Rickerby, Yokohama's first bank manager and afterwards a writer, editor and owner of newspapers.

Cricketing officers from RN ships visiting Yokohama played a key role in Yokohama cricket life throughout the settlement's first decades as a Treaty Port. Other cricket players came from the British garrison which was stationed in Yokohama between 1864 and 1874 and which numbered at one time over one thousand officers and men. They were divided between two camps on the Bluff

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above Yokohama. After the troops finally left in 1874, visiting ships provided teams or players to local teams. They were often supported by ships' bands which greatly contributed to making cricket matches major social events.

The first reference to cricket being played in Japan after 1863 is a newspaper report dated 12 November 1864, which starts: 'The following matches have been played on the "Turf", between the Camps of the XX and the Royal Marines.' This playing space was also called the Valley. The first of the two matches was between 'The officers of H.B.M.'s Fleet and the Garrison' with the latter winning fairly comfortably while the second was between the 'Garrison' and the 'Civilians'. The XXth regiment's bowlers dispatched the fleet's batsmen twice for a total just 62 runs. The army batsmen scored 116 in their first innings to win by 54 runs without having to bat again. The navy team included officers from HMS *Euryalus* and HMS *Leopard* (at least one had also played in the first match in 1863).

The core of the 'Garrison' team came from the 2nd battalion of the XXth regiment. The main body had arrived 14 July 1864 to support the vanguard that landed in January. It included a number of good cricketers and their team proved to be difficult to beat. Playing under the name of the XXth or the 'Garrison' (when their number included RM (Royal Marines) and/or players from other units like the RE and RA), they seem to have usually beaten both the Royal Navy team and the civilian team. The XXth's outstanding all rounder players were Captains John Aldridge, Charles Chatfield, and Charles Rochefort, and Lieut. Thomas Lakin. In the aforementioned game Lakin took five wickets in the first innings and Aldridge seven in the second innings while Rochefort scored the most runs.

JAMES PENDER MOLLISON

The XXth left Japan in 1866 and were replaced by the IXth, which was in turn replaced by the Xth regiment in 1868. The Xth's stay in Japan coincided with the earliest days of the Yokohama Cricket Club (YCC) which was established in mid-1868 with James Pender Mollison (1844–1931) being the main founder and driving force.

Mollison⁶ was from the Glasgow area and he had played for the Caledonian Cricket Club before coming out to the Hong Kong in 1864. Within a short time he was working in Shanghai as a tea taster and played three seasons of cricket there with the highlight being Shanghai's victory in the second 'Interport' match against Hong Kong in May 1867.

In his article 'Interesting Reminiscences' (published in 1909), Mollison writes about cricket in Japan before his arrival: 'My first question was, "What do you do in the way of cricket?" "Practically

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nothing,” was the reply, “because there was no ground.” Occasional matches had been played I was told, as far back as 1864, on the camp parade-ground...’ he continued. ‘I have some recollections, too, of hearing that Hope’s Inlet was more than once made use of for a game, while it is certain that matches were played on what was known as the Swamp ... with only a hardened footpath as the wicket pitch.’

In a speech given in 1909, Mollison said that one of his first thoughts on arriving in Yokohama to live was ‘the making of a cricket ground and the formation of a cricket club’. The young Mollison was determined to get the rights to a piece of land, turf it and try to create a real cricket ground to match those in Shanghai and Hong Kong.

FOUNDING OF THE YOKOHAMA CRICKET CLUB

The meeting, which established the Yokohama Cricket Club (YCC), is said to have been held in Mollison’s dining room presumably at No. 48 Yokohama. Six people including Mollison are recorded as being present: E.D. Murray, a Scot, became the treasurer. The only Englishman present was Ernest Price, a tea taster at Walsh & Hall, who was made the secretary. The other three were Everett Frazier, a successful American businessman of Scottish descent, James Henry Scott from the famous shipbuilding family of John Scott & Co. based at Greenock near Glasgow and working for Butterfield & Swire and George Hamilton, also from near Glasgow, who worked with Mollison in J.C. Fraser & Co. Price proved to be Mollison’s ‘enthusiastic coadjutor’. ‘Together we obtained permission from the prefectural government (*Kenchō*) to clear and turf some 60 yards square somewhere near 265, on the middle of what was known as the New Swamp,’ wrote Mollison. This ground was called the ‘Swamp Ground’. Two things that stand out about the people at the founding meeting are the strong Scottish, indeed Glasgow, connections, and the fact that they had nearly all lived or were living in Shanghai.

It seems odd that Mollison invited none of the players from Yokohama’s 1863 team like Charles Rickerby, the banker turned publisher and writer, or W.H. Smith, to join that foundation meeting. Perhaps this accounts for the absence of any report about the founding of the cricket club. The first probable reference in the local papers to the YCC was a short article in October 1868 that ‘a cricket match between a local club and the officers of the garrison resulted in a draw, a fall of rain preventing completion of the match’.

All the equipment for cricket matches was stored at, and had to be collected from, No. 48. After they finished playing, they carried everything back to No. 48 and then apparently drank ‘copious jugs of claret’.

The games were usually two innings affairs lasting as long as two or more days and the matches were played on weekdays. ‘To begin

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with, we had no telegrams to worry us and only two mails a month,' Mollison wrote around forty years later.

In July 1869 HMS *Rodney* and HMS *Ocean* played two cricket matches during their stay in Yokohama. The first was between the gunroom officers of these two ships and HMS *Ocean* won by six wickets after two innings. Around two weeks later a remarkable cricket match was played between a naval eleven and the shore team, which included Mollison but relied heavily on the cricketering talent of the Xth regiment, which had just replaced the XXth regiment. The match ended up as a tie with the former team scoring 89 and 126 and the latter 127 and 88. *The Japan Times* commented that the shore eleven 'ought to have won and would have done so had not their eagerness to secure the victory caused the last two players to attempt an almost impossible run'. The two last batsmen were run out.

In September 1869 a Royal Navy squadron with Captain H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh⁷ – Queen Victoria's second eldest son Alfred – serving on HMS *Galatea* visited Yokohama. The YCC played the Army and Navy with the core of the latter team being the cricketers from the Xth regiment. The YCC scored 110 in its first innings in reply to the opposition's 155 and was 33 for 4 in the second innings chasing 195 to win when the match was declared over.

In October 1869 HMS *Ocean* moved to Kobe, which had been opened to foreigners at the beginning of that year. While there the ship played a key role in the start of cricket in that port playing three matches and proving too good in the end for the Kobe team. Days after winning the first match, enthusiastic Kobe cricketers, including Arthur Hesketh Groom⁸ who was captain, rushed to found the Kobe Cricket Club but interest waned after they were well beaten in the last two games and failed to find a long-term ground.

'We had some good cricket up to 1870–1871, chiefly against the officers of the Xth Regiment who were a keen cricketering lot,' wrote Mollison. Detailed match reports survive relating to two games played between the YCC and the Xth in 1871 with both sides winning one game. Scoring runs does not seem to have been easy and bowlers bowled a lot of wides. After 13 overs of the first innings of the first game, the YCC had managed to score only sixteen runs and of those 10 were from wides and at least one a leg bye!

Mollison⁹ appears to have been a good opening bowler taking many wickets. However, he did bowl a lot of wides although not as many as some of the Xth's bowlers.

In around 1872 the authorities decided to raise the level of the 'Swamp Ground' to develop the land and they asked the club to remove their turf. Fortunately, at about the same time the large park (now called Yokohama Kōen) was being laid out by Richard Henry Brunton,¹⁰ and the YCC managed to get permission to lay out a

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handsome 120 square metre cricket ground in the very centre of the park and to surround it by a fence.

The Royal Marines, having been strengthened on the departure of the Xth regiment, had a good cricket team in the period up to their departure in 1874. The first match of the 1873 season was the Royal Marines vs The Settlement; the latter's batsmen struggled against the good bowling and fielding of the Marines.

In May 1873 HMS *Iron Duke* visited Yokohama and its cricketers participated in a match between the YCC and an *Iron Duke* and 'Garrison Eleven' on the new YCC ground. The newspaper report on a game in November, which also involved the officers of HMS *Iron Duke*, conveys the atmosphere at a typical game:

At 10 o'clock this morning (11th last), the weather was so unpropitious that it almost seemed as though the return match – the second of the season – United Services vs. Settlement, would lapse for the day. Shortly after, however, the rain cleared off, and at 11.40 a.m. a start was made. The ground was in fair order, although very heavy, as might have been expected. There was but a small attendance of spectators, and at the commencement, no ladies. As the day wore on, however, the sky looked more promising, the marquee, which had been erected for their accommodation, was availed of by a few of the fair sex. The Band of the *Iron Duke* was not present until 5 o'clock.

A single storey clubhouse was built in 1875 and the club hired a Mr C. Yoshiwara, who was to work for the club for forty years, as the groundsman and manager.

Until 1876 the YCC was simply managed by the honorary secretary with annual general meetings (AGM) held in the Grand Hotel each March. In the AGM for 1876 it was agreed that the club should henceforth be managed by a committee of five and the rules were altered to permit non-resident naval and military officers and visitors to be eligible to become honorary members. Not long after this, annual awards started to be made at the AGM for those with the best bowling and batting averages.

Most cricket matches consisted of the same YCC members divided into two teams in a variety of ways but the biggest games were against visiting Royal Navy ships and squadrons,¹¹ and Tokyo plus visitors.¹²

An attempt to establish an independent cricket club in Tokyo in 1884 failed mainly due to the inability to find a ground.

FROM YCC TO YC&AC

With the football, baseball and athletics clubs paying annual dues to use the cricket club's facilities and members having to pay subscriptions

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to each club if they wanted to do all sports, it was inevitable that there should be a call to have a single club under one management charging a single subscription fee. In the 1883 season it was only possible to arrange five cricket matches suggesting that cricket was losing its popularity.

The Yokohama Cricket & Athletic Club was created at a Special General Meeting of the Yokohama Cricket Club called on 7 April 1884 by the football club on an initiative led by Edgar Abbott. The incentive for the members to agree to the amalgamation was the promise of \$310 in donations, which would be used to enlarge the ground and improve the pavilion. At the end of the meeting the Consular Court Judge Nicolas Hannen¹³ was elected president and a committee of ten was formed including Abbott who was the captain of cricket.

YOKOHAMA-KOBE MATCHES

The first Interport¹⁴ cricket match took place in Kobe on 13–14 November 1884 was not a serious affair. A.H. Groom, who captained Kobe in at least one of their first ever matches, was now captain of the YC&AC team which had only five regular members – Groom, Duff, Murray, Griffiths and Kenny – and four who had barely seen a cricket bat. In the first match Kobe batted first and A.W. Gillingham was bowled by the first ball. One other batsman in each side was bowled first ball in both innings, but Kobe won by 7 wickets and won the second match by 77 runs.

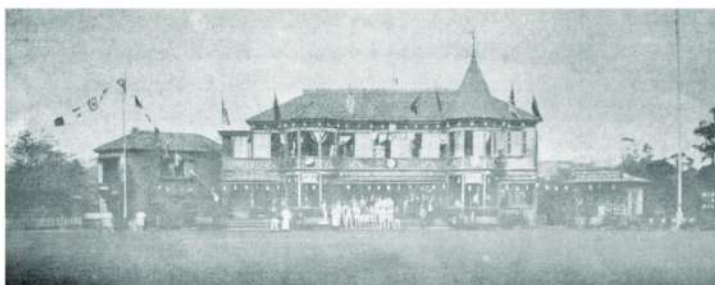
Finding eleven cricketers ready to play 'away' for several days was difficult and it wasn't until 1888 that the next 'Interport' could be arranged – in Kobe. This time the YC&AC sent a full team including Mollison and Abbott and won both matches. The next year, again in Kobe, the KCC won the first match by a single run and the second by 49 runs.



Courtesy of National Diet Library, Japan

Photo 2: Kobe batting in 1884 cricket 'Interport' with YC&AC players wearing heavy sweaters with matching peaked Pierrot hats due to the cold

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Courtesy of National Diet Library, Japan

Photo 3: YC&AC ground and new pavilion decorated for 'Interport' Week in 1903

The Kobe Cricket Festival in 1893 included another 'Interport' match, which the YC&AC won by an innings and 124 runs, but this was only one element in the festival of which the main feature was participation of the Shanghai Cricket Club. The first ever international cricket match on Japanese soil then took place – Japan vs China. The result was declared a draw with Japan scoring 190 and 45 for 1 wicket and China 148. Capt. Dumbelton (76 not out) and C.M. Firth (26) were the only China batsmen to reach double figures and save the reputation of the team. In the final match, Kobe beat Shanghai by an innings and 7 runs. In the evenings two concerts and a dance were held making the festival a key social event rather than just a sporting occasion.

A new two-storey pavilion was built and opened in spring 1899 but it was destroyed by fire on 14 February 1901. It was rebuilt and declared open at the annual meeting on 2 April 1902.

The cricket festival in 1909, during which the 23rd cricket 'Interport' was celebrated, was probably the high-water mark of the club. The club's pavilion and ground were decorated with flags and banners. The YC&AC team had only one player who had played in the first 'Interport' – the stalwart wicket keeper Charles Murray Duff – while the Kobe team fielded two players whose fathers played in the 1884 game. The YC&AC, the underdogs, batted first in 1909 and were shattered by the bowling of H.R. Nichols who became the first 'Interport' player to take 10 wickets in an innings. Kobe's first innings started out well but then fell to pieces and they were all out for 97, only 12 more than the YC&AC. YC&AC didn't fare much better in the second innings and reached 73 for 8 at the end of play on the first day. There was a final turn in fortune on the second day and, in the end the YC&AC was narrowly victorious by just 6 runs.

The YC&AC had one of the finest cricket grounds in the East, but the YC&AC was facing the probability of imminent extinction.

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As the YC&AC cricketers played their matches, the world around them was changing. Two key developments were the end of extra-territoriality in Japan in 1899 and the growth in Yokohama's population from around 30,000 in the mid-1870s to around 400,000 in 1909.

More and more Japanese people were playing and watching sports, especially baseball, and joining sports clubs.

J.P. Mollison and his colleagues believed that they had been granted the rights to use the cricket ground in perpetuity and didn't pay much heed to the warning signs, such as the idea mooted in 1907 by the governor of Kanagawa prefecture, Sufu Kōhei, that the land should be turned into a public garden. Even when Sufu wrote to the club stating that the ten-year lease would not be renewed when it expired on 28 July 1909, Mollison thought the British government would sort things out for them. A protest¹⁵ against the proposal by the governor was delivered five days before the deadline, but had no effect.¹⁶

There was a growing feeling amongst both Japanese municipal officials and the Japanese public that the governor's plan to spend over 20,000 yen to turn the beautiful well-kept cricket ground into a landscaped garden and to spend another 20,000 yen to create a new sports ground in another part of the same park was pointless, especially when the local government was short of funds. Club officials called for help from the British ambassador, Sir Claude MacDonald, who then visited Governor Sufu. The governor, perhaps feeling the heat a little, put forward the idea of creating a new sports field in a corner of Yokohama Park, which could be used upon request by Japanese and also foreigners, provided that the latter withdraw their protest.

An extraordinary general meeting of some 200 club members was held on 1 November 1909 in the cricket pavilion with club president Dr Edwin Wheeler presiding. Wheeler read a letter from Sir Claude MacDonald in which the ambassador advised that the protest should be withdrawn.¹⁷ Mollison made a spirited speech emphasizing the heritage bequeathed to them by the early pioneers of the community. He said that 'it was the bounden duty of every young man in the place to spare every effort to preserve it'. H.V. Henson in response argued that the club's position on the lease was untenable and that the protest 'would serve no useful purpose, but would cause considerable ill-feeling'. He urged that the protest be withdrawn. On a show of hands, 30 voted in favour of withdrawing the protest and 67 against, with the rest abstaining.

A rising tide was, however, running against Mollison's position. At a second extraordinary general meeting held on 22 November the decision of the earlier meeting was overturned by 104 votes to 48 despite an emotional last-ditch appeal by Mollison.¹⁸

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YC&AC IN LIMBO

After numerous meetings the municipal assembly finally adopted governor Sufu's plan and the cricket ground was opened to the general public. While the club continued to use the old ground it had to apply for permission to do so on each occasion. The club had lost all its assets and its morale, prestige and membership were under threat.¹⁹ The consensus within the club was that it had to find a new ground for its exclusive use. The municipal government then agreed on a plan for the completion by the autumn of 1911 of a sports ground in the southern corner of Yokohama Park, but there were doubts about whether the area was adequate for use as a cricket ground. The YC&AC would still have to make applications every time it wanted to use the new ground, although fortunately the municipal authority decided against charging every time it was used.

The first cricket match on the new recreation ground was played against 'the Fleet' on 10 October 1911. The *Japan Weekly Mail* described it as 'the first indulgence in the sport which the local club has had for nearly two years'. On 22 and 23 October the final cricket 'Interport' match of the Meiji period was played there. Kobe batted first and managed only 89 runs. In its first inning Yokohama scored 139. Then F.S.G. Piggott²⁰ took 6 wickets as he demolished Kobe in their second innings for just 35 leaving the YC&AC victors by an innings and 12 runs. The event²¹ was followed by the usual grand dinner at the Grand Hotel.

In total, twenty-four 'Interports' were played between Yokohama and Kobe during the Meiji period with the YC&AC winning fifteen, the KCC seven and the other two matches being draws.

In 1912 a suitable piece of land was found in Yaguchidai and Sigmund Isaacs, who was elected president at AGM held in April 1912, moved quickly to raise 65,000 yen in funds through donations, non-interest bearing debentures and a loan from the Hong Kong Shanghai Bank. At an Extraordinary General Meeting on 26 June the club was dissolved and a new legal entity, recognized under Japanese law, was created with a modified name – the 'Cricket' in the old name was changed to 'Country'. The new YC&AC was registered on 4 July and the purchase and registration of the new ground was completed on 12 July. The new grounds were officially opened on 6 June 1914.

CRICKET PLAYED BY JAPANESE

There is evidence of cricket being introduced to Japanese students by their foreign teachers during the 1870s but interest doesn't appear to have lasted long. Physical exercise was compulsory for around one hour a day in several colleges but cricket doesn't lend itself to such short sessions. The Imperial College of Engineering had what

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was called a 'cricket ground' in Toranomōn.²² When Kaisei Gakkō, which also became part of present University of Tokyo was first opened around 1877, cricket and baseball were both played but not for long.²³ In the YCC's accounts for 1878, there is a record of a payment from Captain Frank Brinkley²⁴ for 'sundry gear sold to the Naval College, Tokio', which suggests Brinkley may have tried to promote cricket at the college. In the curriculum at the Imperial College of Engineering for 1879 cricket appears in a list of games to be introduced 'at a later date'. It seems likely that even the cricket-loving teachers, like F.W. Strange,²⁵ judged that cricket matches lasted too long to incorporate into their curricula.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ These words come from the entry in the Harrow School Register for James Campbell Fraser: 'captained the Yokohama side in a cricket match (Yokohama Vs. The Fleet), played under curious circumstances at Yokohama'.
- ² Article was based mainly on papers and photographs sent by Fraser to the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). The photographs in the possession of MCC today include a framed photograph of the Yokohama team with 'First Cricket Match Played in Japan, 1863' written on the mounting.
- ³ The names of all the players are given and a photograph of each of the teams survives and even a third 1863 cricket photograph has also been found that may show the match in progress. These photos are the earliest photos of cricket in Japan and among the very oldest of cricket in Asia.
- ⁴ The words of Admiral Sir Albert Hastings Markham, who played for the Royal Navy team in that match at the age of twenty-two.
- ⁵ The article quotes Admiral Sir Albert Hastings Markham as writing 'It is, I suppose, the only match on record in which the players had to be armed.'
- ⁶ Mollison first arrived in Japan in January 1867 and stayed a month apparently sorting out a job with J.C. Fraser & Co. This company was owned by the same Fraser who captained Yokohama in 1863 and was located at No. 48 just behind Yokohama's Main Street. Fraser and his family left Japan in early March 1868 and Mollison is recorded as landing from Shanghai at the beginning of April after a nine-month visit to his home country.
- ⁷ For an account of the visit by the Duke of Edinburgh see 'Royal Visits to Japan in the Meiji Period' by Hugh Cortazzi in *Britain and Japan: Biographical Portraits*, Volume II, ed. Ian Nish, Japan Library 1997.
- ⁸ A biographical portrait of A.H. Groom by Angus Lockyer is contained in *Britain and Japan: Biographical Portraits*, Volume VII, ed. Hugh Cortazzi, Global Oriental, 2010.
- ⁹ Batting number four or five, Mollison doesn't seem to have been a big-hitter like Evan James Fraser, the younger Rugby School-educated brother of J.C. Fraser but he was clearly difficult to get out. For the Xth,

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Captains Ernest Berger and Robert Stammers were both excellent with both bat and ball while Lieut. George Hood was a successful bowler. The YCC's best bowlers besides Mollison during the 1870s and 1880s were Dr Edwin Wheeler and Edgar Abbott. Wheeler also usually opened the batting while Abbott recorded the highest individual score in the Yokohama – 146. Other long-term stalwart all-rounders were George Hamilton, James Dodds, Charles Murray Duff and William Sutter.

¹⁰ See for instance Brunton, Richard Henry, *Building Japan, 1868–1876*, Japan Library, 1991

¹¹ An example of the impact of one of the Flying Squadrons was the visit in October 1881 by HMS *Inconstant*, HMS *Cleopatra*, HMS *Carysfort*, HMS *Toumaline* and HMS *Bacchante* on which Queen Victoria's grandsons Prince Arthur and Prince George (later King George V) were serving as midshipmen. On 30 October the YCC beat the officers of the squadron in a one innings match with the latter scoring 73 runs to the former's 95. On 1 November the squadron sailed to Kobe where its cricket team defeated the Kobe Cricket Club.

¹² Games in October 1881 between the YCC and 'Visitors, Fleet and Tokio' were notable for the participation of Isaac Donnithorne Walker (1844–1898) who was the youngest of the famous seven cricketing Walker brothers and one of the most famous cricketers of his day. A newspaper report of the first match praised his 'beautifully played innings' of 56 not out and said 'his cutting and the way he played the balls were a great treat to lovers of the game'. The Visitors score of 99 was not enough to overhaul the YCC's earlier innings of 132 during which Walker also bowled without getting a wicket in his unique underarm style around half the overs from one end of the pitch largely due to his late arrival. Frederick William Strange also played well for the visiting team bowling throughout the innings and taking 6 wickets for 44 runs. If he hadn't been run out for 7, his team might have prevailed. Another visitor player was F.H. Trevethick, the grandson of the famous Cornish inventor. Strange and Trevethick were keen and talented cricketers who often played for or against the YCC. Trevithick is recorded as making the longest hit on the cricket ground: a hit to pitch of 140 yards. I.D. Walker also played a second game called YCC vs Visitors and Navy in which the Tokio members like Strange and Trevethick did not play. Walker again opened the batting but was 'singularly unlucky' to be bowled out for a duck by W.B. Thomson who took 6 wickets in total. Remarkably, Walker was permitted to bat again at No. 7 as a substitute for a missing player but could only score 10 runs not out before his team were all out for 63. This time Walker's bowling was effective and he took six wickets. Only C.M. Duff got to double figures but the YCC managed to scramble to 65 and win by 2 runs.

¹³ A portrait of Hannen by Br Dr Christopher Roberts is contained in this volume.

¹⁴ 'Interports' were played in a variety of sports between the main international ports in the Far East and began with the Hong Kong vs Shanghai cricket Interport of 1866.

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- ¹⁵ Proposed by J.C. Carey, then British consul-general in Yokohama.
- ¹⁶ Mollison couldn't describe his despair as eloquently as Waseda University professor Abe Isoo. 'To turn a piece of ground which as the result of years of toil and care has been rendered into one of the finest cricket grounds in the East into a mere Public Garden would not only seem to be sacrilegious, it would be most unbusiness-like on the part of the Municipality.'
- ¹⁷ It also became known that J.C. Hall, then consul general in Yokohama, had been ordered by MacDonald to desist from advising the YC&AC.
- ¹⁸ Mollison began his speech: 'It is once more my privilege to endeavour to uphold what I honestly believe to be the rights to the use of the present cricket ground acquired by the early pioneers of the Settlement' he began. Referring to the resolution calling for withdrawal of the protest he declared: 'What shall we do with it, gentlemen? Throw it out, of course, and consign the list of adherents to the waste-paper basket, to which it rightly belongs – (applause) – rather than be handed down to posterity as evidence of one of the blackest incidents in the history of Yokohama.'
- ¹⁹ It was even difficult to get members to pay their dues, as many members doubted the value of being a member of a 'club with no ground'.
- ²⁰ F.S.G. Piggott was the son of Sir Francis Taylor Piggott, who was legal adviser to the Japanese government. See 'The Two Piggotts' by Carmen Blacker in *Britain and Japan 1859–1991, Themes and Personalities*, ed. Hugh Cortazzi and Gordon Daniels, Routledge, 1991 and biographical portrait of Maj. Gen F.S.G. Piggott by Antony Best in *Britain and Japan: Biographical Portraits*, Volume VIII, ed. Hugh Cortazzi, Global Oriental, 2013.
- ²¹ According to the *Japan Weekly Mail*, 'with the victory of the home side last Tuesday the clouds that have overhung Yokohama cricket for the last year or so may be said to have broken'.
- ²² *Kyū Kōbu Daigakkō no Shiryō* (Documents relating to the Old Engineering College), 1955.
- ²³ Stated by Miyaka Setsu, one of Kaisei Gakkō's first students, in 1946 account mentioned in *Kuriketo Kenkyū Josetsu (Research into History of Cricket)* by Professor Makoto Yamada of Kobe City University of Foreign Studies, 1982.
- ²⁴ Frank Brinkley played for Hong Kong in the 1867 cricket 'Interport' in Shanghai in which Mollison starred. A biographical portrait of Brinkley by J.E. Hoare is contained in *Britain and Japan: Biographical Portraits*, Volume III, ed. J.E. Hoare, 1999.
- ²⁵ See 'F.W. Strange and Rowing as a Sport in Japan' by Jun Kōchi in *Britain and Japan: Biographical Portraits*, Volume VIII, ed. Hugh Cortazzi, Global Oriental, 2013.