**Tring Park Cricket Club: a short history.**

TPCC's first match was in 1836 against Markyate and our first game at Station Road was in 1873. The first pavilion was built in May 1891 at a cost of £200, and soon other sports started to use the ground: a tennis court in 1904, Tring Football Club in 1903, the Hockey Club in 1905 and the Bowls Club in 1907.

After an inevitable suspension during WWI the club started playing again in 1919, and a second XI played local teams such as Long Marston, Marsworth and Cheddington. In 1922 Tom Blundell scored three centuries in a week. In 1936, Albert Kempster did the double: 1,249 runs and 114 wickets.

During WWII the number of games was reduced, but occasional games were played. More importantly for some, the club opened its first proper bar in the pavilion in 1951. The 1950’s were a golden time for the club with Bill Rodwell first becoming captain in 1956, and Norman Hartley taking over the seconds. The club appointed a female groundswoman, Mrs Elsie Gooch. Results on the field were strong and Tring Park hosted its first Minor Counties Match in 1959. During the early sixties both teams achieved great results, Len Hinton's spin was a major factor, regularly taking 100 wickets a season including 155 (a Tring record) in 1962. Lionel Hitchings, David Kempster, Fred Plumeridge and Derek Whitehead also passed 1,000 runs on several occasions.

In April 1965 a new pavilion was opened by England and Sussex star Jim Parks. A third team was formed in the same year and achieved two ties in their first year, a rare achievement. The ever popular Bonfire and Fireworks Night was held for the first time in 1966 and has been a valuable source of income ever since.

League cricket came to the club in 1968 in the Hertfordshire competition, this season also saw Len Hinton pass the 100th wicket mark for the thirteenth time. By 1975 the club was playing in both the Herts League and the Thames Valley League. In 1982 John Townshend's second XI remarkably dismissed Headington for 2!

By the late eighties the club left the Herts League due to their insistence on playing league matches on Saturdays. A number of Australians arrived to help the club. Jack Gordon was our first and he was closely followed by John Boyd, Dave Lucas and Shane Casserly, all of whom left their mark on the club with some great performances on the field and in the bar! 1990 saw the club come close to sweeping the Thames Valley League title at 1st, 2nd and 3rd Xi's. In the end the seconds and third's triumphed whilst the first team just failed despite having a 50 point lead with six matches to go.

In 1996 a decision was made to demolish and re-locate the pavilion. The current magnificent two storey building was opened in April 1998 with the aid of generous members’ donations and a lottery grant.

The introduction of The Home Counties Premier League in 2000 provided a new challenge for the club, and after five years of trying the 1st XI captured the division 2 West title by a whopping 99 points in 2005. One of the catalysts for this success was the club's first overseas coach, Ron Harivel, a universally popular gentleman with all members. Since 2008 the team has had a consistent run in the Home Counties Premier League Division 1, with our best finish a 2nd place in 2011. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th XIs all currently play in the Thames Valley League.