



THE STORY OF ENGLAND VERSUS SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 29 March 1903

This is photographic evidence of the only First Class Cricket Match in SA played away from the hallowed grounds of the Adelaide oval. Apparently in 1903 the enigmatic Lord Hawkes was on tour with an amateur cricket team, the Marylebone Cricket Club . They were scheduled to arrive in Adelaide in late March but found the usual venue, the Adelaide Oval was inconveniently pre-booked by the South Australian League of Wheelmen for an International Cycling Race Spectacular! (The newspaper reported a record turnout for this Cycling event) England cancelled the game from New Zealand and may not have visited South Australia but for Mr Arthur Thomas of the Sturt Cricket Club stepping up and offering Unley's local oval as a worthy alternative.



Arthur Thomas telegraphed the English team in New Zealand who gladly accepted and travelled on THE OVERLAND train from Melbourne, booked into the South Australian Hotel (conveniently situated opposite the Railway Station on North Terrace but demolished in 1971) So it has been written into the tomes of history, and captured with the technology of the period, that Unley hosted a FIRST RATE CRICKET MATCH due to the proactive vision of Arthur Thomas. It is also proof that “if you build it THEY WILL COME”

In the ADVERTISER 1 April 1903 an article appears:

LORD HAWKES TEAM VS SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SENSATIONAL CLIMAX

(Henry) HAY BOWLS BRILLIANTLY

THE HAT TRICK

SOUTH AUSTRALIA WINS BY 97