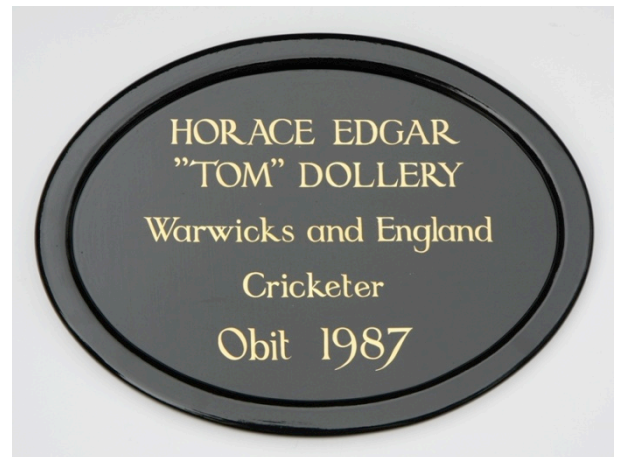


Tom Dollery (1914-1987)

Warwicks and England Cricketer

At School Tom Dollery excelled in all sports but, above all, at cricket being five seasons in the 1<sup>st</sup> XI and an outstanding Captain in his final two years. (For good measure he was also on Reading FC's books – appropriately he was born in Kensington Road, adjacent to Elm Park as well as to one of the best cricket grounds in the country).



At School amongst many towering scores he hit two notable successive centuries against MCC. In his last years at School there were four centuries for the full Berkshire side and he nearly made one playing for the Minor Counties against Oxford University, his initial first class appearance.

He became a very distinguished County cricketer with Warwickshire, scoring nearly 25,000 runs for them, including 50 centuries, and each season he achieved his 1,000 runs. His career lost six years to the War and he did not make his England debut until the late 1940s – well after his prime.

His claim to fame is not as a cricket international, but as a born leader who became the first professional cricketer to be an established County Captain. This marked a significant change in the history of English cricket. Dollery took Warwickshire to the County Championship in 1951 and was one of Wisden's Cricketers of the Year in 1952. After retirement he was briefly a test selector.