



March 2021

Our Ref: JB/6025

Hi,

Re: Cricket

In one of my few leisure moments (other than my tennis), in between working at home during lockdown I came across a copy agreement dated 25th September 1861 between Spiers and Pond of Melbourne in the Colony of Victoria and Heathfield Harman Stephenson (HHS).

Now I will tell you my connection to this. I started in the property profession in March 1960 at Harman Healy & Co and the founder of that firm was Mr Harman Stephenson Healy (HSH) the grandson of HHS who was the first captain of England to ever take a team to Australia.

"The trip was to take 6 months"

"The players were to sail First Class on the S.S Great Britain and return Second Class"

"The individual salary was £150 for the whole six months plus £5 per match"

"If required they would play 6 a side but no single wicket matches, they might also be asked to umpire"

Being a member of MCC some years ago I donated the original to the Lords Cricket Museum where I believe it is still on display.

It is quite amazing that in that bygone amateur era 160 years ago that the trip was sponsored by a firm of Caterers.

If any of you would like a photocopy of the original please email me and when you receive it I suggest you print it on A3.

Yours sincerely

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P.S. I have sent a copy to Joe Root in advance of this year's Ashes in Australia