

## WILLS AMENDMENTS

### Item 22. FOOTBALL SERIES.

Note that Nos. 1-41 are Association Football, and 42-66 Rugby Union.

A detailed comparison of the Wills's and Clarke's sets shows the following differences:

Wills's subjects have the team on the front of the card, after the name. Clarke's just have the name on the front, with the team and descriptive text on the back.

The perspective differs in some instances between the issuers. Notably nos. 11, 13, 17, 18 and 20 are about waist length in the Clarke's set, but about head and shoulders in Wills's (No. 18 can be found in both perspectives in Wills). On no. 23 the player's head and body is a much smaller perspective on the Clarke's card compared to the Wills's.

On No. 2 the Clarke's card shows a badge on the player's shirt that does not appear on the Wills's equivalent. On No. 5 the Clarke's version has a hand visible that does not appear on the Wills's card. No. 25 has a plain shirt in Clarke's and striped in Wills's.

No. 48 shows J. Daniell as playing for Richmond (Wills's) or Cambridge (Clarke's). Both are correct!

*John Daniell was a most distinguished sportsman. He played Rugby for England from 1899 to 1904, and was captain for much of that time; he also became President of the Rugby Football Union 1945-47. On the cricket field he played for Somerset from 1898 to 1927, and was captain from 1908 to 1926 (apart from the Great War hiatus); although not an outstanding performer he did also become an England selector. The following story appeared in a Guardian obituary of Mitchell-Innes, who was sitting alongside Daniell at Taunton. Frank Lee, the batsman, was hit in the box. 'The box, you say,' thundered Daniell, 'What namby-pamby nonsense is that?' A few minutes later it happened again and Daniell exploded: 'What does he need a so-called box for? In my day, we hit fours with our private parts'*

Finally, the Clarke card of No. 11, Fred. Wheldon, does not show a team, but mentions in the text "playing in the Villa ranks". However, the Wills's card shows his club as West Bromwich Albion. In fact he was transferred from Aston Villa to Albion in August 1900 for the sum of £100!

This difference indicates that the Clarke set was issued first.

*Wheldon moved to Aston Villa from Small Heath (later Birmingham City) in June 1896 (for £350), where he scored 75 goals in 139 matches, as well as 6 for England. He thus had the distinction of playing for all three leading Birmingham clubs, as well as playing first class cricket for Worcestershire from 1899 to 1906 .*