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THE CRICKETER AS A SYMBOL OF THE ENGLISH GENTLEMAN

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Prohlašuji, že jsem bakalářskou práci vypracovala samostatně s použitím uvedené literatury a zdrojů informací.

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vlastnoruční podpis

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Introduction

Cricket is one of the most widespread sports. According to several sources it is, with its 2.5 billion followers, the second most popular sport in the world. The biggest part of them is definitely in the United Kingdom and Commonwealth – mainly in India, Pakistan, Australia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. Other countries and even Scotland, Wales and Ireland are nearly immune to this sport and ignore it. Despite all the attempts of the International Cricket Council, the cricket has never spread further. Of course, small clubs or organisations can be found all around the world (even in the Czech Republic), but the main focus is in the states above. However, there are over 101 member countries all around the world. Neville Cardus (1945), one of the most influential cricket writers, explained this problem as follows:

Other nations not obsessed by sport are able to hold their own with us at tennis, golf, football, but cricket is incomprehensible to them, a possession or mystery of a clan, a tribal rite.

Another author who points this out is Reverend J. Pycroft (1851/1948, p.56-117) in his book *The Cricket Field*. He supposes:

The game is essentially Anglo-Saxon. Foreigners have rarely, very rarely, imitated us. The English settlers and residents everywhere play; but of no single cricket club have we ever heard dieted either with frogs, sour crout, or macaroni. But how remarkable that cricket is not naturalised in Ireland! The fact is very striking that it follows the course rather of ale than whiskey.

In the Czech Republic cricket is not a favourite game. What happens very often is a confusion – many people think that cricket is croquet (maybe because of the high popularity of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* book). However, if respondent knows what cricket is, then he usually points out to the fashion, long games, tea breaks and, most importantly, the image of English gentleman. It was also one of the most quoted topics when I looked cricket up on the Internet. Nevertheless, there was a particular difference.

The old descriptions, pictures and links showed this image indeed. The newer ones show the professional players and many disputations whether this comparison is still valid, or not.

So why cricket is considered a gentleman's game? Jharna Chauhaun (2012) brings possible explanation:

When you think of the phrase so often used to describe the sport, the image that crops up is of mild-mannered men in white flannels with their shirts tucked in and their hair parted neatly. Maybe a pat on the back, a gentle handshake or a shared joke while walking back to the pavilion with opponents at the end of a session. A game that supposedly segregates the classy from the crude, the boorish from the benign.

My aim in this bachelor thesis is to describe all issues connected with cricket and find out whether a cricket player can be still considered an English gentleman or whether it is already long history.

At first, I would like to describe the typical English cricket player – his appearance, behaviour and manners. The thesis will be focused with the terms such as muscular Christianity, rational recreation and The Spirit of Cricket. It is also needed to mention topics such as Englishness and its influence on the British Empire. Finally, I would like to find some current examples of gentleman's behaviour demonstrations and at least passing reference of them in the children's books and anecdotes.

Cricket as a game

Cricket – etymology

The game, 1590s, apparently from Old French criquet "goal post, stick," perhaps from Middle Dutch/Middle Flemish cricke "stick, staff," perhaps from the same root as crutch. Sense of "fair play" is first recorded 1851, on notion of "cricket as it should be played." (Online Etymology Dictionary, 2017b)

Cricket – general rules and game system

Cricket is a team sport in which play two teams (each of them has 11 players) against each other. It is an outdoor sport. Cricket field is oval shaped space in which middle is a rectangle with two wickets (one on each side). One team is fielding and the other one is batting. A batsman tries to strike the ball, which was thrown by a bowler, out of the reach of the fielders. If he does so, he has to run towards the other end of the pitch. This makes his team a point. He keeps going until the fielders make him out (by catching the ball from the air) or the wicket destruction (at least one bail has fallen down). The teams change the sides after outing ten batsmen or after finishing overs after six throws. This is called inning. There are several types of the game system – from one match with twenty overs to “Test match”, which has four innings and takes five days.

Test cricket – it is the biggest match possibly played. It is played between the national teams. It is usually played in series. One series normally contains three to five matches (one of them can take up to five days). The award for the Test series is called The Ashes¹ (for the matches between Australia and England) or the Wisden (England vs West

¹ The history of this name is very interesting. It started to be used in 1882 when played Australia against England the Test match. It was Australian first winning Test in England. A British newspaper *The Sporting Time* wrote that “English cricket had died. The body will be cremated and the ashes taken to Australia.” (Lewis, 2006, p. 75). In the next Test match between these two teams the newspapers wrote about the quest to regain the Ashes and the name entered the history.

Indies), Frank Worrell Trophy (Australia vs West Indies) and Border-Gavaskar Trophy (India vs Australia).

Twenty20 – this is a new variant of the game. It was developed in order to shorten the game play. Normally Twenty20 is finished within three hours. It helped to stop the decline of cricket popularity, because normal working people were finally able to watch the match on TV in the evening when they came home from work.

Club Cricket – it is non-professional type of game which is played mainly at the weekends or in the evenings. It is organised in some kind of leagues. There are lots of variations of the game – but the Laws of Cricket and the Spirit of Cricket still stands their meaning and are observed and adhered.

There are, of course, many other types – indoor cricket, garden cricket, French cricket or even the ice cricket. The big amount of variants just proves that cricket is a very popular sport and is played everywhere.

Cricket – a history in a nutshell

According to The Ultimate Encyclopaedia of Cricket, the very first mention of cricket comes from John Derrick (who witnessed at a court in Guildford in 1598) who described his childhood and mentioned playing “creckett”. The second significant cue is also from the Guildford area where someone was injured by a “cricket staff” in 1613. Next noted injury (unfortunately with the deadly ending) happened in 1624 in Sussex where a man was killed by a “cricket batt”. There are more similar news during the 17th century, but all of them are located to the south-west part of England (Surrey and Kent). The history continues with a man selling drinks at a cricket match in 1668 near Maidstone and two men betting on cricket (Earl of Sussex and Sir John Pelham).

In next few years cricket literally attacked London (we know about matches in Croydon, Clapham Common, Holborn or Windsor Forest). William Goldwin recorded first full description in 1706 – although it was written in Latin, the translation into English shows significant similarities with nowadays game play.

During the first half of the 18th century started the challenges between the landowners. They usually took place on their properties and the spectators began to be charged from the 1740's. It was then only short way to the first professional cricketers who were employed by upper class members and owners of the land. One of them was Thomas Waymark playing for Sussex and later for Berkshire – also well known for being the first great all-rounder (someone who plays well both – batting and bowling – which is not usual). Next to the countryside clubs there was also the London one, based on the Artillery Ground. All clubs wanted to challenge this club.

However, in 1744 Kent decided to challenge all England. The press at that time wrote about the biggest cricket match ever played. This match was even logged in the poem “An Heroic Poem” by the poet James Dance. Cricket was becoming more and more popular.

It also had a darker chapter of its history. Rising popularity attracted the wide range of spectators – even those who were not desired – vagabonds, criminals and unruly people. It also did not help that one of the best batsman of London Club was Robert “Long Robbin” Colchin – a powerful man of the London underworld. Soon stopped the public matches and Oxford, Cambridge and public schools abolished playing cricket. Cricket was on its way to decline.

Fortunately for this sport, it came about the meeting of great cricket supporters and fans - Richard Nyren, Charles Powlett and some others. Together they founded Hambledon Cricket Club. This club became fully professionalised and soon started to beat all other clubs and even the All-England club. The members took part in London social life. Their meeting point was Star and Garter Tavern in Pall Mall (also famous place for horse-racing sport). In 1786 members of Star and Garter decided that they do not want to play on White Conduit Fields in front of the public. They managed a deal with Thomas Lord. He was supposed to find a suitable place. The Earl of Winchelsea and Colonel Lennox promised the financial support. After that, Thomas Lord founded a new cricket pitch in Marylebone – known as the Lord's Cricket Ground. This attracted the other wealthy men and MCC became the head of the cricket sport.

Cricket commenced to spread all around the British Isles. Some cricket games were played all the more during the Napoleonic wars (Colonel Lennox organised matches in

1770's and one was played before the Battle of Waterloo). In a short time cricket established everywhere where were some English people – especially North America (the spreading was stopped by the Civil War – at first stopped the matches between America and Canada, soon stopped the ones between American and England clubs and eventually after the war the baseball appeared and cricket became a minority sport located to Philadelphia area). The British Empire grew and it brought cricket to Australia – from there it was just a step to Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales. In the 1860's some entrepreneur managed a tour for England players around Australia. It was highly successful.

In the 1840's Parsee community felt in love with cricket and introduced it in Bombay. In the 1880's there were already Indians teams touring England. Cricket infiltrated West Indies and South Africa by the soldiers positioned there.

Until 1878 first-classed cricket was played in Australia, New Zealand, West Indies, England and the United States of America. After 10 years accompanied them South Africa and India.

Interesting is, that in the 19th century cricket was divided into two main groups. Gentlemen and Players. Gentlemen group were amateurs – very often from the upper- or middle-class and the professionals were the Players (very often working class members and they got a salary for cricket). Brian Stoddart, former historian, somewhere once said, that cricket was very helpful in promotion and preservation of the social hierarchy.

Gentleman was dedicated to be physically bold but emotionally controlled. In contrast the player was asked to be combative but within the borders of the good social manners.

This separation was ended in 1962 by abolition of amateurism in English cricket.

Important is also the foundation of the International Cricket Council (ICC) in 1909 (back then International Cricket Conference). *“The ICC presides over the ICC Code of Conduct, playing conditions, the Decision Review System and other ICC regulations. The ICC also appoints all match officials that officiate at all sanctioned international matches. Through the Anti-Corruption Unit it coordinates action against corruption and match fixing.”* (International Cricket Council, 2017) Interesting fact is that the making and managing the laws of cricket stayed under the jurisdiction of MCC.

The beginning of the 20th century (particularly first twenty years) are described as a Golden Age of Cricket. It is a little bit nostalgic naming – back then was cricket played under the Spirit of the game rules and what more - many first-classed cricketers were killed in the wars and W.G. Grace died (more about him in a separate chapter). After the Second World War affiliated cricket society Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe.

The first Cricket World Cup took place in 1975. Since then it is held every four years. Next one will be in 2019 in London.

English cricket is unfortunately declining from the public sphere – a sport, which was once quintessential for English nation, is nowadays broadcasted only on private television channels. On the opposite stands the value of cricket in West Indies, where people take vacation days just to be able to watch the match.

Cricket – Gentleman’s Game

It is important to distinct between the ideas that gentleman’s sport is a sport for “better” people or that it is a sport played in a gentlemanly manner. Cricket complies the second idea. The aristocrats decided it in the 17th century. It means that cricket should be played without sledging, cheating, arguments or bodyline bowling.

Interesting is the comparison with rugby – also very popular in England and Commonwealth countries. Rugby is nicknamed as a “Man’s Game”. It is said that gentlemen play it to demonstrates to themselves that they can be rough and tough and there is nothing gentlemanly at all.

The Spirit of Cricket

Next to the 42 Laws of Cricket game (which ensure basic principles and system of the game) exists also preamble to them called *The Spirit of Cricket*. Lord’s club introduced it in 2000 as a preamble to the Code of Laws. There are two main authors of it, who felt the need of telling it and noting it down – Ted Dexter and Lord Colin Cowdrey – both ex-England captains and MCC members. The point was to “remind players of their responsibility for

ensuring that cricket is always played in a truly sportsmanlike manner. “ (Lord's: The Home of Cricket, 2017a) According to this thesis are important following points:

4. The Spirit of the Game involves RESPECT for:

your opponents

your own captain

the roles of the umpires

the game's traditional values.

5. It is against the Spirit of the Game:

To dispute an umpire's decision by word, action or gesture

To direct abusive language towards an opponent or umpire

To indulge in cheating or any sharp practice, for instance:

(a) to appeal knowing that the batsman is not out

(b) to advance towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing

(c) to seek to distract an opponent either verbally or by harassment with persistent clapping or unnecessary noise under the guise of enthusiasm and motivation of one's own side (Lords: The Home of Cricket, 2017)

The Spirit soon came into knowledge and people started to quote it, such as Mark Nicholas after the Test between Sri Lanka and England in Kandy in 2001. His quote took down Rob Smyth (2010, p.19) as following: “Every player should have to recite “The Spirit of Cricket” until he is blue in the face otherwise we will all go blue in the face watching them turn this most special game into a joke.” Smyth also reminds another situation when was the Spirit mentioned in the *Australian* newspapers after England vs Australia match in Adelaide in 2003:

On a day when England's troubled tour came to life through a wonderful Michael Vaughan century, the spirit of cricket was pronounced dead by the actions of the players. (The game's spirit) clearly is now irrelevant in this uncompromising, unforgiving, graceless age of professionalism. Batsmen are entitled to wait for the umpire to give them out even if they appear clearly caught. Bowlers are entitled to

appeal even if the crowd feel the ball has bounced. This is what happened yesterday and cricket is poorer for it. (Smyth, 2010, p.19)

About fifty years before the introduction of the Spirit stated Bobbie Burlton (1954, p.9) that “*the true spirit of cricket is an attitude of mind which shows the real sportsman and a nature’s gentleman*”. The question then is, whether the game came into the situation when writing and printing the Spirit of Cricket is really needed and why?

Cricket – cultural influence

Cricket became part of everyday life of nearly everyone in Commonwealth. Pictures, paintings, statues, books, poems, songs or even lexical parts of speech can be found on every corner.

Famous paintings are *Kent vs Lancashire at Canterbury* by Albert Chevallier Tayer from 1907. The original painting is exhibited in the Long Room in the pavilion of Lord’s. Alternatively, we can mention *The Cricketers* by Russell Drysdale from 1948. According to Sydney Morning Herald is this painting “possibly the most famous Australian painting of the 20th century.” (The Sydney Morning Herald, 2009)

Every cricket fan’s dream is to take a picture with the statue of W.G.Grace by Louis Laumen positioned in the Lord’s Cricket Ground. I was sitting on the bench and eating my lunch next to it for 20 minutes – during that time at least 20 visitors took a photo with it.

In the music field should be mentioned 10cc’s *Dreadlock Holiday* or Roy Harper’s *When an Old Cricketer Leaves the Crease*.

There is an incalculable amount of literature pieces – novels, poems, biographies, ... Most of them can be found in the MCC’s library.

The first known publication about cricket is from 1706 – *In certamen pilae* by William Goldwin. It is written in Latin verse and it describes a match. Next was the poem *Cricket: An Heroic Poem* by James Love already mentioned above. Notable book was definitely *The Young Cricketer’s Tutor* by John Nyren. He described in detail players of

Hambledon, their opponents. This book is regularly reprinted and is still high target of the readers. Cricket started to fill also the newspaper pages – mainly by essays and match reports. One of those essay collections is *Cricket: Sketches of the Players* by William Denison. It consists of 37 essays about contemporary cricketers. Rising popularity and lengthening history started to require some summary. This was summarized by James Pycroft in his book *The Cricket Field*.

Cricket has also stepped into the film industry. There are several movies dealing with the cricket topic. There is definitely mentionable movie *The Final Test* about the last match of cricketer's career and his son (the cricketer wants his son to be a witness of his last match on the Oval, but his son is more attracted to the visit of a poet – fortunately this poet turns out to be a big cricket fan and they both watch the cricketer's last match). Anthony Asquith directed this film. Then there are literally tons of Bollywood films. One for all can be *Lagaan: Once Upon a Time in India* which narrates the story about a small village in the times of British colonisations. The movie shows that not every English man must be necessarily a gentleman (the soldiers do not care of people's lives at all). The villagers decided to solve the British oppression without bloodshed and they wanted to beat the soldiers in the game of cricket. This movie was nominated for Oscars in 2001. Last significant film (or documentary in this case) is a *Death of a Gentleman*. A documentary directed by Sam Collins from 2015. It points to the financial situation of cricket in the world. They declare that organizations such as England and Wales Cricket Board or Board of Control for Cricket in India try to run the cricket only for their earning money and attempt to fleece the newest countries, which have no status yet. The documentary was awarded by Sports Journalists' Award in 2016.

English lexicology is full of phrases that entered everyday language. To prove this we can take the name of one M*A*S*H episode called *Sticky wicket*. There are some most often examples:

- have a good innings – said about someone who lived successfully and long
- do something off your own bat – do something on your own initiative

- hit for six – a feeling of overwhelming surprise
- that's not cricket – that's not fair
- sticky wicket – situation with difficult circumstances

A Cricketer

A cricketer is a player of cricket. There is nothing as a typical and general description how should he be like, look like or behave like. Even though, through the literature some of these characteristics can be seen.

For example Reverend J. Pycroft (1851/1948, p. 62) believes, that player should be self-restrained and sober. He states that essential are patience, obedience or bravery, but additionally a good sense of humour.

A good cricketer should be a man and behave like one. Manly behaviour consists of treating people with respect, standing up for what is right, being humble and accepting failure. Those are very general characteristics and need to be applied on the cricket situations.

Treating people with respect – even though the player scored a point, he should always treat the opponent with respect and think of his feelings. This is also very closely connected with the unwritten obligation to demand perfect control over his own “*feelings even in cases of the most crushing ill-luck*” as noted by E. Gerald French et al. (1960, p. 14). Then E. Gerald French (1960, p.14) continues with:

... just as they are enjoined to maintain a modest, unpretentious demeanour when success comes their way. Anything savouring of ostentation or showing off is frowned on with severity by the unwritten code. Exaggerated excitability and excessive zealousness are to be deprecated no less than a listless, obviously indifferent attitude.

E. Gerald French (1960, p. 14) demonstrates self-control on an amusing example. He believes that “*anything approaching the hysterical antics of footballers after scoring a goal, or the ridiculous habit of boxers who shake hands with themselves in token of victory, is to be emphatically condemned.*”

Another author who points this out is John Bridges (2011, p.57) when he says that during sports matches true gentleman never envies the success of the second team. If his team is the one winning, then he does not laugh at the opponents.

Vaughan's *Cricket Pocket Bible* (2011, p. 67) refers to the Laws of Cricket and claims that *"the umpire's decision is final. Any abuse, criticism or maltreatment of the umpire is inexcusable."*

Standing up for what is right – a cricketer should be able to confess his failure by his acts. Greg Vaughan (2011, p.67) expresses a lamentation that the old habits are disappearing. Vaughan suggests that a good cricketer should not wait until the umpire makes a decision, but should walk out from the play by his own decision. He says, that *"this is rare in international cricket, which is a great loss to that form of the game."* Former cricketer Erapalli Prasanna (2013) voiced his concerns of professional game:

Money is ruling the game now and it hurts, as cricket has been a glorious game of uncertainties. During our times if a batsman was out but umpire was in dilemma, the batsman himself used to walk out. That was called a gentleman's game but now nobody is bothered.

Being humble – in the context of cricket it does not mean only being respectful and humble to the opponents, but also being able to apologize for failures. Cricket is not a safe sport and injuries or accidents happen all the time. It is needed then to have the pleasantness to apologize and find out whether the help is necessary or not. A writer Bobbie Burlton (1954, p.35) polemicizes that it should be too obvious to even say these things. But then he narrates a story he has witnessed. A first-class bowler badly injured other players hand. All the fielders who were near came to him and showed some fondness. The problem was that the bowler did not come and but went away, sat down and waited *"as if nothing had happened"*. His behaviour was very well noticed and discussed for a long time.

When a cricketer loses a point or is outed, he should not say it was a bad luck. The only right thing he should do is to try to make it out as soon as he gets the chance.

Punctuality is another required personal characteristic. It is unacceptable to come late and so have no time to prepare yourself properly. Unpunctuality can be a reason to the disorganisation of the team and as a follow-up to the losing.

The team also demands on friendliness. Good mood and atmosphere in the team is considered as a need and argues, quarrels or other disruptions can lead to bad affection, state of upset mind and eventually to violation of the success chances. Friendliness should be employed even on the opponents team. E. Gerald French (1960, p. 14) is convinced that *“cricket is a game, not a battle.”*

The captain should take care of a team’s good mood. He should not scold the unsuccessful players – better is to sympathize with them and next time encourage them for better results.

Very good manner is also to welcome the visiting team. Making the opponents feel as at home contributes to nice and memorable match. The game will be more pleasant if cricketer helps the opponent with heavy bags or showing him the directions, because all of this produce friendly atmosphere.

Being helpful not just to the team but also to the others considers Bobbie Burlton (1954, p. 12) as another good cricketer’s characteristic. If cricketer has time and possibilities he should help with the equipment preparation or carrying chairs. During the tea break is a great opportunity to some gentleman skills and carry heavy weights. Burlton addresses the cricketer: *“...and if you, my friend, are strong enough to get a hundred or to bowl 25 overs fast, uphill and against the wind, you can if necessary carry a table or a bucket or two of water for these fair helpers.”*

To all of these mental characteristics Dominic Malcolm (2013, p. 35) adds some more without further explanations:

The notion of self-discipline is relayed via the term “cool tempered”. Perseverance and unflagging energy are conveyed in the claim that the good cricketer will be able to endure fatigue. Clarke urges younger readers to adhere to “the sterling qualities of integrity, plain dealing, and good old English independence – the independence of native birth and moral rectitude, not of insolence and effrontery”.

All team sports are often tempted to celebrate and visit pubs and restaurants. But the cricketer, who takes cricket seriously has to be aware of his duties towards his team.

It means not only to be punctual, but also to report in the best possible shape and condition. Not having enough sleep or having a hangover would be violation of unwritten cricket laws. Being still drunk on the ground is simply intolerable. Alcohol “*dims the vision, dulls the mind and slackens activity.*” (E. Gerald French, 1960, p. 11)

There is one nearly imperceptible vice, which does not prove a cricketer to call himself gentleman – chewing gum. It strongly disturbs the required standard of decorum. E. Gerald French (1960, p. 18) is outraged by this bad habit and declares that “*the spectacle of players in the field working their jaws like ruminating animals is anything but pleasing to cricket lovers who would welcome strong discouragement of this unedifying practice.*”

Team affiliation is one of the most important characteristics. Again it is widely written in every book, which deals with this topic. For instance Lord Harris (1921, p.280) advise all players that they should not “*play for yourself, they should play for their side.*” “*The true cricketer is one who plays for the side at all times and not in a selfish spirit solely for his individual enjoyment.*” (Burlton, 1954, p.9)

Clothing is not a personal characteristic but it is also a part of general description of typical cricket player. In the past typical clothes were top hats, high-collared shirts, flannel trousers and bow ties. Gradually retreated braces and top hats. Around the middle of the century came into fashion crazy coloured and patterned shirts. Nowadays clothing is following: collared shirt (short or long sleeved), white trousers, blazer, cap (cricket or baseball), spiked shoes, helmet and facultative gloves and protective glasses.

Wearing appropriate clothes is regulated by the Laws of Cricket. What is even more important is how the clothes are worn. Every cricketer should take care of his clothing and be sure, that it is in the best possible shape. Bobbie Burlton (1954, p.13 + 14) in his book about manners, customs and etiquette states:

*“Do not disfigure a lovely game by appearing in dirty clothing or equipment.
... Even so, although your trousers may have to bear an honourable scar as a result of saving a most vital boundary the previous day, try your very best to start every*

game in which you play dressed in a manner suitable to a clean and illustrious contest.”

Close relation in addition to clothing has personal hygiene. As I wrote above about keeping clothes in the best shape possible, there cricketer faces the same situation. P. Oldman and B. Ward characterize this in their satirical and parodic book. This book is written as a precise manual for gentlemen and players – it makes fun of all the unwritten laws and restrictions. Despite its satire and parody – the main idea is very useful and should be taken into account.

Lesson L076 – Grace Warnings on the Personal Consequences of Poor Personal Hygiene

When the individual does not take proper care of his body, with uncombed hair, partings which are not straight, dirty fingernails and smelliness, then he is caught in a Downward Spiral. This accelerates into a Flat Spin of defeatism, loss of self-esteem and degradation, with an increased criminality and propensity for the commission of Gross and Unnatural Acts, court cases, pacifism and beards.

(Oldman & Ward, 1988, p. 41)

The web page *Cricket country* published in May 2015 an interesting article about different and contrasting personalities. They simply divided cricketers into five main types. (DSouza, 2015)

1. Aggressive – cricketers play with force and make the opponents being scared of them. Of course according to the Spirit of Cricket they do not let their aggression come out – but attentive spectator can see it on their behaviour or eyes. Article names players such as Virat Kohli, Michael Clarke or James Anderson. I would add Rahul Dravid and Glen McGrath.
2. Fiery - these cricketer tend to make the atmosphere on the ground boiling. These cricketers sometimes overstep the borders. Typical examples are Mitchell Johnson or Brad Haddin. Fred Trueman (aka Fiery Fred) has to be also named. His fast pace and wayward behaviour were famous.

3. Calm – cricketers calm in every situation even if the game is nerve-wrecking. Exemplary were MS Dhoni or Hashim Amla.
4. Gentle – true followers of the Spirit of Cricket – they do not cause any troubles, argues or disputations. The main representative is, without doubts, Dale Steyn. On one hand he is very aggressive bowler but on the other hand he always keeps gentle towards his opponents and only smile.
5. Firm – these cricketers are nearly opposites to the gentle ones. In the situations when gentle players smile or stay calm, firm players only stare at the opponent. Naturally firm cricketer is Brendon McCullum.

Webpage *India TV News* in its article “10 Qualities Of Virat Kohli Every Aspiring Cricketer Should Develop” (2017) comes with the list. Virat Kohli is a current captain of the Indian national team. His characteristics listed by the webpage are following: being calm, hunger to perform, fitness level, adaptability, being able to play in the field, learning from his own mistakes, accepting challenges, setting accurate plans, high aspirations and last but not least never mix personal and professional life.

Christian Muscularity and Rational Recreation

Christian Muscularity

Christian Muscularity is an English movement originating in the Victorian Era.

It is a Christian responsibility to health and manhood. This concept originates from the books of Thomas Hughes and Charles Kingsley. Their heroes were gentlemen, Christians, athletic, friendly and humble. They had also strong bond to their nation. They adhered to teamwork, discipline and the morality.

It was never organized as a group.

The followers of this movement were convinced, that God gave them their bodies and they cannot mistreat them by negligence (they thought that with well-maintained body is easier to help others; it also helps to build the moral strength and good character).

Christian muscularity is very often connected with the British Empire spreading, thus it is always mentioned in the cricket stories. Its characteristics, basic rules and manners are completely the same for both cricket and Christian muscularity.

Rational Recreation

Rational recreation was not a movement; it was just an ideal of the late 19th century. It was strongly attached to the Christian muscularity and was proposed by the same people. The reformers considered inactivity as a threat to the social stability and industrial development.

They believed that being physically fit was not just enough. The reformers wanted to regulate every single aspect of the men's life. Coordinate their free time was just a logic step. They also wanted to enrich labourer's lives and so offer them leisure time activities, which were not primary for them. Instead of watching TV or napping in the park, they wanted them to do something more sophisticated – playing tennis, cricket, collecting stamps or helping others. The reformers required serious activities. Activities which would improve the qualities such as carefulness, sincerity or honesty. These activities would also protect people from bad qualities – deprivation, gravity or being alone. They wanted to support all amateurs to do what they like and that way improve their lives.

These R - words, should always accompany thinking of rational recreation: rule-based, regular, regional, restrictive, refined and respectable.

Cricket contains a lot of elementary characteristics of Rational Recreation – it was and still is played by amateurs, it was played regionally and by elite members of society. It should have been played respectably and in the sense of fair play. It was also very often associated with festival and feasts.

Cricket and Englishness

Englishness

To answer the question what “Englishness” means leads very difficult way with very uncertain result. Even great writers and speakers always try to avoid the answering. And it is not just the problem of Englishness – it is an explanatory problem of all national

identities. I remember the situation at university class, when the lecturer asked us to define a typical Czech person and Czech national identity. It was a huge problem for nearly 20 university students (who I suppose are educated and intelligent people). English national character can be described as being tolerant, love democracy and having the special kind of humour. But it is not enough. The idea is to feel like an Englishman – be part of the nation and not just live in it. The same answer can be applied on every world nation.

Malcolm (2013, p. 157) adds these characteristics: *“independence, honesty, restraint, self-discipline and pragmatism.”*

Cricket

Every nation has a set of characteristics, which are broadly known by basically educated people. Germans have football, beer and organization. Russians are good gymnasts, drink vodka and want to rule the world. Americans play baseball, eat fast food and produce amazing musicals and TV series. But what about England? It is easy to mention fish and chips as a representative of food, cider and tea for drinks, monarchy and royal family for the most known facts. English sports are more difficult to choose just one – would it be soccer, rugby, polo or cricket? Dominic Malcolm (2013, p.1) has a clear idea that the correct answer is cricket. He says that *“Cricket is seen as the quintessential English game but also the sport, par excellence, of the British Empire.”* He proves his statement later, when he links to the already mentioned Love’s poem *Cricket: an heroic poem* from 1740. The poem is about British game and shows its influence on European culture. The same opinion has John Mitford (1833/1948, p.122) when he contrasts cricket, *“the pride and the privilege of the Englishman alone”, with pastimes specific to the French (tennis), Swiss (shooting), Italians (“ballone”) and Dutch (skating).”* He finishes with the statement that *“a Frenchman or a German would not know which end of the bat to hold.”*

Cricket has very deep connection with the Englishness. It is mainly because they share a long history. As the British Empire spread, it took cricket with itself. Cricket or more precisely English culture was taken to every place that was colonized by the British Empire. It had one simple reason – there was a need to convince and force the natives to accept English culture. Cricket was one of the best colonisation tools. Colonies were educated on British masculinity on the examples of true cricketer who plays the game in the right spirit.

Cricket in these times was nearly puritan and it showed the unimportance of time – several-day-long games indicated that there was no rush in any situation. Normally it does not continue until nowadays, but there are still the tea breaks. Even though cricket was a tool to push another country into the English one, it miraculously changed the culture and became gradually multicultural sport.

English Gentleman

It is necessary to start this chapter with the distinction of two usual meanings of English gentleman.

The first meaning refers to the royal, noble and chivalric titles. Gentleman there stands on the bottom line. It is the lowest possible rank in England.

The second meaning is more abstract. The Oxford English Dictionary describes it as following:

1. *A chivalrous, courteous, or honourable man.*

A man of good social position, especially one of wealth and leisure.

A man of noble birth attached to a royal household.

2. *A polite or formal way of referring to a man.*

Used as a courteous title for a male fellow member of the House of Commons or the House of Representatives.

(Dictionaries, 2017)

The definition of him can be separated into several categories as were suggested by David Gandy (2013).

Style and appearance – there is no strict definition or rule how an English gentleman should be dressed like. Above all, the saying “You can buy fashion, but you cannot buy style” is still valid. The key is in proper clothing for every single situation. Even a man dressed in jeans and T-shirt can still evoke the impression of a gentleman. As far as he behaves well and appropriately to the situation.

Working effort – a true gentleman never gives up. His questions should not be “Why it does not work?” but rather “How can I make it work?”. He is always respectful towards his colleagues and does not hesitate with helping and giving advice. Though he does not

feel that he knows everything the best and does not force someone his attitudes and opinions.

Travel – every gentleman knows that travelling is a way to knowledge. Discovering new cultures, places and world can always bring him a lot of experience, sincerity and other benefits.

Modesty – he never shows up his wealth. He never boasts. He believes that successful life cannot be estimated by the bank account but by the actions and reputation.

Helpfulness and supportiveness – he never hesitates to help others and never asks something in return. He inspires others to do the same.

Non-success – failure is not the end of the world for a true gentleman. He knows that every failure is start of the new raise and that it gives him unique experience for the next life. He knows he can fail, but never stays defeated for long. What is more important is that he will never be satisfied with failure or just second place. He believes that only the best position is the correct one. *Per asperam ad astram*.

Proud owner of a back-bone - gentleman always stands for his principles and morals. He never oversteps them. He does not cheat, he does not bribe and he is not afraid to decline people's offers, which he does not like. According to the actor, Paul Newman a man who does not have enemies could not have a character. Gentleman is also never afraid of telling the whole truth – on the other hand he always knows when not to tell the whole part.

Gallantry and nobility – true gentleman in any circumstances does not stop to be a knight. He takes attention to women – holds them doors, helps them with the coat, listens to them attentively. And most importantly when they choose one woman for their life, they are faithful to her forever and ever.

Cricket Gentlemen – examples and stories

On 13th October 2008 during the Second Test match (where played India against Australia) broke Sachin Tendulkar (India) a world record of Test runs and became the highest runner in history. Every Australian player stopped playing and went to congratulate him when it happened.

In 2008, Brett Lee bowled a bad ball towards the Sachin Tendulkar. Even though Tendulkar managed to avoid it and nothing happened, Lee went to Tendulkar and apologized for throwing it. Tendulkar accepted it and they continued the game in the Spirit of Cricket way.

It is also very often to give the career-ending or record-breaking player The Guard of Honour. For example, the English gave it to Brian Lara when he scored 400 runs.

In 1999 was played the Test between India and Pakistan. It took place in Chennai (capital of one Indian state). The background political situation was very difficult because both countries ran nuclear tests and soldiers were infiltrating the borders. In this match, was Sachin Tendulkar injured, but he kept playing until he got out. The rest of the team was not able to successfully finish the match and lost the match. Notwithstanding to the sadness of losing – the Indian supporters waited until the Pakistani players stop celebrating and applauded them.

The most famous photo connected with the gentleman behaviour in cricket is without doubts the one of Lee – Flintoff moment. It happened in Ashes 2005. There played England against Australia. It is still considered as their mutual biggest match ever. England won and the Ashes result was draw at that moment. Andrew Flintoff went to near Brett Lee, got down on his haunches and shook Lee's hand in consolation. Photo of this moment became immediately famous even out of the cricket world. It is a cover of the Max Davidson's book *Winning Isn't Everything*.

Rahul Dravid is recognized as the Gentleman of the Gentlemen's Game. He is a former captain of the Indians national team. All writers, debaters and cricket fans describe him as an embodiment of humbleness, dignity, courtesy and holder of the team spirit.

Ed Smith (2012) from ESPNcricinfo portrays him this way:

Above all, a gentleman is not only courteous, he is also constant: always the same, whatever the circumstances or the company. In that sense, Dravid is a true gentleman. Where many sportsmen flatter to deceive, Dravid runs deep. He is a man

of substance, morally serious and intellectually curious. For all his understatement, he couldn't fail to convey those qualities to anyone who watched him properly.

There are also several immortal quotes about him. Brett Lee said, that if you can't get along with Dravid, you cannot get along with your own life. Navjot Singh Sidhu believes that Dravid is a player who would walk on broken glass if his team asks him to. His team spirit mentions also Harsha Bhogle who says that Dravid is the wolf who lived for the pack.

VVS Laxman, former Indian cricketer and current cricket commentator, is going to be remembered as someone who was always the most amiable person on the ground. Descriptive words often used with his name are graceful, elegant, sublime and majestic.

Glen McGrath (former Australian player) and Rahul Dravid received Sir Don Bradman award. The reasons for this were their input to the game and because they always presented humility, courage and integrity to the team.

W.C.Grace – “the father of the game” or the “beard that was feared”. He is considered the first sport superstar ever. For cricket he is someone as Pele is for soccer or Muhammad Ali for boxing. Any narration about cricket would not be complete without at least slight reference of him. He was one of the most influential things that made cricket the international and second most popular sport in the world. His impact on the cricket culture and culture in general is enormous. One example for all – his picture was used to play God in Mothy Python's *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. The fact that he was a doctor at the same time and never stopped his praxis is just fascinating. His gentlemanly manner included even this field – he had never become part of Players but as a Gentleman was paid even more than other Players. On the other hand he was successful for “forgetting to charge” his poorer patients and never hesitated with help to the weaker ones.

Nowadays cricketers

Kabir Ali (Afghanistan coach) said in 2010 that he believed they played in the Test with US team according to the Spirit of Cricket. He thinks that when his team started to believe in themselves and started to train hard, they started to be successful. It is proven by their results during the 2010 and 2011 season. His dream, which is coming true, is to attract the young players, because he sees the future in it.

Joe Root (current English captain) said in recent interview (Monga, 2015) that *"It's trying to get the balance right between playing hard on the field and not crossing the line, making sure you've got respect for your opposition but still playing to win, and playing hard cricket. That's how you want it to be played. But again, there's a line, you know where it is generally and as long as you don't cross that, that's what it's all about."*

Eoin Morgan (current English captain for one-day matches) is a typical representative of nowadays cricket gentleman. He strives for modest public image under any circumstances. He always answers all questions with a clear conscience and signs all the autographs. He has never been photographed on the wild parties or in some inappropriate situation. He is very independent but still plays for the team. Any problems always tries to solve as his own mistakes. His captaincy mantra is to let the players play their game meanwhile he is covering their backs. Coach assistant Paul Farbrace knows that Eoin does not need to be told about his mistakes, because he already knows about all of them – his honesty, reliability and truthfulness are legendary and without doubts prove him as a true gentleman of the game.

Virat Kohli (current Indian captain) has already been mentioned in the text above. But there is one more little incident proving him a gentleman. In the season 2015 he did not have quite a good form and went through a lot of difficulties. In these times he was dating Anushka Sharma. A very big amount of his fans attributed his poor performance to her. They were attacking her and trolling her on the social media platforms. These attacks continues even long time after their split-up. Virat posted on Instagram a photo with big capital letters saying "SHAME" and under the photo stood for her and tried to persuade his fans to stop attacking her. Such an act of chivalry is very rare nowadays, because publicly known people do not have problems to talk about the split-ups and defame their ex-partners without a hesitation.

We cannot believe that cricket sport is full of never-losing control and chivalrous players. All of them are just human beings as everybody else, they make mistakes, and they make a lot of them. Important fact is that some of them are able to apologize after making it. Specifically we can pay attention to Steve Smith (current Australian captain) who lost control over his emotions this year in March during the Test series against India. After unclear situation he unfairly blamed Murali Vijay of cheating. He apologized for that immediately and publicly in the after match press conference. The next day he even praised Indian team for playing well last day. That can be called a chivalry in praxis.

Cricket in education, fairy tales and children books

Cricket has always been a part of the private school's curriculum across the world. The schools in the past were trying to incorporate the image of Victorian masculinity ideal into the boys. The goal was straightforward – preparation for succeeding in battles and colonisation.

The biggest expansion happened between two world wars. Nearly everybody who was educated at public or grammar school played cricket. In 1926 the Club Cricket Conference (today's ICC) allowed schools to use their grounds. This had a huge impact on the spreading.

Nowadays situation is unfortunately very bad. Cricket nearly vanished from the state schools and survive only at the public ones. It is incomparably harder to keep the tradition. If student play football, all the teachers need are two sets of shirts, ball, whistle and two goals (can be made out of shoes, bottles, jumpers,...). In comparison playing cricket is not so easy. Public schools have advantage, because they have a very long tradition and so they are well-equipped for cricket game. They also offer some talented students scholarships.

The Daily Telegraph (Paton, 2010) published research that shows a horrible situation for cricket at schools. Only one third of them offers cricket as a PE possibility or after-class sport. He sees the problem in falling-apart school grounds, no money and rising amount of load on pupils.

It is now on the public schools to find and look after the new talents (for example in 2016 in the Test against South Africa were all members of the team educated on public schools – not even one was from the state school).

It is indeed a strange situation, because I have a friend in Tonbridge in Kent where, by accident, is a state school with seven school cricket pitches which are known as the best in England – and it is a state school. But why? As I mentioned previously in the text, the problem of state schools are that they do not have money for difficult and expensive maintenance of the cricket pitches, but in the opposite stands this school which has seven pitches for one small town. The reasons can be capable management of schools or the ability to get the money from sponsorships. So what to do with it?

Once the most popular sport has been pushed outside the range of popularity and playability.

E. Gerald French (1960, p. 11) concludes qualities which the cricketer foster while playing the game – these are courage, generosity, unselfishness, resolution, restraint, friendliness, sportsmanship, fortitude, fair-mindedness, and many others.

Duncan Fletcher definitely agrees with him because he asserts the principle that children repeat the behaviour they see. Therefore, he definitely does not want them to watch the overstepping the Spirit of Cricket and cheating.

Finally, this confirms also Eoin Morgan who does not remember being taught about the Spirit of Cricket in his childhood. Nevertheless, he watched the adults play cricket and picked it up.

Hand in hand with the culture go the fairy tales or children's books. There are numerous books about cricket or mentioning cricket. MCC library obtains one full shelf of them and I am convinced that it not all by far. These books are perfect for educational purposes – the archetypical hero (e.g. captain) is illustrating the perfect combination of Muscular Christianity and athleticism. The heroes usually try to play their best, battle against the odds and they symbolically carry the winning captain on their shoulders around the school pitch. I should definitely mention the books such as *Baxter's Second Innings* or *The Willoghby Captains*.

Marianne Carus has been publishing children's magazine *Cricket* in the USA since 1973. Her first intention was to create a magazine for children similar to *New Yorker* for adults. The magazine is dedicated to children between 9 and 14 years.

Conclusion

In my bachelor thesis, I described the cricket, the cricketers, the gentlemen and the connections between these terms. My aim was to find the answer for the question whether there is the straight connection or not. Another aim was to explain another terms (muscular Christianity, rational recreation, The Spirit of Cricket and Englishness) which come along with this topic.

I started with description of cricket as a game and then I shortly summarized cricket's history. I integrated there also the description of The Spirit of Cricket, because it is its inseparable part. I closed this part with pointing out on several influential references which cricket has on culture.

Next part introduced the cricketer – his characteristics, behaviour and other issues such as clothing or good manners. There was also described typical English gentleman and I tried to compare these two personalities and find the connections. Important is also delineation of Englishness and its mutual influence with cricket. In this part were also included the links to the children literature involving cricketers as a representatives of good manners and gentleman behaviour. With this on my mind, I also added a small polemic about the education.

In the last part I showed several proving examples that cricketer can still be considered as a typical English gentleman – Rahul Dravid, VVS Laxman or Flintoff-Lee moment.

When taking in account of all the presented facts I can clearly declare that the cricketer CAN still be considered as an archetype of the gentleman or English man as the case may be. Of course there is an inevitable rising tendency of cricket professionalization – but where is not? The important is, that the local clubs and free time players will still behave under the rules and the Spirit of Cricket – because this is the only way how to enjoy the true and pure quality of cricket game.

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Czech Summary

Cílem této bakalářské práce bylo najít odpověď na otázku, zda může být hráč kriketu stále ještě považován za předobraz anglického džentlmena, či nikoliv.

V první části jsem detailně popsala jednotlivé aspekty kriketu jako hry. Představila jsem v krátkosti základní herní principy, varianty hry a historii vývoje kriketu. Do této části jsem také zapracovala popis takzvaného Ducha kriketu, který částečně doplňuje a částečně morálně převyšuje daná pravidla kriketové hry.

V další části jsem se věnovala výhradně popisu hráče kriketu. Popsala jsem jak jeho požadované vzezření, tak jeho osobní charakteristiky, které úzce souvisejí s tématem mé bakalářské práce. V této části musely být také zmíněny termíny jako „Muscular Christianity a Rational Recreation“, které v 19. století představovaly ideály mužství a džentlmenství. Kriket jako takový pomáhal jejich myšlenky šířit a na druhou stranu tyto ideály pomáhaly budovat kriketu jeho popularitu. Následuje porovnání, jak se kriket vyvíjel společně s vývojem Britského Impéria a jak ovlivňoval anglickou národní identitu. Také velmi dopomáhal kolonizačním snahám.

V poslední části jsem uvedla charakteristiku anglického džentlmena a tyto vlastnosti jsem potom aplikovala na hráče kriketu.

V závěru jsem uvedla, jak kriket ovlivňoval dětskou literaturu a jakým způsobem je vedena kriketová výuka v současném vzdělávání.