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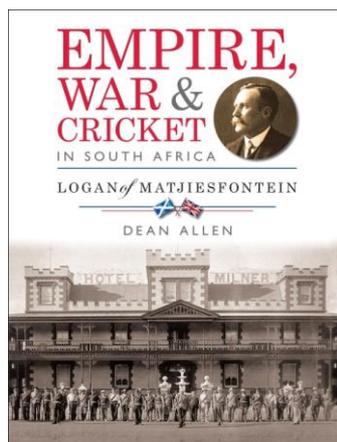


PRESS RELEASE

EMPIRE, WAR & CRICKET IN SOUTH AFRICA

by DEAN ALLEN

Published in UK, 15 October, £18.99



In 1877, a young Scotsman, James Douglas Logan, emigrated to South Africa. Within a few years he had made a fortune through business, politics and his high-profile association with that most favoured of imperial pastimes - cricket.

Empire, War & Cricket in South Africa is the fascinating story of how Logan, the son of a Borders railwayman, went to South Africa, aged 19, and became instrumental in the development of cricket in the country. Despite being an untalented player himself, Logan saw cricket, a game that symbolised the British Empire, as a means of social elevation within colonial society, and set about using his newly-acquired wealth to finance it, and achieve personal advancement.

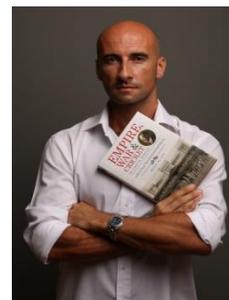
Set during a time when the country was heading towards war with the British Empire, the book explains how Logan was instrumental in arranging some of the first-ever international matches between England and South Africa, hosting a number of these at Matjiesfontein, a town he founded. Now a popular tourist destination, 150 miles outside Cape Town, it was then a fashionable health resort attracting the rich and famous, including the England and Surrey all-rounder, George Lohmann, widely regarded as the finest cricketer of his generation, who Logan took under his wing.

Allen reveals how Logan was responsible for organising the controversial 1901 South African cricket tour to England in the midst of the Anglo-Boer War, and how writer Arthur Conan Doyle was among those who declared his opposition to the timing. He also shows how the tour cemented Logan's status among the game's aristocracy and social elite.

Empire, War & Cricket in South Africa uncovers the close relationship between Logan and Cecil Rhodes, and how their 'shady dealings' brought down the South African Premier's first government; and reveals how Logan once had the captain and manager of England's cricket team arrested as they left the country!

Illustrated throughout with rare photographs and documents, some never before published, **Empire, War & Cricket in South Africa**, is both an insight into the social and political history of the British Empire in South Africa, and an entertaining biography of James Logan and his role in cricket's origins in the country.

About the Author: Dean Allen was born and raised in Somerset and now teaches sports history at Bournemouth University. His association with South Africa began in the 1990s and developed further during his postgraduate studies at Stellenbosch University. He has since taught at leading universities in South Africa, Australia, Northern Ireland and England. **Empire, War and Cricket in South Africa** is his first book. He is available for interviews and speaking events. www.deanallen.co.za



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