

BATS & BELTERS

Charles Wood

Towards the close of the 1970s Somerset cricket has nothing in the trophy cabinet. But stars Beefy, Big Bird and Smokey might help change this. Supporters are hopeful. None more so than those of Snickworthy, a rural backwater, with the Belters, the village cricket team of hapless eccentrics, undeterred despite tribulations.

A hunky punk calamity and the mystery of the brown fedora meld with accusations of kidnap and playing curling with a tortoise on an away weekend at Lord's. Not to mention the match to decide the futures of a gurt, pet pig and a shaggy, blind bull. But top of the order is the question of whether Lady Rosemary's 'accident' was actually murder.

As events collide camaraderie is shaken to the core by the cricket-loathing, saddle-loving Margie, a very resourceful young lady. The arrival of Henry, an unlikely cravat wearing 'furriner' with a guide to self-sufficiency, makes for a whole stinky kit bag of kerfuffle as the Belters struggle to survive.

This riotous novel by a doyen amongst West Country cricket writers Charles Wood will delight all lovers of the glorious summer game.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

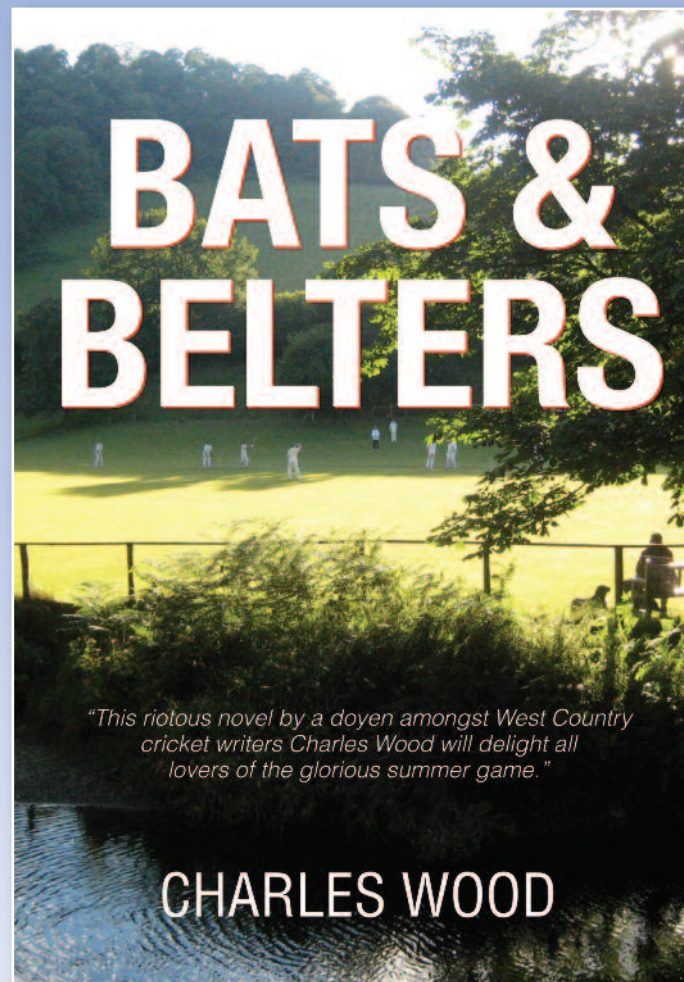
Charles Wood gave up the legal profession, and the stress of work in Libya and Hong Kong, yearning for the artistic life. For the past twenty years he has just about managed to avoid wearing a tie to work or getting grubby. Instead, he has preferred to eke out an existence in the Somerset custom of self-employment. In recent years he has written more than eight books on Somerset and cricket themes whilst also finding time to be a documentary filmmaker, an occasional broadcaster on

BBC local radio, an illustrator, a writer of fairy tales, and a part-time college lecturer. He admits to an enjoyment of poddling through the lighter side of life's rich tapestry, relieved that he has never been bankrupt. He lives in the West Country.

**For a full listing of all Halsgrove titles,
please visit our website at www.halsgrove.com**

The Halsgrove Group includes DAA Halsgrove Ltd., Halsgrove Ltd. & Halstar Ltd.
Registered in England & Wales Nos. 4136732, 6029724 & 6472636 at Halsgrove House, Wellington TA21 9PZ.
Imprints: Halsgrove, Ryelands, Halstar, PiXZ Books & Halswood Journals. Halsgrove® is a registered trademark. Copyright© 2014

HALSGROVE TITLE INFORMATION



Format: *Hardback with a 4-colour jacket*
160 pages, 210x148mm

Price: *£12.99*

ISBN: *978 0 85704 248 4*

Imprint: *Halsgrove*

Published: *October 2014*



Halsgrove Publishing, Halsgrove House, Ryelands Business Park, Bagley Road,
Wellington, Somerset TA21 9PZ Tel: 01823 653777 Fax: 01823 216796
www.halsgrove.com e-mail: sales@halsgrove.com