

NEWSLETTER 279 - FEBRUARY 2008

SHAUN UDAL

The Society is very pleased to announce that Shaun Udal has agreed to become its Patron. He fills the vacancy left by the death of Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie in 2006.

Shaun has been a whole-hearted and wonderful supporter of the Society over the years and accepted his invitation in the most gracious of letters.

The Society is fortunate that during its thirty-one year history, three former Hampshire Captains have served as Patron. Besides Ingleby-Mackenzie, Shaun's other predecessor was Desmond Eagar, who was, of course, the first speaker to address the Society.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 5 MARCH 2008

Notice of the 31st Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held on **WEDNESDAY 5 MARCH** at Test Valley Golf Club at 7.30pm

Any resolutions and nominations for office on the Committee, duly proposed and seconded, should reach the Hon. Secretary at 1 Abbot Close, Basingstoke. RG22 6LA, by 20 February 2008.

Please accept the above as formal notice.

TWO MEN WHO CHANGED THE GAME

Men who have genuinely changed the game of cricket have been very few. Grace, Bosanquet, Bradman, Bland, Saqlain (who perfected the off-spinner's googly – the doosra) and Muralitharan. There may be others but the list is a short one. Two men also not mentioned above, but who must be included, retired from the international scene this winter.

Sanhat Jayasuriya was a smiling assassin who revolutionised the role of the opening batsman in one-day cricket. Small, quick on his feet and with the eye of a bird, he reduced opening bowling attacks to quivering wrecks as he launched his whirlwind furious assaults. He personified the pitch hitter. Anything short was cut or pulled savagely; if the ball was pitched up it was driven resoundingly; good length bowling was despatched anywhere as he hit the ball on the up. He was never afraid to go the aerial route. He was slightly more sober in the Test arena, but in his very last innings hit six fours in an over. He set the standards for others to follow. Every country sought an opener to emulate him. Nobody did, except

Adam Gilchrist. This man was simply phenomenal. He has claims to be the most exciting batsman ever to play the game. He seemed to hit the ground running in every innings he played, irrespective of the type of match. His scoring rate of 82 (per 100 balls) has never been approached in Test cricket – not even by the fabled Jessop; his

scoring rate of 96 in ODIs beggars belief. He brought the village green to international cricket. All grounds in the world looked impossibly small when he was in full cry. He possessed the unique ability to change a game in a couple of overs – he did not need the clichéd half an hour. Only in England in 2005 was he tamed. He leaves the game with having scored Test cricket's fastest ever double century (Johannesburg 2002) and the Ashes' quickest hundred (at Perth 2006).

The left-handed Jayasuriya and Gilchrist, who both originated from cricketing backwaters in their own countries, were performers to cherish. Neither were one-dimensional. The former was a useful slow left-arm bowler, particularly on a dusty pitch. Gilchrist finished his career with a world record number of wicket-keeping dismissals.

Shall we see their like again? For those who have relished them, woken up in the middle of the night to watch them bat, have enjoyed the sheer joie-de-vie of their strokeplay – even at England's expense (as seemed invariably to be the case), the question is rhetorical. Cricket's elite has no better role models. They always behaved impeccably, and with dignity.

MEETINGS

Wednesday 6 February 2008 – Meeting

Tonight's speaker, Tim Munton, was one of the most respected of all County bowlers during his playing career. His height (6 foot 6 inches) and naggingly accurate right-arm fast-medium bowling were a byword. Warwickshire reaped the benefits of these assets during their Championship winning summers of 1994 and 1995. They also won the Benson and Hedges Cup and Sunday League in the former year – thus becoming the only County to win three major trophies in a season – and the Nat. West Trophy in the following summer.

Mark Nicholas, writing in *The Cricketer*, delivered this fulsome tribute of his performances in 1994:-

The universally admired Munton is the flagship for their (Warwickshire's) selfless cricket. Always a thoroughbred bowler, always a tough but fair competitor, Munton developed his bowling to include a late out-swing, a straighter line and a full more telling length. He took loads of wickets, was no less economical than previously and happily, often crucially, was prepared to bowl all day. Above all, he led the team in (Dermot) Reeve's absence and did so with such ease and with such a following that the boys insisted that it was he who lifted the Championship Trophy.

TIMOTHY ALAN MUNTON was born in Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire on 30 July 1965. He went to school in the County but, he was rejected by the Foxes at the outset of his career. David Brown signed him for Warwickshire and, under the tutelage of Bob Cottam, he developed rapidly. After playing in one match in 1985, he quickly became a regular wicket-taker. By 1989, when he received his cap, he was prolific (59 wickets) and season's fruits of 78 and 73 wickets in the following

seasons propelled him into the England team in two Tests against Pakistan in 1992. His debut was at Old Trafford, which was never his favourite ground. He bowled, though, economically in a drawn encounter and was retained for the next Test at Headingley, when England played four pace bowlers. Though he took three wickets as England recorded a six wicket victory, he never played Test cricket again.

In his annus mirabilis of 1994, he took 81 wickets (avge. 21.58) and with Reeve injured and out of form, he led his County in nine matches; they secured victories in all but one as Warwickshire stormed to the title. His efforts were more noteworthy in that Allan Donald was away with the touring South Africa side to England that summer. He was aptly rewarded with his nomination of one of Wisden's Cricketers of the Year.

Though suffering injuries, he was even more penetrative in 1995. His haul of 48 wickets at an average of 19.56 was only bettered by the great South African fast bowler.

He continued to suffer from injuries for the remainder of his career. He missed the whole of the 1997 season when ironically he had been appointed captain, but returned strongly in the next two summers, his wickets – 37 and 52 respectively – costing just 19 runs each.

To the outside world it came as a surprise when he asked to leave the County, to which he had contributed so much, at the end of the 1999 season. He joined Derbyshire in 2000, and played for them for two years before yet another injury terminated his career. He had taken 737 wickets (avge. 25.86) in first-class cricket and a further 280 in List A one-day matches. He therefore derived the satisfaction of attaining the 1000 wicket landmark. His best bowling figures were 8 for 89 (11-128 Match) for Warwickshire against Middlesex at Edgbaston in 1991.

He made three England A tours to Pakistan (twice) and Sri Lanka, all before Warwickshire embarked on their run of success.

The respect which our speaker commanded helped him to find positions in the game in his post-playing days. The ECB Disciplinary Panel and Professional Cricketers' Association have both benefited from the leadership skills he displayed in 1994.

The Society extends a very warm welcome to Tim Munton for this evening's meeting.

HAMPSHIRE NEWS

For those who may have missed it, this is a summary of New Year news regarding Hampshire players.

KEVIN PIETERSEN, DIMITRI MASCARENHAS and CHRIS TREMLETT have been selected for England's One Day International (ODI) Squad for the forthcoming tour of New Zealand. For the latter, it is a recall after being omitted from both the Test and ODI squads which toured Sri Lanka before Christmas. By the time of the

February meeting, the first Twenty20 international will have been played under lights at Auckland. The remaining matches are as follows:-

7 February	: 2 nd Twenty20 International	Christchurch
9 February	: 1 st ODI	Wellington
12 February	: 2 nd ODI	Hamilton
15 February	: 3 rd ODI	Auckland
20 February	: 4 th ODI	Napier
23 February	: 5 th ODI	Christchurch

The Christchurch Twenty20 match will be played under lights. With the exception of the match at Napier, all the ODIs will be day/night affairs.

Pietersen has also been included in the Test squad. The three Tests are scheduled to be played at Hamilton, Wellington and Napier between 5 – 26 March. The first day of the series will therefore have been played prior to the Society's March meeting, and will undoubtedly form a topic of conversation for those attending.

If Pietersen plays in that Test, he will join Chris and Robin Smith as the only Hampshire players to appear in Test cricket for England in New Zealand. "Kippy" toured in 1983-84, when the Kiwis won their first ever series against England. He played in five Tests, during which he made a marathon 91 in 459 minutes (396 balls) at Auckland. Earlier in the tour he compiled a determined, and undefeated, 138 against Northern Districts at Hamilton. It still remains the only hundred made by a Hampshire player in an England tour of New Zealand. Strangely, given his good form, he was left out of the debacle at Christchurch, when New Zealand overwhelmed the tourists by an innings and 132 runs. In a side containing Gower, Lamb, Randall, Botham and Gatting, England were skittled out for just 82 and 93. The incomparable Richard Hadlee enjoyed match figures of 8 for 44.

Chris Smith also played in all 3 ODIs on that tour, making a fluent 70 to lay the foundations for his side's victory in the second ODI at Wellington. Interestingly, he bowled 3 overs (for 20) in the final match in Auckland as England tried unsuccessfully to stem Martin Crowe's (105 not out) elegant run flow. However, England had already clinched the series by virtue of that win in the preceding match.

Robin played in all 3 Tests of the 1991-92 tour and, like his brother, fell tantalisingly short of a century. He was dismissed for 96 on his Test debut there at Christchurch. Though he also made 76 in the third Test at Wellington, he struggled to find any consistent form in first-class matches on the tour. He enjoyed better fortunes in the ODIs, with 61 not out at Auckland and 85 at Christchurch.

Gordon Greenidge enjoyed bitter-sweet moments on his first tour of New Zealand in 1979-80. He made 116 on debut (like Chris Smith, it was also against Northern Districts at Hamilton) before scoring 103 in the only ODI at Christchurch. However, New Zealand surprisingly won both that match, and ensuing Test series. The latter was played in the most acrimonious of atmospheres with disputes on umpiring decisions, dissent and on at least one famous occasion, physical assault and intimidation of an umpire. Gordon Greenidge exemplified West Indian frustrations as he fell for 91 and 97, in the second Test, also at Christchurch. He finally made a Test

hundred in that country on his second and final tour in 1986/87. He nailed the target in style with 213 (534 minutes; 384 balls), made out of 418 – 9 declared, at Auckland in 1986/87. This innings included no fewer than 7 sixes.

He then went on to plunder 104 (Auckland) and 133 not out (again at Christchurch) in successive ODIs at the end of the tour. The following summer proved to be his final one with the County.

MICHAEL CARBERRY has been selected for the 13-man England Lions squad to tour India from the end of January. It appears confirmation that he is now in contention for the senior squad. He has some experience of conditions on the sub-Continent following his spell with the Academy there before Christmas and the England A tour of Bangladesh last winter.

SEAN ERVINE has played with some success for Western Australia (WA) in their one-day side. In the Ford Ranger One Day Cup in November, he struck a stirring 134 off 129 balls against South Australia, at Adelaide. Batting at three, he shared a second wicket partnership of 91 with former Bashley star, Luke Ronchi, who many regard as the classiest overseas player ever to play in the Southern League. Ervine has not been included in WA's state side in the Pura Cup. However, that side is studded with local connections, being captained by Adam Voges, late of Bournemouth and who appeared for Hampshire in last summer's Twenty20 competition, Aaron Heal, a left-arm spin bowler who played for Lymington, Ronchi and Chris Rogers. The latter spent a short time with South Wilts in 2005, and made his Test debut in place of the injured Matthew Hayden, at Perth, when India brought to an end Australia's sixteen Test winning sequence. Hayden, incidentally, who of course played for Hampshire in 1997 had played in 86 successive Tests.

Ervine was in the Western Australian side that lost to Victoria by 32 runs in Australia's Twenty20 Final in Perth. Unfortunately, both he and Ronchi failed to score.

Recent press statements would appear to indicate that SHANE WARNE will only be playing for Hampshire for part of the coming season. At the time of writing, Hampshire were in the process of securing another overseas player to replace him. It is known that he wants to play in the World Poker Series in Las Vegas for the duration of Twenty20 competition. The Hampshire Captain has usually given the frenetic Twenty20 format a firm miss having played in only two such matches in four seasons. However, it appears that he will not be playing in the first half of the season.

HCS members will be aware that DIMI MASCARENHAS is going to Bollywood. He has landed a part in the forthcoming film "Victory", an Indian cricketing equivalent of the highly entertaining and award winning "Bend It Like Beckham". He will be joined on set by Sajid Mahmood, Simon Jones, Brett Lee, Allan Border, Mike Hussey, Jason Gillespie and the Indian team. Filming will take place prior to England's tour of New Zealand. McMillan, who played for Hampshire in 2005, was also originally cast, but had to withdraw at the insistence of the Indian Cricket Board after signing to play in the new Indian Cricket League. The latter is a rival to the Board's own Twenty20 League.

Mascarenhas played some club cricket in Australia at the start of January scoring a rapid half-century for his Grade side, Melville.

The recently emigrated ROBIN SMITH played for England in their winning Beach Cricket side in a tripartite festival involving Australia and New Zealand. The competition was played on Scarborough's City Beach, five miles north of Perth. The occasion was one for those who love nostalgia – other participants included Allan Border, Dennis Lillee, Jeff Thomson, Martin Crowe, Richard Hadlee and Graham Gooch.

Robin was watched by brother CHRIS, who now owns a prosperous clothing business in Perth.

SEAN MORRIS, Hampshire's opening batsman from 1992 to 1996 has taken over from Richard Bevan as the Professional Cricketers' Association Group Chief Executive.

BILLY TAYLOR was featured in the February edition of The Wisden Cricketer on his long-standing interest in falconry. Those who saw him in the vicinity of Winchester's cricket grounds last summer noted the presence of a falcon chained to a post near to where the Hampshire fast-medium bowler was watching his two brothers play for Hursley Park. It was also noticeable that no birds ever flew over the ground when the falcon was out in the open! Taylor has a one-day contract with Hampshire next summer.

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