

# THE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

**Patrons: John Woodcock Frank Bailey Shaun Udal**

**NEWSLETTER No. 287 - JANUARY 2009**

## **MEETINGS**

### **Wednesday 7 January 2009 – Meeting**

The Society is pleased to welcome two former Hampshire favourites for a second time this evening. Bob Herman and Richard Lewis first addressed the Society in January 2001 at Portsmouth Rugby Club, giving their audience a splendidly entertaining and memorable evening. It was an occasion spiced with reminiscence and good humour, and left the feeling that they had only touched the tip of the iceberg with their fund of stories.

Our speakers have been friends for well over forty years. They first encountered each other in schoolboy county cricket in 1961. That rivalry then extended to 2<sup>nd</sup> XI matches before they played together for Hampshire, Trojans and Dorset. Bob Herman was Best Man at Richard Lewis' wedding and then assisted the latter with Easter coaching at Charterhouse School.

**ROBERT STEPHEN HERMAN** was born in Southampton on 30 November 1946, but made his first-class debut for Middlesex in 1965. He looked to have established his place two years later when he took 68 wickets (avge. 25.97). However, though capped in 1969, he made only intermittent appearances thereafter. He did, though, leave a mark against Hampshire in 1967 when he bowled Bob Cottam with the last ball of the match at Portsmouth to ensure the County Championship's first tie in eight years. (This match was described in some detail in Newsletter 214).

He joined Hampshire – his father's old County – for the 1972 season and immediately put his trials and tribulations with Middlesex behind him. Tall and broad-shouldered, he responded to the opportunity and challenge presented to him magnificently by taking a career best 81 wickets (avge. 21.66). His success meant that the County had gone some way to compensating for the loss of Bob Cottam (to Northamptonshire) and the retirement of both "Butch" White and Alan Castell at the end of the preceding season. He played in every one of the County's one-day and Championship fixtures. He returned match figures of 9 – 127 to set up a five-wicket victory against his former County at Lord's and then, two games later took a career best 8 – 42 against Worcestershire at Portsmouth. On his return to Burnaby Road later in the season he made his highest score – 56 – in first-class cricket as he and John Rice frustrated the Worcestershire bowlers in a ninth wicket stand of 64. It was in this match that he first teamed up with Tom Mottram and their destruction of the Worcestershire batsmen in the second innings – Hampshire posted an emphatic 9 wicket win – gave a foretaste of what was to follow in

such memorable fashion the following year, though few could have forecast it at the time.

The summer of 1973 was quite simply the most fantastic in Hampshire's history. At the start of the season their bowling was not considered strong enough for the County to mount a serious Championship challenge. Yet they won 10 of their 20 Championship matches, bowling out the opposition in both innings of nine of them. The title was already secured by the time they recorded their final win when they took 19 wickets! Not surprisingly, Hampshire's bowlers captured the most bonus points. The County were also undefeated during their Championship campaign. It was a resounding success and Bob Herman and Tom Mottram were in the thick of it as they took 64 wickets (avge. 25.32) and 57 wickets (avge. 22.00) respectively. In match after match they made early inroads into the opposition batting as they used the new ball to devastating effect. They conceded only one century opening partnership all season.

Our speaker enjoyed an even better season in 1974. This was, of course, the summer that Andy Roberts announced his arrival on the first-class scene as he laid waste to opposition batsmen up and down the country. Bob Herman kept up the pressure at the other end by dismissing 73 batsmen (avge. 19.53). The rain cruelly deprived the County of a second successive Championship. Many recall that the last match against Yorkshire was famously washed out without a ball being bowled. Not so many remember that rain deprived Hampshire of victory in 3 of the 4 previous games, when the eventual winners Worcestershire largely managed to avoid it. Hampshire had inflicted a crushing innings defeat on them just prior to the weather imposing its malign and ultimately crucial influence.

Despite being a regular member of Hampshire's title winning John Player League side of 1975, the summers between 1972 and 1974 were the summit of Bob Herman's career. But what memorable seasons they were! He inexplicably started to suffer from the equivalent of the golfer's "yips" and he played his last match for the County in 1977. He played in 89 matches for Hampshire, taking 270 wickets (avge. 25.06). In all first-class cricket his figures were 189 matches, 506 wickets (avge. 26.37).

After he left Hampshire he played Minor County cricket for Dorset for two years, before returning to the first-class game as an umpire between 1980-82. He also played club cricket for many years for Sarisbury Green where he became a feared batsman with a penchant for hitting sixes and making runs at a furious pace. His was a much-prized wicket for opposition bowlers.

**RICHARD VICTOR LEWIS** was the son of a Winchester sporting legend. His father dominated a number of sports in the area for many years in the post-war period. Born in the ancient capital of England on 6 August 1947 and educated at Peter Symonds School he had, for most of his career, the most unenviable task in county cricket. He was the understudy to three of the greatest opening batsmen the world has ever seen in Roy Marshall, Barry Richards and Gordon Greenidge.

Blond-haired, and an attractive strokemaker, he made his first-class debut against Oxford University at Bournemouth in 1967 scoring 23 and adding 53 for the first wicket with Barry Reed. The Hampshire Handbook commented that he “played promisingly”. He had to wait a year for his next appearance which was also against the Light Blues – this time in The Parks. He grabbed his opportunity by scoring 114 in the second innings. He was retained for the next match, making 51 on a spin receptive wicket at Bath. He struggled thereafter as he often fell prey to experienced seam bowlers. He was a fringe player for the next few seasons and it was not until 1972 that he started to make headway as he scored 623 runs (avge. 28.36). It was to remain his most successful season. However, it should be mentioned that throughout his career, he was always “on trial” by dint of being, effectively, 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> man in a very strong squad. He always attracted the plaudits with his brilliant fielding, particularly in the deep. He scored a splendid 98 against the West Indians in the following season when he appeared in 15 of Hampshire’s 22 matches in their Championship season. Our speaker’s second century was a sparkling affair. Standing in for the injured Richards, he stroked 136 at Bristol in 1974. He also played valuable innings in the County’s John Player League success in 1975.

He left Hampshire in 1976 having played in 105 matches, scoring 3471 runs (avge. 19.72).

## **SOCIETY NEWS**

### **CHANGE OF SPEAKER FOR THE FEBRUARY MEETING**

Unfortunately, Ian Henderson is indisposed for the February meeting. Please view the Society’s website for details of a replacement speaker.  
(<http://hcs.cricketarchive.co.uk>)

### **FATHERS AND SONS TO ADDRESS THE SOCIETY**

Bob Herman’s father – O.W. “Lofty” – addressed the Society at its Annual Buffet Supper in December 1981.

Other father/son combinations to do likewise have been Maurice and Tim Tremlett (on the same evening at the Wessex Hotel, Winchester. in October 1981). Chris Tremlett was born a month earlier and he eventually accompanied his father to our meeting at this evening’s venue in November 2003. Tim also visited us in January 1982 when he was part of a Hampshire CCC quiz team (other members were Keith Stevenson and Paul Terry) and September 1993; he has therefore addressed the Society in three different decades – the only speaker to do so.

Jim and Bob Parks are the other father/son to visit the Society. Bob spoke at the Annual Buffet Supper at Basingstoke Sports Centre in December 1982

and then again at Portsmouth Rugby Club in October 1992. Father Jim addressed the Society at the same venue in February 1990.

### **DOMINIC GERALD CORK**

Born:- Newcastle-under-Lyne, Staffordshire 7 August 1971

Educated:- St. Joseph's College, Stoke on Trent and Newcastle College of Further Education

Right-hand batsman

Right-arm fast-medium bowler

#### **Career Milestones**

- 1989 Debut for Staffordshire in Minor Counties Championship (also plays in 1990)  
Debut for England Young Cricketers (v. New Zealand Y.C. at
- 1990 Tours Australia with England Young Cricketers (opponents include Damien Martyn and Justin Langer. His contemporaries include John Crawley, Matthew Keech and Darren Gough). Scores 110 for England Y.C. v. Pakistan Y.C. at Taunton; opens bowling with Gough in the same match.  
Makes Derbyshire debut and takes a wicket in his first over (v. New Zealanders).
- 1991 Takes 8 for 53 v. Essex at Derby on his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday, all of the wickets falling before lunch. Dismisses 57 batsmen (avge. 25.61) in his first full season.
- 1991 – 92 Tours West Indies with England A.
- 1992 Makes international debut in Texaco Trophy v. Pakistan at Old Trafford. Goes on to play in 32 such matches until 2002/03, scoring 180 runs (avge. 10.00), taking 41 wickets (avge. 33.36) and holding 6 catches.
- 1992 – 93 Tours Australia with England A.
- 1993 Awarded county cap  
Man of the match as Derbyshire defeat Lancashire in the Benson and Hedges Cup Final, having scored 92 not out, which remains his highest score against a first-class County in limited overs matches.  
Maiden first-class century – 104 v. Gloucestershire at Cheltenham, batting for much of the innings with a hamstring injury which prevented him from bowling later on. Added 302 with John Morris (229), a record fifth wicket partnership for Derbyshire.

- 1993 – 94 Toured South Africa with England A
- 1994 Performs hat-trick v. Kent at Derby
- 1994 – 95 Toured India with England A
- 1995 His annus mirabilis. Test debut v. West Indies at Lord's, during which he takes 7 for 43, a record England analysis by a debutant. After 4 for 69 in his second Test at Edgbaston, he then performs the hat-trick in the next at Old Trafford – the first such occurrence in the opening over of a day's play. He also scored 56 not out in England's first innings in that Test. Ended the series with 26 wickets (avge.25.42).  
Took a season's best 90 wickets, which included a career best 9 for 43 (113-93 Match) v. Northamptonshire at Derby. A dropped catch deprived him of an all-ten.  
One of Wisden's Cricketers of the Year, and PCA Player of the Year.
- 1995 – 96 Toured South Africa. Takes most wickets in the Tests for England (19), including 5 for 84 and 4 for 78 in "Atherton's Match" at Johannesburg, and on the tour (29).  
Plays in the World Cup, hosted by India and Pakistan.
- 1996 Played in all 6 Tests v. India and Pakistan, taking 5 for 113 v. the latter at Headingley. Features in Derbyshire's record eighth wicket stand of 198 with Kark Krikken.
- 1996 – 97 Toured New Zealand. Experienced a difficult time as his marriage was failing. However, improved as the tour progressed, and hit the winning run in the final Test, seeing England to victory in partnership with John Crawley. Made his highest Test score – 59 at Auckland.
- 1997 Sustains a groin injury and misses much of the season, including the Ashes series. Omitted from the ensuing winter tour of the West Indies.
- 1998 Leads Derbyshire to Nat. West Trophy Final at Lord's but opponents, Lancashire, win by 9 wickets. Regains England place in Test v. South Africa, taking 5 for 93 at Edgbaston and 6 for 119 at Lord's. Selected for winter tour of Australia, in which he appears in first two Tests.
- 1999 Missed the 1999 World Cup with an injured wrist. Earns praise for his captaincy of Derbyshire, who finish, 9<sup>th</sup> in the Championship, but not selected for Test series v. New Zealand or winter tour of South Africa.

- 2000 Makes 200 not out – his highest career score v. Durham at Derby sharing a County record seventh-wicket stand of 258 with Matthew Dowman in the process. Derbyshire relegated in their only season in the First Division of the Championship; Cork was only available for 10 matches.  
Recalled to Test side for Lord's Test against West Indies, in which he takes 4 for 39 and 3 for 13 and steers England to a two wicket victory with a fine unbeaten innings of 33. Heads series bowling averages with 20 wickets (avge. 12.25)  
Returns home from Pakistan tour with a stress fracture of the back, and is ordered to rest for the remainder of the winter.
- 2001 Benefit Year – played in two Tests v. Pakistan, and in second Test v. Australia, but then loses all-rounders' place to Craig White. Makes only seven appearances during the season due to a hamstring injury.
- 2002 Plays in three Tests and makes final appearance at the highest level v. India at The Oval. Final Test record is:- 37 Tests; 131 wickets (avge. 29.81);864 runs (avge.18.00) and 18 catches. Takes 64 wickets (avge. 18.90), including match figures of 10 – 236 against Durham at Derby. Last one-day international v. India at Colombo in ICC Champions Trophy.
- 2003 Takes 50 wickets (avge. 27.26), including 10 – 67 v. Hampshire at The Rose Bowl. However, deposed as Captain, he decides to leave Derbyshire for Lancashire at the end of the season.
- 2004 Lancashire cap  
Confirms his affinity with Lord's by taking 7 for 120 v. Middlesex.
- 2006 Durham suffer at his hands once more as he records 154 against them at Old Trafford, one of three centuries he makes for Lancashire.
- 2008 Contract is not renewed by Lancashire, who wish to give priority to younger players. Signs for Hampshire on a two-year contract from 2009.

Of Dominic Cork's 37 Tests, no fewer than 27 were played in England. Lord's was undoubtedly his most productive ground. He featured in 10 Tests there, claiming 36 wickets (27% of his total haul) at an average of 23.58.

His career record in first-class cricket to date reads 9127 runs (avge. 25.14), 895 wickets (avge. 26.62) and 205 catches.

### VALUES

For virtually the whole of 2008, the major cricket talking point has been about the growth of Twenty20 and the impact of the game around the world and its

finances. Whilst the rhetoric gave assurances about the primacy of Test cricket, the intensity of the debate suggested otherwise.

The Indian-Australian Test series, India's momentous run chase in Chennai and the no less monumental South African one in Perth rightly returned the game at the highest level to centre stage. The matches showed that the ebb and flow of fortunes over five days is unique and, for the cricket purist, far more satisfying to watch. Also, in all these matches, it was the players and not any manoeuvrings behind the scenes by the game's managers that mattered. For once, all the attention concerned on field events.

After the horrific-and sinister-events in Mumbai the England team were rightly applauded to returning to India for the two match Test series. Kevin Pietersen must take enormous credit for his leadership on that count. For the first three and a half days his team were surprisingly in the box seat at Chennai, but then Virender Sehwag's fireworks (was this innings the greatest cameo in Test history?) and the more considered effort by Sachin Tendulkar, aided by a deferential Yuvraj Singh, took India to a wonderful victory. They may have been aided by field placings which saved neither a single or a boundary, but it was a truly great effort. For Tendulkar – despite having scored forty previous Test centuries – he finally recorded a hundred in a successful run chase. And, of course, he is Mumbai's – and indeed - India's favourite son. No man, not even Bradman, has ever played under so much pressure. Every time he walks to the crease the eyes of a billion people are upon him, and their wellbeing is often dependent upon his fortunes.

The Indian series saw the departure of Sourav Ganguly from the Test arena. Indisputably India's greatest Test captain, he instilled a hardness of approach in the nation's cricket. He got under the skin of many of his rivals and looked them in the eye without blinking or giving ground. There is little doubt that the catalyst for India's world standing – they, with South Africa, are now closing in fast on Australia in the official rankings – was his leadership. His batting was also easy on the eye. The elegance of his cover driving and his cutting and pulling were iridescent. He was the first of the great Indian quintet (we must include Sehwag as well Dravid, Tendulkar, Laxman) of the current era to leave the scene. Has any country ever been simultaneously blessed with five such alluring and productive strokemakers?

The India series and South Africa's victory in Perth suggest that Australia, on current form, is probably now the third best side in the world. The slide started in the Spring of last year in the West Indies when they started to experience difficulties in dismissing weak opponents twice. It continued in India, where they were well beaten. The home defeat at Perth confirmed that their all-conquering days are now over. The latter match will have created a seismic shock for the nation as a whole as they will finally have to come to terms with life after Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne. The bowling attack is now virtually in the sole hands of Mitchell Johnson, but he desperately needs support – and fast. For all his enthusiasm and pace, Brett Lee has never been a match winner. In addition, the top order looks increasingly fragile. But for runs scored by Australia's tail enders, South Africa would have defeated

them with embarrassing ease. Matthew Hayden seems to be reaching the end of the line. Their most consistent performer has been Simon Katich, who is increasingly transforming himself from ugly duckling to swan. Brad Haddin also looks a batsman and wicket-keeper of very high quality.

South Africa is now almost at the level of performance of their side leading up to 1970, the year of their isolation from international cricket. A.B.de Villiers has given notice that he is a world-class performer. He has a superb temperament, a wide variety of shots, and is a quite brilliant fielder. With the flaws in his technique resolved, Hashim Amla also looks one for the future. There is a calmness and serenity in his demeanour that suggests he is about to take giant strides forward. It also seems inevitable that he will captain the side in the future. In the meantime, Graeme Smith just goes from strength to strength; he is on the verge of greatness.

As for England, Andrew Strauss' renaissance at Chennai was rightly warmly received. Alistair Cook will surely remain for years to come. However, as a whole, the batting is maddeningly inconsistent. Unfortunately, Samit Patel apart, a study of last season's averages shows there are no alternatives to the current incumbents. Andrew Flintoff apart, the bowling is threadbare. It must be hoped that Stuart Broad makes a crucial leap forward. Graeme Swann's loop and flight were more threatening than Monty Panesar's. The latter looks as if he requires a mentor to take his game forward. Next year's Ashes series will be effectively for third and fourth place in the world rankings. Both sides are currently weak in bowling; who will score the most runs?

The fixture list for next season is undoubtedly the most lop-sided ever, with week upon week being solely set aside for limited overs cricket. The Championship will effectively comprise three separate chapters, making it difficult for any team to gain sustained momentum.

The clamour for franchises in the English game refuses to die down. Many will see it as the thin end of a very long wedge which will eventually result in the demise of the traditional county game and leave thousands of cricket followers disenfranchised. Social commentators are more and more optimistic that the current economic recession will lead to a re-establishment of society and community values. Given the withdrawal of sponsors from a number of sports, including cricket and even Formula 1 racing, it is difficult to envisage any substantive franchises emerging in the county game. Even the downturn in the Indian economy will have an impact on the Indian Premier League, though, vis-à-vis the rest of world cricket, it will continue to retain its financial power. The emphasis must be on the BCCI using that power responsibly. As for the English game, the recession may yet mean that traditional values will be preserved.

Happy New Year!

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