

THE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Frank Bailey Shaun Udal

NEWSLETTER No. 288 – FEBRUARY 2009

MEETINGS

Wednesday 11 February 2009 – Meeting

The Society is delighted to welcome back **ALLAN STUTTARD** to this evening's meeting. He previously addressed the Society at Portsmouth Rugby Club in October 1998. On that occasion, he captivated his audience with his informed account of Lancashire League cricket, especially during the Golden Age of the 1950s and 1960s, when the most famous names in the world of cricket came to ply their trade in the two Leagues.

Our speaker enjoyed a 46 year playing career in the Lancashire League, first with Todmorden, birthplace of the immortal Derek Shackleton, and then with nearby Walsden. He is now Cricket Chairman of Walsden Cricket and Bowling Club and President of the Central Lancashire League – quite an honour for a Yorkshireman! He was clearly an outstanding cricketer in his playing days, once hitting Gary Sobers for two sixes in an over.

He is now an acclaimed After Dinner Speaker. Besides cricket, his other subject is Industrial Archaeology.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2009

Please accept formal notice of the 32nd Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held on **WEDNESDAY 11 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 24 February 2009.

Wednesday 12 November 2008 – Report

John Crawley, Hampshire's 2008 Beneficiary, was in reflective mood in his address to Society members at Test Valley Golf Club. He felt he had been lucky throughout life and was thankful for his upbringing and support of his parents.

He recalled his early years in the game at Warrington Cricket Club, Manchester Grammar School and Cambridge University, where he enjoyed the best three years of his life. He then moved on to his years with Lancashire which incorporated six Lord's finals. Rain had also deprived the County of two Championships. He also recollected the massive on and off field contributions of those two great overseas players, Wasim Akram and

Muttiah Muralitharan. He enjoyed over a decade at Old Trafford but a breakdown in trust resulted in his move to Hampshire.

He had been blessed with eight grand years with his adopted County. He had participated in two further Lord's finals, though still retained a burning ambition to win a Championship. His other regret was that he felt he could have done better at Test level.

He recounted the captaincy of Shane Warne, the best he ever served under. He then spent some time deliberating on the respective leadership styles of Michael Atherton, Nasser Hussain, Michael Vaughan and Warne, and giving potted and informed pictures of the characters with whom he had played, mentioning Jack Russell, Nic Pothas, Ian Austin, Neil Fairbrother, Andrew Flintoff and Phil Tuffnell.

He then fielded a number of questions on current issues in the game in a front and forthright manner. At the end of the evening, this most popular of cricketers was presented with a cheque for his benefit fund.

Wednesday 3 December 2008 – Report

Henry Longa held his audience in thrall in his address at the Annual Dinner at the Rose Bowl. It was a speech spiced with insight and humour; his wonderful rendition of Nessun Dorma, without any musical accompaniment, at its end was delicious icing on the cake.

Early on, he told of how he started his singing career. He had always been interested in the arts, particularly drama and music but, almost unbelievably, he was not even in the choir whilst at junior school. When he moved on to High School he initially played the part of a girl in their production of the musical Oklahoma. His voice had still to break but when it did so shortly afterwards, a natural tenor was revealed. In the following year, he was selected for the lead part in the school production of Gilbert and Sullivan's The Gondoliers. He has now pursued a music career, and his interest in painting since he became domiciled in England.

He was introduced to cricket at the age of 8 by the former New Zealand Test fast bowler Bob Blair. He started as a leg-spinner. At that stage he was also a good sprinter and athletics therefore competed for his attention. However, after his athletics coach left, he concentrated solely on cricket.

By the time he made his first-class debut, at the tender age of 17, he was a fast bowler. After being selected for a warm-up match for the President's XI against the touring Pakistanis, he was pitched into the Test side. He did not feel he was ready; he was also acutely conscious that he was the only black man in the Zimbabwean side. His nervousness was revealed when his first ball disappeared down the leg side for 4 wides. The next one was a bouncer. His second legitimate delivery was also destined for outside leg stump but it was touched by Saeed Anwar to wicket-keeper Andy Flower. Shortly afterwards, he was called for throwing and sent to Dennis Lillee and Clive Rice for remedial work. He possessed, though, the confidence to overcome

the defect and returned to the game with an action which was never queried again.

He commented his career was one of ups and downs with injuries intervening at vital moments. Besides the performances mentioned in the December Newsletter, one of the best moments was when he took 3 wickets in 4 balls to give his country an unlikely victory, against India, when all looked lost, in the 1999 World Cup.

He gave a vivid account of what it was like to bat against Shoaib Akhtar. He also mentioned playing with Sean Ervine and Greg Lamb, in Zimbabwe, and his appearances for Lashings.

He only realised the situation in Zimbabwe was unacceptable when he toured abroad. His views were also crystallised by his own research on the web and book reading. The famous protest in the 2003 World Cup was planned over a cup of coffee with Andy Flower. He spent a month in South Africa before coming to England in May of that year. At the start of his address he mentioned that Zimbabwe was once a country with a strong infrastructure and education system. Many friends and relatives have now emigrated and he now has more connections away from the country than within it. Events would have to change very significantly before he would return.

After his rendition of *Nessun Dorma*, which brought forth thunderous applause and a couple of questions, Henry Olonga joined members for the dinner. It was a most enjoyable evening in the company of a unique individual.

JACK MOORE

Members will be sorry to learn that Jack Moore has now passed away. The Society will be forever in Jack's debt for his role as Honorary Secretary. Frank Bailey's choice of Jack as his successor, in April 1988, was an inspirational one. Jack fully relished the role, whether spending hours on the phone or meeting players, umpires or officials on Hampshire grounds to sow the seeds for a future appearance as a speaker. He performed the role assiduously and successfully until the severe stroke he suffered following heart surgery in April 2002. His great love was Worcestershire. Within a week upon taking up his post he secured Roley Jenkins who probably spoke for longer than any speaker in the Society's history. Many of those who were present at Basingstoke Rugby Club that night wondered if we were ever going to return home. In the ensuing fifteen years, and 120 or so meetings during his tenure, Jack was pleased to go on and capture Norman Gifford, Jim Cumbes, Vanburn Holder, Phil Neale, Tom Graveney, and finally, Ron Headley from "his" County.

Among the other distinguished speakers he was proud to land were characters such as Godfrey Evans and Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, Test cricketers such as Graham Gooch, Denis Amis and Derek Underwood, officials in the game's highest echelons, e.g. Lord McLaurin and notable people from other walks of life, Donald Woods, Cliff Morgan and Lord Howell. Jack's scope was very wide.

Jack was also tremendously knowledgeable about churches and church architecture and the editor will never forget Jack's impromptu invitation to join him on an inspection of his beloved Worcester Cathedral prior to a Nat. West Trophy match at New Road. It was a memorable morning, after which the cricket almost seemed incidental.

Following his stroke, Jack was sadly confined to a nursing home until his recent death. For such an active man to be so restricted in all facets of his everyday life was a tragedy. The Society's thoughts go to his attentive wife, Phyl, and his family.

BILL FRINDALL

Bill Frindall, who died on 20 January, addressed the Society at Basingstoke Rugby Club in October 1991. It was an evening made memorable by his stories about John Arlott, during which he imitated the Great Commentator's voice. Nobody ever did it better.

MARCUS NORTH

Hampshire have signed the Western Australian batsman, Marcus North, as their overseas player for the initial part of next season, prior to the arrival of Imran Tahir in June. North will be embarking on a career with his fifth County, which must constitute some sort of record. A left-handed batsman, and 6 feet 1 inch tall, he has previously played for Durham (2004), Lancashire (2005), Derbyshire (2006) and Gloucestershire (2007-2008). He has therefore gained substantial experience of both a "fill in" role (with Derbyshire, Lancashire and his first season with Gloucestershire) and of English conditions. He also enjoyed stints in league cricket in the Lancashire League and the North-East Premier League earlier on in his career. His record hitherto is a creditable one; in 40 matches in county cricket he has scored exactly 3000 runs at an average of 44.77, including eight centuries, the highest of which is 219 for Durham against Glamorgan at Cardiff in 2004. The above average mirrors that of his overall career. In 124 matches (to mid-January) he has made 8757 runs at an average of 44.22. His career best innings is 239 not out for Western Australia against Victoria at Perth in 2006-07, during which he shared a State third wicket partnership of 459 with Chris Rogers. (NB The latter has enjoyed a similar peripatetic career having appeared for Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, as well as Minor Counties cricket for Shropshire and Wiltshire (when he played briefly for South Wilts in the Southern Premier League)).

North is also an occasional and useful off-break bowler, having taken 90 wickets to date (avge. 44.45). He is an excellent fielder in all positions.

MARCUS JAMES NORTH was born in Pakenham, Melbourne, on 28 July 1979.

He gained a good reputation in junior representative cricket and made his first-class debut as an opening batsman for the Australian Cricket Academy,

on their tour of Zimbabwe in the Spring of 1999. Among his team mates were Ashley Noffke, Brett Lee and Brad Hodge.

He was slow to come to terms with Pura Cup (ex Sheffield Shield) cricket but made a breakthrough in March 2002 with a remarkable second innings of 200 not out against Victoria at the MCG, which enabled Western Australia to win by 37 runs, after following on. Resolute early on, he completely dominated the Victorian bowling by the end of his innings. By now he was a predominantly middle-order batsman; and has batted consistently ever since. He has broadened his horizons with a tour of Pakistan and India with Australia A in 2005-06 and 2008-09 respectively, and the captaincy of his state side. He scored a century in each innings – 103 and 141 – against Victoria at Perth earlier this winter but, unfortunately, finished on the losing side.

In 2007, he won the Walter Lawrence Trophy when he raced to his century off just 73 balls against Leicestershire at Grace Road. Some might recall his sparkling innings of 85 for Gloucestershire in the Friends Provident Trophy Match at the Rose Bowl last summer when he specialised in a number of beefy sweep-cum-pull shots and once cleared the coverpoint boundary – one handed – off a disbelieving Tim Tremlett. With his useful slow bowling, he should ensure that, unlike last year, Hampshire are competitive in the early round of matches of the FPT.

HAMPSHIRE PLAYERS – WINTER NEWS

DIMI MASCARENHAS has been recalled to the England One-Day squad for the forthcoming series against West Indies. His recall is undoubtedly deserved, following England's 5 – 0 trouncing in India, during which they often struggled for runs in the lower order. He also captained England to victory in the Hong Kong Cricket Sixes. An exciting Final against Australia finished with the scores level, but England won by virtue of losing fewer wickets. Dimi statutorily retired with his own score on 31 in his side's total of 121 for 1 (off five 8 – ball overs). Australia were 121 for 4 at the end of their innings.

Given the Test side's paucity of runs in the lower order, which may well be the crucial difference between England and Australia next summer, there is a persuasive case for his inclusion in the Ashes series.

The Hampshire captain has excelled for Otago in this winter's State Shield (50 over) Competition. He has bowled economically and batted explosively. He took an unbeaten 75 (four 4's and six 6's) off the Auckland attack early in the New Year, and then followed with 53 not out off 27 balls (five 4's and three 6's) against Central Districts at the uniquely attractive Pukekara Park ground in New Plymouth.

Otago are scheduled to meet Northern Districts in the Final at Seddon Park, Hamilton on 1 February. The State Twenty20 competition will commence on 4 February.

LIAM DAWSON captained England's Under-19 side in South Africa in January. The precocious Hampshire all-rounder is hugely experienced in International Cricket at Under-19 level, having already played in a tournament in Kuala Lumpur in early 2007, and touring Sri Lanka last winter. He has also played successfully in home series against Pakistan and New Zealand. He made a maiden century (100) against the latter in July last year. He followed this success by taking 5 for 74 at Worcester in the next match of the two Test series.

Also in the Under-19 squad were all-rounder **HAMZA RIAZUDDIN**, who made his first-class debut for the County at Taunton last summer and subsequently played in three limited overs matches and five Twenty20 games, and **CHRIS WOOD**, a left-arm medium-pace bowler from Basingstoke, who acted as substitute fielder for Hampshire in their Championship match against Durham at May's Bounty last August. Riazuddin also played in three Youth one-day internationals against New Zealand in 2008.

All three players played in the 5 one-day internationals. Riazuddin, batting at three, struck 53 off 53 balls in the third match at Paarl and both Dawson and Wood consistently took wickets, though England lost the deciding match and, therefore, the rubber 3 – 2.

Riazuddin captained England in the two Twenty20 matches, despite the presence of Dawson, out-of-form with the bat, in the second. South Africa won the series 2 – 0.

The sole "Test" of the tour was abandoned without a ball being bowled. Dawson has been added to the England Lions squad.

JAMES VINCE of Hampshire 2nd XI struck 111 for Melville against Perth in the demanding First Grade WACA Pennant competition in November. Vince is a right-handed batsman, who is still only 17 years of age and has already played Minor Counties cricket for Wiltshire.

Riazuddin, Wood and Vince all played for the Hampshire Cricket Board Under-17 side that overwhelmed their Durham counterparts by 334 runs in the County Championship Final at Hove in 2007. It finally seems that Hampshire's youngsters are beginning to develop apace though the ultimate test will still remain whether they can establish a regular place in the Championship side. That issue will be, presumably, the major one that Duncan Fletcher will be addressing. That Hampshire has more under-age representatives in "under-age" international cricket than any other County surely points to the strength of the current organisational coaching network and system.