

# THE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

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

## NEWSLETTER No. 293 - OCTOBER 2009

A Plaque in memory of John Arlott was unveiled at his famous former home at The Old Sun, New Alresford on 21 June. Whilst there are commemorations at John's birthplace in Basingstoke and in Alderney, where he lived for ten years prior to his death in 1991, he is most remembered for his residence in the Hampshire market town where he felt most at home and in which he always entertained his guests in most royal and memorable fashion. The day was organised by the Alresford Town Partnership and the unveiling ceremony was undertaken by John's sons, Timothy and Robert. Among the guests was Leo Harrison, his longest friend in the game.

The majority of the funding was provided by the Cricket Society. HCS also made a contribution and it was fitting that one of our founder members, Ken Chapman, was able to attend the event. John Arlott was, of course, with the late Desmond Eagar and John Woodcock – happily still with us – one of the Society's original patrons.

John Arlott addressed the Society twice – in October 1977 and December 1985 to large audiences. The latter appearance, in the Carnival Hall, Basingstoke, marked his last public appearance in this country. Those who were present will never forget the occasion. An extract of the Editor's account of the evening is given below:-

“Never in the history of the Hampshire Cricket Society was there an occasion to rival the Tenth Anniversary Buffet Supper at the Carnival Hall, Basingstoke. It was an event blessed with a cocktail of emotion, nostalgia and topicality. The Society's Patron (or should it be Patron Saint?) John Arlott was the provider of the first two ingredients. Standing in what used to be his school playground, he fondly recalled his Basingstoke childhood at Fairfields School; located in front of the Carnival Hall, and his early cricket watching days at May's Bounty, located behind it. He then waxed warmly and lyrically on two of the giants of Hampshire cricket, Philip Mead and George Brown, and went on to recall the other great Hampshire names until the early sixties. He concluded by conveying his thanks to cricket for the wonderful memories and fellowships it had given him and remarked that if his audience were half so lucky then they were very fortunate indeed. It was a very moving speech. It took only fifteen minutes yet its value was inestimable. Such is the genius of the man.”

## MEETINGS

**Wednesday 14 October 2009 – Meeting**

The Society welcomes to this evening's meeting one of the few men to have played in Championship title winning sides with two different counties. Tony Cottey was a member of both Glamorgan's Championship team in 1997 and Sussex's very first title side in 2003.

**PHILLIP ANTHONY COTTEY** was born in Swansea on 2 June 1966. He was an excellent all-round sportsman. He could very easily have been a top soccer player. He was signed by Swansea City as a sixteen year old and captained the Welsh Youth Team, for whom he won 3 caps. The current Welsh Manager, John Toshack, who was also Manager of the highly successful Swansea side of the early 1980's, was sure he had the ability to progress to the first team. However, cricket, which he always considered his best game, became the main focus of his attention.

He made his Glamorgan debut in 1986. His game developed with the support of Tom Cartwright in particular and he made the big breakthrough in 1990 when he passed 1,000 runs for the first time as well as scoring his first century. He was awarded his Cap in 1992 and in 1996 he was appointed the County's Vice-Captain. It was in the latter year that he recorded his highest score in first-class cricket – 203 against Leicestershire on his home ground at St. Helen's, where he had first played in men's cricket as a thirteen year old schoolboy with the Swansea club. During this innings he also shared the County record 7<sup>th</sup> wicket partnership of 211 with Ottis Gibson, the current England bowling coach. It was also a truly landmark match in his career as he also returned his best bowling figures of four for 49 with his little used off-spin.

A diminutive right-handed batsman, he excelled in all forms of the game and in 1993 he struck the winning boundary at Canterbury which gave Glamorgan their first ever Sunday League title. He had a modest season during Glamorgan's Championship summer of 1997 but, crucially, shared a match winning partnership with Matthew Maynard against Essex at Cardiff. After a good season in 1998, he rejected a new two year deal with Glamorgan and joined Sussex on a longer term contract.

In Sussex's Championship season he made a brilliant 188 against Warwickshire at Hove which laid the foundations for a comprehensive innings victory. He contributed fully to their eventual triumph with 1,149 runs (avge. 45.96) and three centuries.

Upon his final appearance in 2004, he had played in 277 first-class matches and scored 14,567 runs (avge. 36.69) including 31 centuries – a fine tally indeed. He also made a further 4,993 runs in one-day cricket.

To emphasise our speaker's all-round sporting talents, he is a fine golfer and has run in the New York and Athens marathons. He wrote an acclaimed autobiography "There's Only 2 Tony Cotteys", published in 2008.

**FAREWELL TO JOHN CRAWLEY**

Members will be aware that John Crawley has announced his retirement from the game. It was perhaps an inevitable decision. Since his stellar season in 2006 during which he scored 1737 runs at the princely average of 66.80, and was elected the Society's Player of the Year, a debilitating back injury had reduced his effectiveness quite markedly. As with Robin Smith before him, his runs were taking longer to score, and the rhythm and tempo of his batting were more staccato. Nevertheless, he left quietly and with great dignity; a number of his County colleagues spoke warmly and genuinely about how his presence will be missed. It was fitting that his final match should have been against his former County, Lancashire. HCS members will also recall his two recent visits to the Society in October 2005 and November 2007. His addresses were surprisingly candid yet appropriately discreet, when required; he also emerged as a warm and genuine family man, revealing much about his character.

The tall, strongly-built right-handed batsman has left an immense statistical legacy. In his 103 matches for the County he became the only batsman to twice reach 300 in an innings. Owing to a declaration by Shane Warne, he was cruelly robbed of the opportunity to make the highest individual score for Hampshire. He was left on 311 not out against Nottinghamshire at the Rose Bowl in 2005 – five short of Dick Moore's record. His 148 runs before lunch on the second morning of that match remain a Hampshire record. He has also recorded three of the six highest innings for the County; he made a glorious 272 on debut at Canterbury and was only robbed of another triple century when he was unluckily run out at the bowler's end by Min Patel as a Shaun Udal drive was deflected onto the stumps whilst he was backing up. His average (45.06) has only been exceeded by Barry Richards, Philip Mead, Chris Smith and Gordon Greenidge among those who played more than 100 matches for Hampshire.

He was indisputably the finest English player of spin bowling of his era, exemplified by his 156 not out in "Muralitharan's Test" at The Oval in 1998. By his own admission, a problem in forcing the pace off fast bowlers prevented him from adding to his tally of 37 Tests. He also found England tours more difficult after the birth of his son. He possessed a sound technique, was utterly dominating on the leg-side yet capable of unrolling the sweetest and most elegant of cover drives. Normally watchful and diligent, he batted with great freedom and relish, when his eye was in.

The manner in which he made his runs was important to him. He regarded his first triple century (300 not out) at Trent Bridge in 2004 as a better crafted innings than his Rose Bowl epic a year later. He felt that he slogged his way between 200 and 300 (it indeed occupied only 58 balls) in the latter innings.

He was never afraid to take responsibility and answered Hampshire's call to assume the captaincy in 2003, due to Warne's drugs ban. The decision was made at short notice and the acceptance was reluctant. Nevertheless, despite constant changes of personnel (24 players appeared for the County that year) and the detrimental effect on his form, his commitment, selfless dedication and professionalism were total.

He has also left a few statistical milestones on his CV in the one-day game. For Hampshire, he appeared in two Lord's finals, finishing on the winning side against Warwickshire in 2005. In all, he appeared in eight Finals at cricket's HQ for Lancashire and Hampshire; his teams were victorious on five occasions. He also captained his former side to the National League (45 over competition) title in 1999.

He was also a very competent wicket-keeper when called upon.

All Society members are sure to express the warmest of wishes for success in his future career.

### **JOHN CRAWLEY'S CAREER FIGURES FIRST-CLASS CRICKET**

	M.	I.	N.O.	Runs	H.S.	Avge.	100	50
England	37	61	9	1800	156*	34.61	4	9
Lancashire	138	221	15	10533	281*	51.13	31	51
Hampshire	103	178	18	7210	311*	45.06	13	40
Career (1990-2009)	351	584	60	24361	311*	46.49	54	133

### **LIST A MATCHES**

England	14	13	1	272	73	22.66	-	2
Lancashire	178	171	13	4923	114	31.15	3	32
Hampshire	102	98	9	3208	113*	36.04	5	21
Career	309	295	23	8681	114	31.91	8	55

An appreciation of Billy Taylor will appear in the November Newsletter.

The Editor is very pleased to welcome another contributor to the Newsletter this month. Those who have purchased the County's One Day Programmes during this summer will be aware of Terry Crump's erudite and enthusiastic articles.

### **TERRY CRUMP REFLECTS ON PLAYER LOYALTY**

The decision made in September by Andrew Flintoff to turn down an England contract and possibly become the world's first freelance cricketer, has ruffled a few feathers in the establishment. Cries of disloyalty abound and in some quarters Flintoff was pilloried for choosing personal gain over representation for his country. What do those criticising him expect? After all, as an institution the ECB seem to have been chasing the money, at whatever cost to the game; clearly setting a tone taken up by Flintoff who has now set a precedent that is likely to be followed by many other professional cricketers, who view opportunities like those offered through the IPL as too good to miss.

However, Flintoff and others should remember that the international interest in them as players and celebrities is generated by performances on the field wearing their country's colours. Not playing in International matches will seriously affect the interest shown in them by spectators around the globe and hence diminish the returns they are chasing.

All this reportage and hoo-ha about Flintoff set me wondering about loyalty to their county of origin by players in the past, and this in turn had me focussing on Hampshire players that I saw play as a youngster. I had the exciting privilege of watching some great players at the United Services Ground and although I had been there with my father and grandfather before 1956, one of the first few games I watched, as a schoolboy let loose on his own, was Hampshire versus Surrey in June 1956.

As a scholar at Mile End House School in Old Commercial Road, I was able to get to Burnaby Road quickly, once the school day had been completed, and my Headmaster, Clarence Victor Payne (a cricket nut of the first order) was open to an early retreat from the classroom when cricket called. That particular game caught my attention, because Surrey were going to field Ken Barrington, Peter Loader and the great Alec Bedser, all of whom played during the previous season in the Test Series against South Africa.

Well, I did see them play (and a fine game it was too, although my recollections are somewhat rose-tinted) but what has this to do with loyalty to a county side you may be asking? I'll explain. In the side for Hampshire were Jimmy Gray, Mike Barnard, Peter Sainsbury, Ray Pitman, Leo Harrison and Mervyn Burden. What do they all have in common? They were all born in Hampshire and played their county cricket exclusively for Hampshire.

What a half-dozen to have in your side. Between them they notched up nearly a century of first-class playing years (96 actually) for the County. Alongside these local representatives were Roy Marshall, who only ever represented Hampshire in this country and Derek Shackleton, who only ever played first-class cricket for Hampshire. Now that's what I call loyalty. Mind you, the pressures and chances to earn 'big money' were not available to these stalwarts and in particular Mike needed to make a living by playing soccer for Portsmouth FC as well as cricket for Hampshire. Jimmy was also on the Arsenal staff at one time.

Heroes are not hard to find when you are young. They come in all shapes and sizes and from many different areas of one's life. At the present time, sporting heroes are as often as not identified by the media and not by individuals. Modern sporting celebrities are not known for their loyalty and are often built up by newspaper columnists in particular, only to be knocked down for the sake of circulation.

Well, I'll stick to my boyhood sporting heroes, amongst whom I number all those Hampshire players mentioned above.

**GEORGE BROWN'S SCOOP SHOT**

Much was made of Tillakaratne Dilshan's scoop shot during the Twenty20 World Cup this summer. However, he may not have been the first man to play it. Society member Mr. Lewis Rudd of Twyford wrote to The Guardian, in a letter published on 1 July 2009 with the undermentioned:-

"I found the following reference to Hampshire's George Brown in a section by John Arlott in Hampshire County Cricket from 1957. Brown's career ran from 1908 to 1933. He would perform the most amazing strokes, as one he played ... hitting forward and under a fast rising ball to send it up over his own head and the wicket-keeper's for six to the sight-screen behind him."

### **SOCIETY NEWS**

Members are reminded that subscriptions are now due, and that nominations for the 2009 Player of the Year should be returned to Ken Blowe, Acting Treasurer, 11 Marlborough Park, Warblington, Havant, PO9 2PP by 31 October. Alternatively, of course, subscription and nomination slips can be handed to Ken at tonight's meeting.

Our January Speaker, KEITH BOOTH, is still the Surrey scorer, and not as shown on the Winter Programme card. The editor extends apologies to Mr. Booth for the error.

Details of the **ANNUAL BUFFET SUPPER** on 2 December will be sent out after this meeting.

©Copyright Alan Edwards 2009 ([alan.edwards60@ntlworld.com](mailto:alan.edwards60@ntlworld.com))

