

THE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Frank Bailey Shaun Udal

NEWSLETTER No. 296 – JANUARY 2010

MEETINGS

Wednesday 6 January 2010 – Meeting

Tonight's speaker is **KEITH BOOTH**, author and Surrey's scorer. This is his second visit to the Society, the first being in February 2001 when he spoke on the errant 19th century Surrey wicket-keeper Edward Pooley.

Born in Barnsley and educated at Guisborough Grammar School, he worked for the first part of his life in retailing and university administration. He took early retirement in 1992 whereupon he embarked on a successful career in his pursuance of his love of cricket. He first scored for Middlesex and MCC, and for Test Match Special in the West Indies in 1993-94, before becoming Surrey's scorer in 1995. He has also scored Test Matches and international Limited Overs Matches (including Twenty20). He has also been a leading advocate on improving the status of scorers.

Our speaker has also written a history of cricket scoring, biographies of Michael Atherton and former Surrey stalwarts, Ted Pooley, George Lohmann and Ernie Hayes, as well as a biography of the pioneering cricket and football administrator, C.W. Alcock. The latter was a man well ahead of his time. His book on Lohmann won the Cricket Society's Book of the Year award for 2008.

The Society extends a very warm welcome to Keith Booth to this evening's meeting.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 3 MARCH 2010

Please accept formal notice of the 33rd Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held on **WEDNESDAY 3 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 14 February 2009.

HCS PLAYER OF THE YEAR 2009

HCS members have voted **Michael Carberry** as their Player of the Year for 2009. It is the second time he has won the award in three years. On the first occasion, he was rewarded with England representative tours to Bangladesh and India in which he was the "stand out" batsman. He also scored a century for the Lions against the New Zealanders soon upon his return but then

endured a disappointing season for Hampshire. Indeed he was left out of the side for one match in August.

However, the powerfully built opening left-hand batsman rarely put a foot wrong during 2009 thereby putting his international aspirations firmly back on track. Before his summer was ended by a broken finger on his left hand, which necessitated an operation, he had made fifty or more in an innings in all but two of the ten matches he played. In fact, in 21 visits to the crease, he made 4 centuries – which came in successive matches – and seven 50's. His season ended with him standing on 1251 runs at the princely average of 69.50. The injury deprived him of at least seven innings, and the opportunity to attain his stated target of 1,500 runs for the season. Even so, only 5 batsmen, who included his opening partner, Jimmy Adams, scored more runs in the First Division of the Championship. Remarkably, he was only second in the Hampshire averages – Nic Pothas averaged 74.18 in scoring his 816 runs.

He started the summer in peak physical condition after undertaking special athletics training during the winter. The effect was obvious from the outset – very few players were faster in their running between the wickets. He also built an innings. He was always extremely watchful at the start, but having gauged bounce, pace and the bowler's variations, he expanded his stroke range. He drove with power straight and through the covers, and cut and hooked with relish. His trademark shot, however, is undoubtedly the pull, pivoting on his left leg as he punched the ball through the legside arc. Shaven haired, and resembling Viv Richards in build and gait even more, he batted fluently and with assurance throughout. Such was his air of authority after the first few overs that it was always a major surprise when he was dismissed.

Only the Durham players evaded his wrath, as they dismissed him for a "pair". It must be said, though, that these innings were the first after a month's 1 – day and Twenty20 cricket and any batsman would have found problems in making the transition to 4 – day cricket against Durham's classy and fearsome new ball attack on the bowler friendly Chester-le-Street pitch. He also usually batted at four in these limited-overs matches, and was not therefore reacclimatised to opening in that match. He also experienced an indifferent match against Nottinghamshire at the Rose Bowl but was well on his way to extracting retribution in the return at Trent Bridge. He was 86 before a ball from Andre Adams, which rose unexpectedly, abruptly ended his season.

After the two above matches, he enjoyed a purple patch of Meadesque proportions. In just 11 innings, he made 926 runs at an average of 115.75. After his joint sprint, with Jimmy Adams at Liverpool, when the pair put on 118 in only 71 minutes to secure a comprehensive 10 wickets victory, he embarked on a sequence of four centuries in successive matches:-

123 and 53	v. Somerset at Taunton
112	v. Sussex at Arundel
204	v. Warwickshire at the Rose Bowl
136 not out	v. Lancashire at the Rose Bowl

A common feature of the first three innings was that Hampshire batted facing a large total, after spending four sessions or more in the field. It was important that there was no collapse; Carberry provided the sand and cement to hold the batting together. The County only failed to avoid the follow on at Taunton, but thanks to Carberry and John Crawley – in his penultimate match for the County, Liam Dawson, Sean Ervine and Pothas on the last day, a draw was secured.

His double century against Warwickshire was a most commanding one. He never looked in any trouble. Though the pitch became more docile as the match progressed, his innings was a major triumph of concentration and power of stroke. Very few batsmen now make double centuries in the equivalent of a day's play, but Michael Carberry did on this occasion, his innings occupying 357 minutes. It was his highest score in first-class cricket surpassing his 192 not out against the same County at the Rose Bowl two years earlier when Hampshire achieved a famous victory. However, so long did Warwickshire bat in the second day, a Hampshire win in the remaining time available, on a placid pitch, was never seriously on the agenda.

The final century was again made in adversity. This time Hampshire had to bat for 82 overs facing a deficit of 231. Carberry again batted splendidly to pilot his side to another draw.

Perhaps his best knock was his second innings 70 at May's Bounty. Whilst he was at the wicket, there was always the chance that Hampshire could avoid defeat but the odds shifted markedly after he was caught behind off the bowling of Ajmal Shahzad, who was enjoying the match of his life. Though Dawson and Ervine held firm for a time, Adil Rashid administered the coup de grace during the afternoon.

Immediately after that match, Carberry played for the England Lions against the Australians at Canterbury. Bravely battling against a throat infection, he did not do himself justice with the bat, though he held three catches in the field. However, the England selectors continued to recognise his potential by selecting him – one of only 4 men to be chosen – as a Category A player in the England Performance Programme Squad (EPPS).

At the age of 29, he is entering his prime. Given his form in representative cricket – he made an impressive century for the EPPS in South Africa towards the end of the year – and the brilliance of his fielding, there is still time for him to represent England at Test level in the future.

HCS PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

1982	Trevor Jesty	1983	Chris Smith
1984	Paul Terry	1985	Mark Nicholas
1986	Gordon Greenidge	1987	David Turner
1988	Robin Smith	1989	Robin Smith
1990	Malcolm Marshall	1991	Chris Smith
1992	Tony Middleton	1993	Shaun Udal
1994	Cardigan Connor	1995	Mark Nicholas
1996	Kevan James	1997	Matthew Hayden
1998	Dimitri Mascarenhas	1999	Peter Hartley
2000	Will Kendall	2001	Derek Kenway
2002	Shaun Udal	2003	Simon Katich
2004	Dimitri Mascarenhas	2005	Nic Pothas
2006	John Crawley	2007	Michael Carberry
2008	James Tomlinson	2009	Michael Carberry

COMINGS AND GOINGS

At the time of writing it has been announced that **TOM BURROWS, TOM PARSONS** (who played one match against Loughborough UCCE in 2009) and **CHRIS MORGAN**, the young left-arm spin bowler from Havant, have been released by the County. Burrows was unfortunate to be understudy to Nic Pothas but he left a mark with gymnastic wicket-keeping and sound glovework. His feisty innings of 42 on his first-class debut at Canterbury, in 2005, when he shared a sparkling partnership of 131 with his captain Shane Warne, as the latter moved inexorably and memorably to a maiden century, remained his highest score in first-class cricket.

IMRAN TAHIR has signed for Warwickshire in 2010. Only time will tell if he has played his final match for Hampshire as he is due to return in 2011.

Hampshire have signed the ex-Glamorgan, Worcestershire and England fast bowler **SIMON JONES**, and **ASANTHA MENDIS**, the Sri Lankan slow bowler, who initially made a dramatic entry to international cricket. Unfortunately, since last year's Twenty20 World Cup Final, the latter has struggled to hold down his place in both the Sri Lankan Test and One Day International sides. His season with Hampshire, therefore, will be very important for both his future career and the County's own fortunes.

TERRY CRUMP ON THE CRICKETING "NELSON"

In the fifty over ODI between England and South Africa on 27 September 2009 I noted that Shah's dismissal for 98 came at a time when England were 222 for 2. In the Semi-Final between England and Australia you might regard

it unlucky for England that Ricky Ponting made 111 not out as his side outplayed England to defeat them by 9 wickets.

The Nelson (and multiples of 111) always brings with it a 'lifting of feet from the floor' around the County grounds. I witnessed it throughout last season, at home and away, while supporting Hampshire.

The fact is that in all the games played by Hampshire during the 2009 season, the Nelson (or its multiples) only linked with Hampshire wickets in two matches.

When Hampshire Played Worcestershire, at The Rose Bowl in April, Nic Pothas was the sixth wicket down, with 111 on the scoreboard, in Hampshire's first innings. In July, Warwickshire's Boyd Rankin had Michael Lumb caught by Jonathan Trott, with Hampshire's score at 333. You may remember the fantastic 204 by Michael Carberry in that first innings by Hampshire.

As for our opponents the Nelson seems only to have brought disaster once. Two wickets fell in the Worcestershire innings with 111 on the board when Hampshire met Worcestershire at New Road in September.

I also note that in the game against Somerset, at The Rose Bowl in August, Liam Dawson was out, facing his 111th ball, when he was on 55. In the game against Yorkshire Adil Rashid took to the wicket with a previous best First-class score of 111 – now that was unlucky for Hampshire as he went on to make 117 not out to frustrate Hampshire, as I am sure you will remember if you were at Basingstoke.

Therefore, in terms of Hampshire, evidence this year shows that that the multiples of 111 have no influence on performance in First-class cricket, as the occurrence is not statistically significant and can be put down to coincidence.

As I started by mentioning England in ODI's, I also considered the occurrence of Nelson multiples in this form of cricket in 2009. This investigation highlighted Joe Denley's dismissal after facing 111 balls in the ODI against Ireland. Australia's Cameron White was dismissed with the Aussies on 111 in the first ODI in England. In the fourth ODI against Australia, at Lord's, Andrew Straus was sent packing after Nathan Bracken took the catch off Nathan Hauritz's bowling, with England on 111. In the sixth ODI versus Australia, Timothy Paine was dismissed after making 111 and Australia won that match by 111 runs.

In Test matches in this country during 2009 the records of England games revealed the following:

In the first Test against the West Indies, England were 377-8 at lunch on the second day with 111 overs bowled. Brendan Nash (22) and Denesh Ramdin (24) added 50 in 111 balls for the West Indies sixth wicket in the second

innings. In their second innings (forced to follow-on) Ramdin was the sixth wicket to fall when the West Indies had got to 222.

In the second Test, Ramnaresh Sarwan was dismissed after 222 minutes with exactly a century to his name.

In the second Test, at Lord's, England struck twice when both Mike Hussey and Michael Clarke took the walk back to the famous pavilion when Australia were on 111. In the same game Ravi Bopara walked back as second wicket down when England had 222 on the scoreboard, and Andrew Flintoff as the sixth wicket to fall, with a 333 total up in lights.

In the Oval Test (5th Test), Brad Haddin was dismissed when the score had reached 111, the seventh Australia wicket to fall in their first innings. After 222 minutes at the crease a personal total of 72, Ian Bell was dismissed by Peter Siddle in England's first innings. In England's second innings Graham Swann was caught behind by Haddin off the bowling of Ben Hilfenhaus.

So there you have it, to my mind, it's all superstitious stuff and nonsense; a 'Nelson' does not influence any part of the game of cricket – unless you know something different.

I can't let the recent death of David Shepherd pass without a mention. 'Shep' was born and brought up in Devon and was a stalwart of the local cricket club in Instow. He represented the England Schools Under-19 side and made his first-class debut for Gloucestershire in 1965 (aged of 24) David Shepherd went on to play 282 matches, scoring 12 hundreds with a batting average in the mid-20s (winning the Gillette Cup with Gloucestershire in 1973). When his playing career ended in 1979 he declined a coaching job and concentrated on umpiring, qualifying as a first-class umpire and making an international debut at the 1983 World Cup. 'Shep' stood in 92 Tests and 172 one-day internationals before retiring in 2005. David Shepherd died from cancer on 27th October 2009 at the age of 68. The residual memories of 'Shep', hopping on one leg when the score was 111, seems to cause many to follow his example (with an urge to ensure no contact with the ground when a scoreboard announces 111), despite the fact that 'Nelson multiples' have no influence on the game. Still, Shep's antics were a wonderful part of the history of the game and we will all miss him as a character.

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