

THE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Frank Bailey Shaun Udal

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MEETINGS

Wednesday 20 October 2010 – Meeting

The Society extends a warm welcome to Geoff Cope for this evening's meeting. It is scarcely believable that he is the first Yorkshire cricketer to address the Society in its thirty-five year history. Many will remember him as a tall, accurate off-spin bowler who concealed the ball behind his back until his delivery stride.

GEOFFREY ALAN COPE was born in Burmantofts, Leeds on 23 February 1947. Son of a French polisher, he grew up in Crossgates in Leeds and first played cricket at Manston Junior School. His talent was shown in an Under 11 cup final in which he took all ten wickets for 26 and then batted his team to victory. He played club cricket at an early age with Leeds Zingari and then for Leeds Cricket Club in the Yorkshire League. He played for England Schools and then, in 1964, for Yorkshire Second XI. He made his first-class debut against Hampshire at Bradford, whilst Ray Illingworth was on Test duty, in 1966. That year was the one in which first innings were limited to 65 overs. Captains invariably favoured their seamers with the result that opportunities for spin bowlers, except for experienced campaigners, were very limited. In a match bedevilled by rain he was restricted to only five overs in Hampshire's second innings. Despite taking 40 wickets (avge 13.82) in 1967 he didn't win a regular first team place until 1969 when Illingworth moved to captain Leicestershire.

He won his Yorkshire cap in 1970 but was twice forced to remodel his action after he was suspended in 1972 and again in 1978. He worked on the remedy with the great Yorkshire left-arm spin bowler Johnny Wardle, and after good seasons in 1974 and 1975, played in an England Test trial at Bristol in May 1976. Derek Underwood took four for 10 in the second innings and our speaker five for 27 as they skittled "The Rest of England" for just 48. He was not selected for any of the Tests against the West Indies that summer but was chosen for his first major tour to India, Sri Lanka and Australia for the Centenary Test in the ensuing winter. He made a good start on the Indian leg but then had to return home due to the death of his father. He returned to India and, though bowling with great accuracy and penetration, he was unable to dislodge Underwood from the Test team.

He toured Pakistan in the following winter (1977-78), playing in all 3 of the Tests at Lahore, Hyderabad and Karachi, and 2 One-Day Internationals. Remarkably, he nearly took a hat-trick on his Test debut; he dismissed Abdul Qadir leg before wicket, then bowled Sarfraz Nawaz first ball. The next

batsman, Iqbal Qasim, was caught at slip by Mike Brearley. Despite the umpire giving him out Brearley was not sure whether he had taken the catch cleanly and called him back to the crease.

When he retired in 1980, he had taken 686 first-class wickets (avge. 24.70) in 246 games with a career best of 8 for 73 against Gloucestershire at Bristol in 1975. His best seasonal tally was 93 wickets (avge. 24.13) in the following year.

As a batsman, he was often sent in as night-watchman and opened on occasion in emergencies. His highest score was 78 against Essex in Middlesbrough in 1977.

After leaving the first-class game he played for Yeadon Cricket Club, helping develop the club and the ground, before finally retiring from the game completely at 40. He was elected to the Yorkshire Committee after Brian Close retired from his seat and appointed Yorkshire's Director of Cricket in 2002.

Wednesday 29 September 2010 - Report

Trevor Jesty's address to the Society at their first meeting of the winter was as fluent as his batting. He began with a full resume of his early career in schools cricket. His first organised games were as a 9 year old at Leesland Junior School near to his home in Gosport. He was picked for Gosport Junior Schools during that year, still the youngest ever to be so chosen. When he progressed to Privett Secondary Modern School, his school master, Fred Davies, took him under his wing. He concentrated on enabling Trevor Jesty to enjoy the game. He graduated through the Hampshire schools setup before joining the Hampshire staff on the same day as Richard Lewis.

The pair made their Second XI debuts at Hove and received the usual humorous baptism at the hands of the rest of the team, who cleared their room of all furniture and their possessions while they were drinking in the bar on the evening prior to the game. He recalled his County debut at Portsmouth when as an opening bowler, his first seven overs cost only 7 runs in the second innings. He became a regular in the Hampshire side with the introduction of the John Player League in 1969.

He touched briefly on his departure from Hampshire and mentioned that it was not prompted wholly by the selection of Mark Nicholas as Captain. He spent three happy years at The Oval though missed his children. He was one of three Surrey batsmen to score a thousand runs in 1987, but his contract was not renewed on age grounds. Two days afterwards he was signed by Lancashire on a three year contract which was subsequently extended by a year. He left the game as a player at the age of 43.

He felt privileged to have played with so many great cricketers, particularly Roy Marshall, Derek Shackleton, Peter Sainsbury, Barry Richards, Gordon Greenidge, Malcolm Marshall, Alec Stewart and Wasim Akram. His ambition was always to play in a Test for England at Sydney. In the event, he made

his international debut at that ground. However, the high point of his career was Hampshire winning the Championship in 1973.

He missed the game badly in 1992 and decided to qualify as an umpire. He spent a year on the reserve list before being invited onto the full list in 1994.

The Q & A session covered a number of issues including technology and the referral system, bad light, training, the various merits of the white, pink and red balls, tweeting and T20 cricket. He was one of the umpires when Brian Lara made his 501; it was in fact a fairly boring innings as he never looked like getting out and seemed to score boundaries at will. The best Captain he played with was Richard Gilliat who was an outstanding individual as a man and an excellent man-manager. He gave the players belief and knew exactly what to say to them in different situations. Pace bowlers who troubled him were Marshall and Andy Roberts, Holding, Lillee, Thompson, Sylvester Clarke and Robin Jackman. The best spin-bowlers of his generation were Bishen Bedi, Derek Underwood and Johnny Gleeson. As an umpire it was always challenging when Shane Warne was bowling as he always expected every decision to go in his favour.

It was a wonderful evening for those present. Trevor Jesty was such a natural speaker that a further career clearly awaits him in the future.

SOCIETY NEWS

DECEMBER AND JANUARY MEETINGS

The Society extends its heartiest congratulations to Jimmy Adams, Michael Carberry and Danny Briggs on their selection for the England Performance Squad in Australia. The former's deserved selection means that he is unable, of course, to come to the Society's Annual Dinner in December.

However, our assiduous Chairman, Susanne Marlow, has already recruited **PETER BOWLER**, the former Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Somerset opening batsman as a replacement. In 'Sixty Summers; Somerset Cricket since the War', that great West Country writer, David Foot, described him as "his own man". It is sure, therefore, to be an interesting evening.

The December meeting will be held in the Shane Warne Suite.

Unfortunately, Martin Bodenham will be in Australia in January. Susanne is still seeking a new speaker. Further details of the replacement will be given, of course, in a future Newsletter.

HAMPSHIRE HANDBOOK 2011

It is hoped that the 2011 Hampshire Handbook will be launched at the Society's Annual Dinner on 1 December.

MORE ON JIMMY ADAMS

Jimmy Adams was chosen by his Hampshire team-mates as the Player's Player of the Year for his outstanding batting in all forms of the game this summer. He was also included in the PCA Team of the Year and was in the final shortlist of three for the PCA Player of the Year. In the event, the latter award was won by Yorkshire's Adam Lyth who enjoyed a prolific season, finishing as the First Division's leading run scorer (1509 runs –avge. 52.03). Hampshire supporters will have cause to remember his attractive left-handed batting as he made 133 and 98 at the Rose Bowl, and 63 and 44 in the return match at Scarborough.

It was almost inevitable that the remarkable Mark Ramprakash was the country's leading run scorer – 1595 runs (avge.61.34).

DORSET WIN MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP

The Society congratulates Dorset on winning the Minor Counties Championship for the second time in their history. The previous triumph was in 2000.

They won the title by defeating Lincolnshire by 135 runs at Dean Park, Bournemouth, a ground which still creates such evocative memories for Hampshire supporters. Two players who were formerly on the Hampshire staff, Glynn Treagus (80 not out), (who now plays club cricket for Lymington in the Southern Electric Premier League) and Chris Morgan (49), Havant, ensured Dorset a reasonable first innings total of 245. Lincolnshire eked out a lead of 9 (Atri 118) and then had the home side in some trouble at 159 for 7. However, Bournemouth pair Ed Denham (71 not out) and Matt Metcalfe (36) then added 82 for the eighth wicket. Dorset were eventually dismissed for 262, setting Lincolnshire 254 to win. The latter collapsed to the spin of Somerset's Jack Leach (6 for 21) and Treagus (2 for 10) for just 118.

SOUTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE

It was an excellent season for Dorset's cricketers with **Bournemouth** having won the Southern Electric Premier League. The **Hampshire Academy** were runners up.

Bashley (Rydal) were the Southern Electric Twenty20 Cup Winners. They defeated Second Division **Hook and Newnham** by 49 runs in the Final, played under lights at the Rose Bowl.