

THE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Frank Bailey Shaun Udal

NEWSLETTER 314 – JANUARY 2012

MEETINGS

Wednesday 11 January 2012 - Meeting

The Society extends a warm welcome to this evening's speaker, Martin Bodenham. He is the only man to referee in the Football League and umpire in first-class cricket. Born in Brighton on 23 April 1950, **MARTIN JOHN DALE BODENHAM** took up refereeing in local parks football in his native town (now city) in 1966. He graduated to the top level in 1978. He was the fourth official at the 1994 European Cup Final, when A C Milan, inspired by a majestic Dejan Savicevic, swamped Barcelona 4 – 0 in one of the greatest performances in the Competition's history. On the domestic scene, he refereed the League Cup Final between Leicester City and Middlesbrough at Wembley in 1997. The teams were unable to finish affairs at the end of extra time (1 – 1) and so a replay was necessary at Hillsborough. This match also went to extra time but the maverick Steve Claridge eventually won the match for Leicester City with a goal in the 100th minute. He also refereed four international matches and two FA Cup Semi-Finals.

He retired from refereeing in 1998, whereupon he became an umpire in the Sussex Cricket League. He was added to the ECB reserve list in 2006, and officiated the match between England A and Sri Lanka at Worcester in May of that year. He was appointed to the first-class umpires list in 2009. To date, he has stood in only one of Hampshire's first-class matches, a drawn encounter at Headingley in September 2009. Our speaker has also umpired a number of Under-19 and women's international matches.

Wednesday 16 November 2011 – Report

Patrick Ferriday gave an absorbing and comprehensive account of the 1912 Triangular Tournament between England, Australia and South Africa. It was effectively the first, and so far only, world test championship. The ICC had decided to suspend the modern version until 2017 shortly before his address. The tournament was designed to cement the ties of empire. It was a potent fusion of politics and sport. Previously separate Australian states were unified as a federation in 1901, hence making the country a better trading partner and military ally for the UK. In South Africa, Afrikaaners and the British co-existed after a bitterly fought Boer War at the turn of the century. The UK was in relative decline economically to both the USA and Germany. Even in 1912, many felt that war with the latter was inevitable.

In the world of cricket, Australia (by 1885) and South Africa (in 1907 through the imaginative use of four googly bowlers) had achieved parity with England. Sir Abe Bailey, a South African diamond magnate, originally tried to organise

a triangular tournament in 1909 but Australia had already agreed to a series in England in that summer. Bailey asked if South Africa could join in, but his approach was firmly rejected by the Australians. At one stage it even appeared that the series with Australia was in jeopardy as both MCC and the counties were willing for South Africa to come. Eventually, the inaugural meeting of the Imperial Cricket Council held in 1909 subsequently determined that both England and South Africa had to visit Australia before a triangular tournament could be held. South Africa toured there in 1910/11 and were overwhelmed by four tests to one. England travelled to Australia in 1911/12 and after losing the first test, famously won the remaining four.

It transpired, that come the tournament, Australia and South Africa fielded weakened sides. Australia were denuded as a result of an acrimonious conflict between the authorities and players over the management of the tour. Players had previously organised tours and appointed the manager. However, the Australian board gained control of the matter with the result that six leading players including Victor Trumper, Clem Hill and Warwick Armstrong absented themselves. South African cricket had slipped from the peak to which their googly bowlers had lifted it. Their batting was also very weak. On the other hand, England were strengthened by the return of C B Fry, who had to miss the tour of Australia in the previous winter, because of his commitment to the Training Ship Mercury on the River Hamble. Fry actually captained the side.

From June onwards, the tournament was plagued by terribly wet weather. June's rains were not matched until 1980. August was the second wettest month in the whole century. Though the public had initially warmed to the tournament, the weather and the poor South African side literally dampened any enthusiasm. England claimed the series when they defeated Australia by 244 runs at The Oval. The match was scheduled for six days but finished in four. It was concluded just in time; it rained for the following three days!

Nick Twine, in his vote of thanks, rightly remarked that those members present knew far more about the tournament than they did at the start of the evening.

Wednesday 7 December 2011 – Report

Eighty-three members travelled from as far afield as Peterborough, London, Berkshire, the Bournemouth area, Surrey and Warminster to listen to Hampshire President and ex-Captain Nick Pocock and attend the Society's Annual Dinner at the Rose Bowl. It was an evening full of anecdote and humour from a man who was privileged to be President. At the end of the evening our Chairman, Susanne Marlow, thanked the Rose Bowl staff for all their efforts during the proceedings.

HAMPSHIRE NEWS

JOHN CRAWLEY will take up the post of head of cricket at Magdalen College School, Oxford, from February. He has been working for Marlborough College in a fundraising capacity since his retirement from the game in 2009.

DIMITRI MASCARENHAS will captain Hampshire in the Twenty20 competition in 2012. He has recently agreed a two year extension to his contract with Hampshire. He will therefore be starting his 17th season with the County in April, a considerable period of longevity in the modern era.

JAMES TOMLINSON has signed a new two year contract.

DAVID BALCOMBE, who enjoyed such spectacular success for Kent when he went there on loan last summer, has signed a new three year contract.

JAMES VINCE and DANNY BRIGGS have been included in the England Lions squad for the tour of Bangladesh which starts this week.

SHAHID AFRIDI and NEIL MACKENZIE are expected to return to play in this summer's Twenty20 tournament.

Last, but by no means least, The Daily Echo reported on 17 December 2011, that Eastleigh Borough Council have voted to purchase the lease of the Rose Bowl for £6.5 million, with Rose Bowl plc renting the ground back for more than £400,000 per annum.

HCS PLAYER OF THE YEAR 2011

DANNY BRIGGS

It was announced at the Annual Dinner that HCS members had voted Danny Briggs as their Player of the Year. The tall, slow left-arm bowler from the Isle of Wight is, at 20 years of age, the youngest recipient of the award since its inception in 1982.

Danny Briggs had enjoyed an exceptional year. It started in the Caribbean when he played in Hampshire's young team which did so well to reach the final of the regional Twenty20 tournament held in Antigua and Barbados. He then returned to the islands for the England Lions tour a month later for the first-class regional tournament. He enjoyed great success taking more wickets in the tournament (33) than any other bowler. His performances included a career best six for 45 against the Windward Islands at Roseau and match figures of nine for 177 against Jamaica at Sabina Park.

Hampshire's season started just two weeks after the end of the tournament. Briggs was therefore in the groove. Almost surreally for the start of a season,

when wickets normally favour pace bowlers, he was brought on by his captain, Dominic Cork, almost on the stroke of mid-day of the opening day against Durham at the Rose Bowl. He broke a threatening opening partnership between Michael Di Venuto and Mark Stoneman and went on to take five for 129. It is arguable that he would have even been playing had Imran Tahir's return from South Africa not been delayed because of injury. He also claimed five for 79 against Somerset at the Rose Bowl, when he effectively ran through the lower order as well as dismissing double centurion Marcus Trescothick (227). He also returned his best Hampshire figures of six for 65 against Nottinghamshire in that now notorious game at the Rose Bowl in late July (it is ironic that the most absorbing match of the season should result in Hampshire incurring an eight point reduction for a sub-standard pitch).

Though he missed five first-class matches through injury and selection for England Lions, he seemed to be bowling for Hampshire all summer. He bowled one ball short of 450 overs, 170 more than the next bowler. He also took most wickets (38 at 36.65). He therefore thoroughly deserved his recognition by HCS members.

He was less effective as the season eased to its conclusion but, by then, he must have been a very tired man.

Though not enjoying quite the same success as in 2010, he remained a key bowler for Hampshire in the Twenty20 competition.

In his very short career which started in 2009, his accuracy and control have already become a byword. During the season he became the second youngest spin bowler in all county cricket history to take 100 wickets. The only other man to have reached that landmark at an earlier age was Derek Underwood.

His temperament appears to be phlegmatic. If hit for four he rarely displays any emotion, turns quietly to his mark and bowls the next ball. It is an attitude which should serve him well in the future. The big challenge for him in the years ahead will be to progress from a run-saving bowler to a wicket taking one, able to bowl sides out in the fourth innings. All his five wicket hauls this season were in the first innings. However, Danny Briggs obviously has time, oodles of it, on his side

HAMPSHIRE'S OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALLIST

At the start of the UK's Olympic year, and given our speaker's sporting background, it is perhaps apt to recall the career of a Hampshire cricketer who won a gold medal at the Olympic Games. It was 100 years ago, at the Stockholm Olympics, that Arthur Egerton Knight won a gold medal when he played for the Great Britain football team. Always referred to as A E Knight by the press, thereby emphasising his amateur status, he had been a regular member of England's amateur international side since his debut against

Holland at Stamford Bridge in December 1909. Described in Portsmouth FC's Official Pictorial Centenary History as a *solid-tackling and skilful left-back*, he had played for his country on twelve occasions prior to the Olympics. England had won all but one of those matches. The other match was drawn. As a prelude to a future rivalry, England were held 2 – 2 by Germany in Berlin in April 1911.

The Great Britain side dominated the Games. They won all three matches. After a bye in the first round, they overwhelmed Hungary 7 – 0 in the second, before defeating Finland 4 – 0 in the semi-finals. The powerful side then won the gold medal by beating Denmark 4 – 2 in the Final. Knight played in all three matches but, interestingly, only gained one cap! It would seem from the scores that he had little to do before the Final. He was, though, involved in an interesting incident in the semis. England were awarded a penalty after the referee blew for a foul on Chelsea's Vivian Woodward. However, the centre forward thought that the decision was unfair and suggested to the penalty-taker, Knight, that he miss the shot on goal. Knight duly steered the ball over the crossbar. The Olympic ideal and spirit of fair play was certainly prevalent in those far off days.

He also played for Great Britain in the 1920 Olympics in Antwerp but on that occasion, they lost 3 – 1 to Norway in the first round.

After the tournament of 1912 Knight went on to play in a further 16 internationals for the England amateur side. In two of his last three appearances he captained England, against Northern Ireland at Derby in November 1919 and France at Rouen in the following April. His side won both matches 5 – 0.

As indicated earlier, he played his club football for Portsmouth as an amateur and, whilst still a non-league footballer, he twice played for England in a full international, against Wales in a 'Victory Game' in October 1919 (which England lost 2 – 1) and against Northern Ireland in Belfast two weeks later (1 -1). He had spent the First World War on the Western Front, first as a private in the Hampshire Regiment. Reinforcing his leadership skills, resourcefulness and independence, he then sought a Commission as a captain and served with the Border Regiment. He had only resumed his football career in August 1919. His latent recognition was therefore quite remarkable.

Arthur Knight had been born in Godalming on 7 September 1887. He moved to Portsmouth in 1908 with his job in insurance, whereupon Pompey signed him immediately. After a season in the reserves he made his debut for the first team against Croydon Common (sic) in 1909. He went on to play 170 matches, including FA Cup appearances, for the club in their Southern League days. Upon Pompey's promotion to the Football League in 1920, he played 34 matches in the Division 3 South before his retirement in 1922.

His Hampshire career was an odd one. A right-handed batsman, he played in four matches in four separate seasons (1913, 1920, 1921 and 1923). Though scoring only 41 runs in seven innings, he captained the side in Lionel

Tennyson's absence on his last two appearances. Both were lost, against Middlesex at Northlands Road (by 151 runs) and Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge (nine wickets). He was able, though, to watch a Phil Mead century (103) in the second innings of the former match.

He was also something of a lucky mascot for Alec Bowell. On his debut, Knight opened the innings with him against Oxford University at Southampton and saw him make 193. Cecil Abercrombie, also making his own Hampshire debut, scored 126 later in the innings, and put on 142 for the fifth wicket with Bowell. Hampshire amassed 532. The students replied with 554. The match aggregate of 1477 runs remained a Hampshire record for over 80 years. On the next occasion he played with Bowell, against Worcestershire at Portsmouth in 1920, the latter made 115, sharing an opening partnership of 204 in 165 minutes with George Brown (110). Unfortunately, Knight, batting at three, was dismissed without scoring.

Upon the conclusion of his football career at the top level he played for the famous amateur side, Corinthians, who granted him life membership. He made a nostalgic return to Fratton Park in February 1927 to play for that club against his beloved Portsmouth in a friendly. He also made one more appearance on the playing surface at the ground in peculiar circumstances in September 1931. When the referee failed to turn up for Portsmouth's league encounter with Everton, he moved from the stands to act as linesman. This most public spirited of men donated his match fee to the Royal Hospital.

He later worked in the wine trade. During the Second World War, he answered his country's call yet again. He joined the RAF and eventually attained the rank of Squadron Leader. He died at Milton in Portsmouth on 10 March 1956.

Whilst his cricket career was a modest one, this remarkable sportsman remains Hampshire's only Olympic gold medallist and, as such, deserves to be remembered and celebrated in this Olympic year of 2012.

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