

THE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Frank Bailey Shaun Udal

NEWSLETTER No. 317 – APRIL 2012

URGENT APPEAL FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Last year, David Fish retired as Secretary of Hampshire Cricket Society and a replacement could not be found before the AGM. Ken Blowe, Vice-Chairman, generously offered to act as Secretary for one year. That year has passed and despite appeals the Society is still without a Secretary for the following year. **THE SOCIETY NEEDS A SECRETARY.** Please give this matter serious thought. Is there someone willing to take on this position or who you think would be willing to do so? Would any volunteers please contact me on 01489 877200 or email susannemarlow@aol.com as soon as possible.

Thank you, Susanne

MEETINGS

Wednesday 28 March 2012 - Meeting

The Society is especially proud to welcome Julian Shackleton to this evening's meeting. He has agreed to speak at short notice. He will be bringing some of his father's cricket collection and recalling Derek's career. It is certain to be a nostalgic occasion.

JULIAN HOWARD SHACKLETON was born in Todmorden (as was Derek) on the Yorkshire/Lancashire border, on 29 January 1952. He was one of a crop of future first-class cricketers in a golden era at Millfield School. Also attending the school with him were David Graveney and Jim Foat of his own County, Gloucestershire, and Peter Denning and Peter Roebuck of Somerset. In a career from 1971 to 1978, he was part of a wonderful Gloucestershire team led by that force of nature, Mike Procter, and which included Zaheer Abbas, Sadiq Mohammad, Andy Stovold, the endearing David Shepherd, the England rugby international Alistair Hignell, Graveney and Brian Brain. In his early years he played alongside Tony Brown and Arthur Milton, two Gloucestershire legends. It was a side that captured the imagination. Such was the quality of their cricket, Gloucestershire finished third in the Championship in 1972, 1976 and 1977. In the latter year they would certainly have won the title had not two home matches, at Gloucester (v Northants) and Bristol (v Yorkshire), been abandoned without a ball being bowled. They were only five points shy of champions Middlesex, having played two matches less. Even so, coming into their final match of the summer at Bristol, Gloucestershire were still favourites to secure their first Championship. However, two master-classes delivered by Barry Richards in the first innings, and Gordon Greenidge in the second (both scored 94) broke Gloucestershire hearts as Hampshire eased to a six-wicket victory.

Julian achieved the much cherished aspiration of playing in a Lord's final, being an integral part of the Gloucestershire side that claimed the Benson and Hedges Cup in 1977. He played his part in the final nobly, taking one for 40 in his ten overs.

A tall, right-arm medium pace bowler, he took 115 wickets in all matches for Gloucestershire before a back injury curtailed his career at the age of 26.

After a spell of umpiring, he re-emerged to play for Dorset. In the years from 1990 to 1998, he was one of the most feared bowlers in Minor Counties cricket. In the last of these years, at the age of 46, he embarrassed Hampshire who were making an evocative return to Bournemouth's Dean Park in a Nat West Trophy match. He dismissed Giles White, lbw without scoring. At one stage Hampshire were nought for three before Robin Smith (144 not out) and Adi Aymes (73) then rescued Hampshire with a match-winning fourth wicket partnership of 178. In a stunning display of control and movement, Julian went on to produce the remarkable analysis of 12-6-18-1. Indeed, figures that were "Shackleton-like!"

FATHERS AND SONS TO ADDRESS THE SOCIETY

Julian Shackleton's appearance this evening brings the number of fathers and sons to address the Society to five. The others are Desmond and Patrick Eagar, Lofty and Bob Herman and Jim and Bobby Parks. In the case of the Tremlett family, three generations, Maurice, Tim and Chris have spent evenings in our midst.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE PLAYERS AT THE SOCIETY

Julian Shackleton is the eighth Gloucestershire player to address the Society. The others are Bomber Wells (December 1983), Roger Knight (January 1986), Barrie Meyer (April 1991), Tony Brown (February 1992), David Graveney (November 1997), Tom Graveney (December 2000), and Jon Hardy (November 2007).

Wednesday 8 February 2012 – Report

With Amol Rajan in China, David Allen brought forward his talk originally scheduled for the meeting at the end of March. He brought a fascinating collection of artefacts from Hampshire's archives. Among the highlights were R M Poore's cap, the bat with which E G Wynyard scored 268 against Yorkshire in 1896 and Phil Mead's bat for his 100th century at Kettering in 1927. The ball with which Butch White took his four wickets in an over against Sussex at Portsmouth in 1961 was also on display. There were also first editions of many books and, indeed, a proof copy of John Arlott's limited edition on Neville Rogers. Roy Marshall's sweater was also exhibited. The autograph collection also included signatures of all the Hampshire sides in one-day finals. Among the historic 19th century artefacts was also a poster advertising a match between the United England XI and 19 of Hampshire at the East Hants Ground in Southsea in the 1860s. David's talk was enhanced by photographs of some of the more worn and delicate artefacts by John Farnhill. David was pleased to announce that a photographic tribute to Peter

Sainsbury, surely the most unsung of notable Hampshire cricketers, and the 1973 Championship side, will go on display at the west end of the Shackleton bar during the forthcoming season.

Wednesday 7 March 2012 – Report

Anthony Collis' talk also gave members an interesting insight on an aspect of cricket's heritage. Cricket pub signs may be an esoteric topic but it was an evening full of interest. Anthony's address was a comprehensive survey of pubs both old, new and defunct. As his talk progressed, he virtually gave a potted history of cricket. Pub signs embraced early variants of the game (eg bat and trap), 18th century cricket, including the Hambledon era, the early days of MCC, the travelling elevens of the mid-19th century and the Australian influence. W G Grace was the cricketer most depicted. However, as an indication of the modern world, where so much of cricket's heritage is being airbrushed from history, when he enquired about a sign of "WG" in Worcester, one member of staff asked "W G who?" There were double-sided pub signs with different paintings. Many pubs were simply called The Cricketers, but those in Hampshire include, of course, The Bat and Ball at Hambledon and the Thomas Lord at West Meon. The portrait of Lord was by George Moorland, who produced it to clear off his debts! Among others featured in Hampshire were The Centurian (featuring Philip Mead) at Barton-on-Sea, The Frog and Wicket at Eversley, The Bounty Inn adjacent to May's Bounty at Basingstoke, and those at Fair Oak, Steep, Hartley Wintney, Turgis Green, Yateley and Tangley. A tour of these as well as others not mentioned should provide members with a few pleasurable days. Perhaps the saddest information conveyed was that The Cricketers at Wrecclesham, on the Surrey/Hampshire border, which features the great Hambledon player 'Silver Billy' Beldham, is now an Indian restaurant.

AGM NEWS

There were a number of issues arising from the AGM. The Society still requires a Secretary. The Chairman's communication on this matter is included at the front of this Newsletter.

Owing to a reduction in income arising from a smaller membership, most of whom are over 60, and increased postage and printing costs in respect of the Newsletter, subscriptions are to be raised for next winter's programme from £9 to £12 for those over 60, and from £12 to £15 for those under 60.

There was also a proposal that, where possible, Newsletters be distributed by email. This is in line with a number of other organisations. Those members without computers or printers would still receive Newsletters via the post. Members will be asked to express their individual preferences in a questionnaire which will be sent out with the Summer Newsletter in July/August.

In view of the poor turn out for meetings early in the New Year, the Committee will also be investigating the feasibility of holding one or two meetings in the afternoons. Our Chairman reported that the big issue is likely to be the availability of venues for such an initiative. It is worth mentioning that some

Societies are already holding meetings in daylight hours. As with the email proposals, members will be asked to express their preferences in the questionnaire to be circulated with the Summer Newsletter.

Ken Blowe and Ken Chapman also resigned from the Committee. As Treasurer (both permanent and temporary), stand-in Secretary, and Vice-Chairman, Ken Blowe has been a tower of strength. His selfless assistance has enabled the Society to navigate their way through many difficulties in recent years.

Those members seeking re-election to the Committee were returned unopposed. Don Crossley filled one of the vacancies. If any other member is interested in serving on the Committee, would they please contact Susanne Marlow or any other Committee member. There are currently two vacancies. It is not an onerous task. Only two Committee meetings are held each year. Members will have the opportunity to host speakers, the costs of which are reimbursed.

KEN CHAPMAN

After serving in many capacities in the administration of the Society's affairs since the Society was formed in 1975, Ken Chapman, as mentioned above, has stood down from the Committee. Ken was one of the four founder members of the Society and his presence on the Committee has ensured a truly invaluable line of continuity. His wisdom and gracious, quiet guidance will be much missed. The Editor, and others, have always appreciated Ken's sage counsel in the last thirty years.

KABIR ALI AND SEAN ERVINE IN THE BANGLADESH PREMIER LEAGUE

Kabir Ali and Sean Ervine were integral members of their respective successful sides in the inaugural Bangladesh Premier League. Their two teams met in the semi-final where Ali's Barisal Burners defeated Ervine's Duronto Rajshahi by eight wickets. Ervine made 82 before being run out by his Hampshire team-mate. The match winner was Ahmed Shehzad who struck a forthright 113 not out off only 49 balls. The Burners reached their target of 184 off only 16 overs. Their team included Phil Mustard, Yasir Arafat and Brad Hodge. One of Ervine's colleagues was his fellow member of Hampshire's Twenty20 title winning side of 2010, Abdul Razzaq. The West Indian Marlon Samuels also played for the Duronto Rajshahi.

Ali's side went on to lose the final to Dhaka Gladiators by eight wickets. Dhaka were indebted to Shahid Afridi who took three for 23. He was not required to bat. Also in the Dhaka side was Saeed Ajmal, England's nemesis in the recent Test series against Pakistan in the Emirates.

Interestingly, Kabir Ali has yet to play for Hampshire in Twenty20 cricket. His last appearance in this format in England was for Worcestershire in July 2009.

In one of the group matches, Ervine was awarded the man of the match award for his three for 19 against Khulna Royal Bengals.

PROSPECTS FOR 2012

This summer will be an intriguing one for Hampshire followers. It will be a make or break summer for Hampshire's youngsters. Given their innate talent and undoubted rapport with each other, there is no reason to believe they will not respond to the challenge. It was clear from the final few matches of last summer that Jimmy Adams has the support of his team. Adams is, incidentally, only the third Hampshire-born captain (the others being Russell Bencraft (1895) and George Taylor (1939), since Hampshire's admission to the County Championship in 1895.

With Michael Carberry available for the season, and the return of the reliable Simon Katich, the team should score enough runs. Sean Ervine, with a pending England qualification will also want to impress. The issue, as always, is the fitness and penetration of the bowlers. Hampshire are likely to require at least two bowlers to take 50 wickets. It must be hoped, therefore, that James Tomlinson, David Balcombe, David Griffiths, Chris Wood, Kabir Ali and Dimi Mascarenhas of the pace bowlers prosper. Wood's ability to bowl the unplayable ball may see him progress very rapidly. His batting already suggests he could become a genuine all-rounder. As always, it is imperative that catches are held.

Michael Bates will be given every opportunity to perform with the bat. His wicket-keeping could scarcely be improved upon, though he will be playing for a whole season of first team cricket for the first time, which will tax his concentration. Given his batting prowess, Adam Rouse is bound to be snapping at his heels before long.

Spin bowling presents a conundrum. If Danny Briggs is called up by England for the ODI then Hampshire's cupboard is worryingly threadbare. They will have to rely on Simon Katich's ability to surprise with his unorthodox left arm spin, and an improvement in Liam Dawson. However, the latter's batting came on in abundance last year and it must be hoped that he does not become unduly distracted. He is now primarily a batsman who bowls.

Hampshire's main rivals would appear to be Yorkshire and Northamptonshire, though Derbyshire have invested shrewdly. With the availability of the mercurial Shahid Afridi and the shrewd Neil McKenzie, Hampshire will surely be a force again in the Twenty20 competition.

THE AGEAS BOWL

Members will probably be aware that the Rose Bowl, because of a sponsorship deal, has been renamed the Ageas Bowl. It was undoubtedly due to commercial considerations, but many will lament that 'Rose Bowl' could not be retained. In a very short space of time, it has become an iconic name with the County's supporters.

THE RISE AND RISE OF DANNY BRIGGS

Danny Briggs' astonishing progress continues unabated. After enjoying a productive sequence for the England Lions in one-day matches against Bangladesh A and Sri Lanka A (9 matches – 16 wkts at a cost of 21.50 runs apiece) he was called up for England's limited-overs squad against Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates. After England secured the rubber by winning the first three matches, he was called up for the fourth and final game of the series in Dubai on 21 February. He was a conspicuous success, bowling his full quota of ten overs and taking the notable wickets of Umar Akmad and Shoaib Malik for 39 runs. He bowled as he always does for Hampshire, wicket to wicket with variations of pace and flight. If he was nervous, he certainly did not show it.

At 20 years and 297 days he became the youngest Hampshire player to wear his country's colours. He was also, of course, the first man from the Isle of Wight to represent England.

He is the tenth Hampshire player to appear for England in limited-overs internationals. The others, in order of appearance are:-

	Appearances	Years
Trevor Jesty	10	1982-83
Chris Smith	4	1983-84
Robin Smith	71	1988-1996
David Gower	9	1990-91
Shaun Udal	11	1994-2006
Alan Mullally	21	1999-2001
Kevin Pietersen	104	2005-2010
Chris Tremlett	9	2005-2008
Dimitri Mascarenhas	20	2007-2009

Unfortunately, **James Vince** was unable to advance his claims on the same Lions tour. He played in three matches in Bangladesh, scoring 74 runs. His highest score was 44 at Chittagong. He suffered the misfortune of being dismissed first ball on his sole appearance in Sri Lanka. Joss Buttler and Jonathan Bairstow were preferred for England's Twenty20 squad in the Emirates. However, both were unconvincing and the Hampshire youngster still has all to play for.