

THE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Frank Bailey Shaun Udal

NEWSLETTER No. 318 – Summer 2012

The Society's first meeting of its new winter season will be on **WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2012** at the Ageas Bowl. The speaker will be Hampshire's groundsman, Nigel Gray, who is in his testimonial year.

Enclosed with this Newsletter are:-

1. The Society's Programme Card for 2012/13
2. A pro forma for subscriptions and nomination for HCS Player of the Year, incorporating a questionnaire for members to indicate whether they would wish to receive their Newsletters by email or continue to receive them by post
3. A letter from our Hon. Treasurer, Brian Ravenhall
4. A copy of the audited accounts.

The pro forma and questionnaire should be returned to the Society's Hon. Treasurer – Brian Ravenhall, 2 Homewater House, Hulbert Road, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO7 7JY

HON. SECRETARY STILL REQUIRED

The Society is still in need of the essential post of Hon. Secretary. Would any volunteers please contact Susanne Marlow for further details on 01489 877200 or email susannemarlow@aol.com.

MEETINGS

Wednesday 28 March 2012 – Report

Members revelled in Julian Shackleton recounting his father's career. The artefacts of Derek's career that Julian brought to the meeting generated huge interest. Members lingered long into the evening viewing Derek's blazers, caps, ties, sweaters, photographs, scrapbooks and other memorabilia of his life in the game.

NEW BOOKS BY HCS MEMBERS

Brief Candles by Keith Walmsley (ACS Publications)

A book by an HCS member is an event to be celebrated. Keith Walmsley, a regular attender at the Society's Annual Dinner, has written *Brief Candles* in the Lives in Cricket series, published by the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians. It is an account of some of the interesting men who made just one appearance in first-class cricket. Keith's research was exhaustive but he wears his learning lightly in his adoption of a breezy and

conversational style of writing. The book is a very entertaining and authoritative read. It includes a chapter on Fred Hyland who famously stepped on the field for just ten minutes in Hampshire's rain ruined match at Northampton in 1924. However, there is much more besides to capture the attention of all cricket lovers.

Two further books by HCS members, both in the ACS series referred to above, are due to be published in September. **Neil Jenkinson** and **Simon Sweetman** have written biographies of Hampshire's two main bowlers of the early 20th century, CHARLES LLEWELLYN and HESKETH VERNON HESKETH PRICHARD respectively. Both were interesting men who enjoyed unique careers.

Richard Binns' *Hampshire Cricket On The Move (from Northlands Road to The Rose Bowl)*, published last year, is still available from the Ageas Bowl shop. Copies can also be ordered on-line (Ticketing and Merchandise on the Hampshire Cricket website) or direct from Chipstone Books, High Trees, Botley Road, Curdridge, Hants SO32 2DS. The book is a valuable historical document, being a photographic account of the move from Northlands Road to the Rose Bowl.

The **Editor's** own book *Hampshire Cricket On This Day* was published in June. It is one of a series of similar books on the Counties being published this summer by Pitch Publishing. It tells the history, notable events and famous players in diary form over a calendar year, from first references to Hampshire in the 18th century to 2012. It is a pocket sized handbook with 202 pages of narrative and photographs, price £9.99. It is available at the main bookshops, and can also be ordered on Amazon and from the Hampshire Club Shop (also on line-see details above re. Richard Binns' book). The Editor will also have copies at the winter meetings.

Andrew Renshaw is currently working on *The Wisden Book of the Great War*. An article by Andrew on a long-lost schoolboy cricketer appeared in Wisden 2012, which demonstrates the extent of his exhaustive research.

BOOK BY ANDREW MURTAGH

Members will recall Andrew (Andy) Murtagh, who played in both Hampshire's Championship side of 1973 and the John Player League title team of 1975. Sporting shoulder length hair which was in mode in the period, and a moustache, he always cut a dash with his enterprising middle-order batting. Dublin-born and raised in London, he became a schoolteacher in Romsey before spending three decades at Malvern College. He has now written a book on a fellow Malvernian teacher, entitled *A Remarkable Man: The Story of George Chesterton*. His subject played for Worcestershire in the 1950s, largely in the school holidays, taking 263 wickets at 22.78. A review of the book, by Frank Keating, appeared in the August edition of *The Cricketer*.

OBITUARY – MIKE SPURRIER

Members will be sorry to learn that Mike Spurrier passed away on 9 July 2012, aged 79. Mike was, indisputably, cricket's most authoritative military historian. He contributed a series of articles in the 1980s to the HCS Newsletters, Wisden Cricket Monthly and The Cricket Statistician on the gallantry and medals awarded to first-class cricketers in both world wars. Educated at Harrow, he passed out at Sandhurst to join the Durham Light Infantry, rising to the rank of Major. He then joined the GPO where he introduced the dial-a-disc and test match commentary service. He was a committed Christian and in his later life he devotedly served his local church in Farnham, often visiting the housebound elderly. Sitting with Mike at a cricket match was a stimulating and enjoyable experience. He was always testing one's knowledge in all sorts of fields. He was a staunch Durham supporter, both before and after their entry into first-class cricket, and revelled in their recent successes. At the time of his death he was working with Andrew Renshaw, on the forthcoming *Wisden Book of the Great War* (see previous page).

Mike addressed the Society at Netley in March 2002 when the Editor wrote ".....(he) delighted his audience with a wide and varied discourse on the feats of decorated soldiers.....he gave us a memorable evening, the more meritorious as he filled in at two days' notice." I recall that he spoke without any notes at all.

CENTURY PARTNERSHIPS FOR HAMPSHIRE FOR THE 10TH WICKET

Is there any feature in cricket more diverting than a long 10th wicket partnership? On taking the ninth wicket in the first three innings, the bowlers will be looking to put their feet up quickly. The two opening batsmen in the next innings will be preparing themselves mentally. The groundsman will be sitting on his cart waiting to tend the wicket. Presumably, in more ancient history, the groundsman would have had a horse in waiting. A long partnership will upset all these respective preparations.

Hampshire followers were treated to a marvellous last-wicket stand of 85 by Sean Ervine and David Balcombe in the first innings against Glamorgan at the Ageas Bowl this summer. It could have been higher but the former who had been dropped first ball, eschewed singles to retain the strike in order to reach his century. He struck the ball cleanly, particularly off the front foot through the covers. The partnership was constructed intelligently, both batsmen often using the wide open spaces of the ground to run twos, rather than trying to hit boundaries. Balcombe batted in the most accomplished fashion from the outset and it was some surprise when he was caught low down at mid-on for 39. His partner was left undefeated on 109.

Tenth wicket partnerships in the last innings are an altogether more intense affair. The bowlers will be striving for victory. The batsmen will be doing their utmost to frustrate their efforts. Spectators on both sides will be on the edge of their seats, hearts in mouths. A ball passing outside the bat's edge, or dropping short of the fielders from the bat will evince contrasting emotions. The Hampshire faithful were treated to one such partnership, again at the

Ageas Bowl, against Kent upon the resumption of championship cricket after the interminable T20 group stages. Jimmy Adams (85 not out) and Danny Briggs (20 not out) held up the Kent bowlers for 125 balls and 71 minutes in securing a draw. One onlooker said “it felt like a win”.

There have been nine 10th wicket stands of over 100 for Hampshire. The descriptions below reveal that five were against Worcestershire. On five occasions overall, they changed the course of the match and led to comprehensive victories by an innings. None was in the final innings.

192 HAW Howell and WH Livsey v Worcestershire at Bournemouth 1921

This stand was totally out of context with the rest of the batting in the match. Hampshire were 118 for nine on the first day when the partnership started. Howell (133) and Livsey (a chanceless 70 not out) then took the score to 310 in only 110 minutes. Worcestershire were then twice skittled out for 138 and 90 by Jack Newman (12 for 90) and Alec Kennedy (eight for 104). Hampshire therefore gained a bizarre win by an innings and 82 runs in the first half of the second day, an event that looked most unlikely twenty-four hours earlier.

147 EM Sprot and AE Fielder v Gloucestershire at Bristol 1911

This partnership was constructed at the end of the first day, which contained some frenetic scoring, particularly towards the end of the day. After three wickets had fallen at 390, Fielder joined Sprot with forty minutes of play remaining. In that time they completed their astonishing partnership. The day finished upon Fielder’s dismissal (for 35) with the total at 537. Sprot finished on 125 (4 sixes and 20 fours) having reached his century in just 45 minutes – the County’s fastest century in first-class cricket. Despite Gilbert Jessop’s 108 in 83 minutes in the second innings, Hampshire won by an innings and a 103 runs on the second day.

127 CP Mead and GS Boyes v Worcestershire at Worcester 1922

The pair came together in Hampshire’s first innings on the first day with the total at 246 for nine. Mead was already past his century but the rest of the Hampshire batting had struggled against the pace attack of Root, Gilbert and Tarbox, who were to share all the wickets between them. Mead continued to dominate, finally being dismissed for 235 (32 fours and one five) made in 285 minutes, out of a total of 373. Boyes’ contribution was 22 not out, equalling Hampshire’s next highest individual innings. By the close Worcestershire had lost two wickets, both to Kennedy, for 22. On the following day, he (nine for 112) and Newman (nine for 85) demolished the home side for 134 and 124 to leave Hampshire victors by an innings and 115 runs.

125 AL Hosie and WL Budd v Glamorgan at Bournemouth 1935

This partnership changed the complexion of a closely fought encounter. After conceding a first innings lead of 31 (Hampshire 156 – John Clay seven for 74), Glamorgan 187 (Len Creese seven for 55), the County were 216 for nine in the second innings when the pair started their partnership towards the end of the second day. When they were parted about half an hour before lunch on the final morning, they had batted for 105 minutes, with Lloyd Budd (67 not out), being the senior partner. Alex Hosie’s 136 (270 minutes, 16 fours) was

his first century for Hampshire for seven years, and his final one. Glamorgan, requiring 311 to win in 265 minutes were hanging on at 242 for nine at the end. The last pair Duckfield and Glover batted for twenty minutes to save the day. Fresh from his batting success, Budd did his best to bring victory for his side, taking three for 30 in 16 overs.

118 CH Abercrombie and HAH Smith v Worcestershire at Dudley 1913

As with the Mead/Boyes partnership nine years later (see above), this partnership effectively settled the match. The Worcestershire fast bowler "Bumper" Burns (six for 96) and FA Pearson (three for 68) had restricted the County to 229 for nine before the Isle of Wight-born Hamilton Smith joined Abercrombie. The latter, a tall, powerfully built naval officer and right-handed batsman, unleashed such an onslaught that when he was out for 144 (17 fours, one five and a six), he had batted only 135 minutes. Smith was 33 not out. In reply to the County's 347, Worcestershire were put out for 154 and 173 with George Brown (match figures of six for 110), Kennedy (six for 108) and Newman (seven for 60) taking all the wickets to fall to bowlers. Hampshire thus completed a two-day victory by an innings and 20 runs. The match was also notable in that it marked the Hampshire debut of Lionel Tennyson, who made a brisk 28. In Hampshire's next match, against Essex at Leyton, Abercrombie (165) and George Brown (140 not out) created Hampshire's seventh wicket partnership of 325. Sadly, 1913 was Cecil Abercrombie's only season in county cricket. He was killed at the Battle of Jutland less than three years later.

117* R Dare and RO Prouton v Worcestershire at Bournemouth 1952

After bowling out Worcestershire for 203 (Derek Shackleton five for 32 and Reg Dare four for 52), consistent batting ensured Hampshire made the best of the opportunity presented. They were 358 for nine, a lead of 155, when Ralph Prouton, who was a good enough batsman to open the innings previously, joined Dare. The latter went on to complete the only century (109 not out) of his career. Desmond Eagar declared the innings at 475 when Prouton reached his half century (51 not out). However, Worcestershire were able to bat out the game easily in their second innings, reaching 303 for five. The partnership was the last occasion a Hampshire pair recorded a century stand for the tenth wicket.

113 JG Greig and C Robson v Lancashire at Liverpool 1901

This partnership retrieved Hampshire's fortunes on the third day. After the county had been shot out for 106 (Greig 47 not out), Lancashire amassed a first innings lead of 307, declaring on 413 for eight. At the fall of the ninth wicket in the second innings, Hampshire were only 67 runs in front. When Robson was dismissed for 52, Greig had struck 249 (one five and 32 fours), his runs coming in 320 minutes. Lancashire, requiring 181 in 140 minutes, were held up by an hour's rainfall and finished on 111 for five. Greig's monumental efforts had therefore salvaged a draw.

107 WH Livsey and A Jaques v Worcestershire at Southampton 1914

The first day's play was sensational as 19 wickets fell. Worcestershire made 155 but must have been satisfied with their day's work when they took the

ninth Hampshire wicket at 156 shortly before the close. However, the Hampshire numbers 10 and 11 (Arthur Jaques and Walter Livsey respectively) turned the match around next morning. Jaques (68) and his partner (42) both recorded career bests at the time (Jaques' score remained his highest). Jaques (four for 37), Kennedy (four for 72) and the occasional off-spin of Johnnie Greig (two for 11) then accounted for Worcestershire for 179. Phil Mead (50 not out) and Alex Johnstone then stroked Hampshire to an eight wicket victory in two days. Like Abercrombie, Jaques was lost his life in the First World War. He died in France just over a year later in September 1915.

106 G Brown and AS Kennedy v Yorkshire at Bournemouth 1913

This was Hampshire's second 10th wicket century partnership in this season (see Abercrombie/Smith above). Hampshire were in a parlous position at 209 for nine on the first day when Kennedy joined Brown. However, they batted for the remainder of the day, and had added 92 by close of play. Brown was out for 122 (12 fours) early on the second morning having batted for three and a half hours. Hampshire dominated the match thereafter but were unable to enforce victory. They obtained a first innings lead of 66 (315:249) and then made 200 for seven declared (Mead 68 not out). Yorkshire crawled to 148 for six in the fourth innings, despite Jaques not being able to bowl.

FOUR-DAY CHAMPIONSHIP CRICKET

Hampshire's highest tenth wicket partnership in four-day championship cricket (ie in the period since 1993) is:-

99 DA Kenway and PJ Hartley v Middlesex at Lord's 1999

After dismissing Middlesex for 256, Hampshire were 285 for nine at the end of the second day, with Peter Hartley (one not out) having just joined Derek Kenway (42 not out). The pair then added a further 94 runs on the third morning before the former Yorkshire player was out for 58. Kenway was left on 75 not out, as Hampshire totalled 379, a lead of 123. Middlesex then made 339 (Mike Roseberry 116, Mark Ramprakash 62, Alex Morris five for 79), leaving Hampshire to score 216 in 41 overs. Thanks to Giles White (64) and Will Kendall (78 not out) they attained their victory target in 37.3 overs with six wickets in hand.

HAMPSHIRE'S SEASON

At the time of writing, Hampshire's season is moving to an absorbing climax-second in Division 2 of the Championship, almost certain qualification to the semi-finals of the CB40 competition and Finals day of T20 at Cardiff looming. More next month.

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