

THE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Frank Bailey Shaun Udal

NEWSLETTER No 323 – JANUARY 2013

Wednesday 9 January 2013-Meeting

For tonight's meeting, members are "at home" with **JOHN YOUNG**. John has been a member of the Society for over 30 years, nine of which he was our Chairman.

Though born in Chelmsford, John has lived in Southampton since the age of four. He first saw Hampshire play, at Northlands Road, before the Second World War. He is now a Vice President.

John's career was as a lecturer at Southampton University. From 1971, he dovetailed his career by commentating on Hampshire matches on Hospital Radio. He managed the organisation of the cricket broadcasting role for many of those years until 2010. In his time in the commentary box, he has interviewed many Hampshire players, the game's greats (eg Greg Chappell and Sunil Gavaskar), fellow commentators (eg Henry Blofeld) and managers and officials. Members may recall that his interview with Gavaskar was reproduced in the HCS Newsletter in 1986. He will be majoring on hospital broadcasting this evening.

John also possesses a unique position in the history of Hampshire sport. He was Terry Paine's first inside forward partner whilst they were both playing for Winchester City. Paine was just starting his career and, of course, went on to earn an indelible place both in the annals of Southampton football, and that of England by playing one match in the World Cup qualifying round in 1966.

Wednesday 14 November 2012-Report

Those present to hear Richard Scott at Test Valley Golf Club enjoyed a memorable evening. His outstanding address was reminiscent of his batting. It was honest, illuminating and told with panache. It was a tour de force. It was difficult to recall a speaker who prompted such a torrent of questions from his audience. He answered them all with style, humour and integrity, laced with humility and modesty. He thoroughly deserved the resounding applause at the end of the evening which had members buzzing throughout.

He started by describing his early days at Colehill Cricket Club, near Wimborne, where he played against men in his early teens, before he moved to Bournemouth at the age of 15 to play Southern League cricket. He quickly progressed to Minor Counties cricket with Dorset, where he was captained by former Hampshire opener, Richard Lewis. The pair believed in taking the attack to the opposition from the first ball.

He obtained a Hampshire contract (£1200pa) in 1984, where he came under the watchful eye of coach Peter Sainsbury. "Sains" was a hard taskmaster, but fair, and our speaker learnt much from him. Later in his address he

remarked that the values and standards he instilled in his role of coach with Middlesex emanated from those he learnt from Sainsbury, Jimmy Gray and Arthur Holt. He recounted that all the 2nd XI at the time played Southern League cricket on a Saturday. On the following Monday morning, "Sains" would sit them down and ask how many runs, wickets and catches they had claimed. The approach engendered competition; they wanted to please their coach and also best their colleagues.

The best performance of his career was that remarkable innings in the Sunday League against Yorkshire (see November Newsletter). The reaction from his audience clearly indicated that it has entered into Hampshire folklore. However, he could not explain how or why it happened, or why he never repeated it. One interesting postscript was that, as an uncapped player, he changed in the 2nd XI room under the pavilion and started to return there at the end of his epic knock for a shower. With the crowd cheering wildly, and with his bat raised in the air in acknowledgment, Nigel Cowley shouted that he could return to the main dressing room to use the shower there!

He offered splendid insights on his colleagues. Mark Nicholas was a fine leader of men, and a good motivator whose communication skills improved with experience. Like many others of that era he regarded Malcolm Marshall as probably the best of all fast bowlers. He commented on the commitment of Chris and Robin Smith to Hampshire's cause. He never thought of them as taking the place of English-born batsmen. They also offered opportunities for Hampshire staff to play good club cricket in South Africa in the winter. He himself spent six winters there and another four in Australia. He was always in competition with Tony Middleton for a first team place and when the latter made the breakthrough, and the retiring David Turner was replaced by David Gower, he decided to go to Gloucestershire.

After leaving the game, he worked in estate agency, sports leisure management and bar/club management before returning to cricket as a coach. He was portfolio coaching at summer schools and camps, Bournemouth, Dorset and the Royal Navy before applying for the post of 2nd XI coach at Middlesex. After being interviewed by John Emburey and Don Bennett, he was offered the job. He then took on a caretaker role as first team coach.

He then recounted the improvement in Middlesex's fortunes. The catalyst was the shrewd appointment of Angus Fraser as Director of Cricket. The pair then set about changing the culture of the club, and instilling new standards and values. Shaun Udal was also invaluable in helping with the process. In the Q & A session, he described the establishment of a comprehensive coaching set-up, embracing all facets of the game, the Middlesex Academy, an Emerging Players Programme and substantial improvements to the facilities at Radlett CC, which was now Middlesex's training base. The Q & A session also covered a shoal of other matters including captaincy, recruitment, agents, T20, James Harris, Chris Wright (who started his career with Liphook in the Southern League), Andrew Strauss and Eoin Morgan. He was full of praise for Hampshire's coaching and development system. He thought the County

winning two out of three trophies in 2012 was a considerable achievement in the current era.

At the end of his initial address he said he was privileged to have lived the dream. His audience certainly left having felt they had partly shared it.

Wednesday 5 December 2012-Report

Members enjoyed a lovely evening in the company of John Woodcock prior to the Annual Dinner. In a delightful ramble through his career covering cricket he touched upon his colleagues in the pressbox, including RC Robertson-Glasgow, Sir Neville Cardus and EW Swanton-legends all, as well as the great batsmen he had seen, particularly the three Ws, Len Hutton, Denis Compton, Viv and Barry Richards, Rohan Kanhai and Gary Sobers, Graeme Pollock, and right up to the present day, Kevin Pietersen. He thought Barry Richards was the best batsman he had seen. One amusing story concerned Denis Compton who whilst enjoying his 50th birthday party received a phone call from his mother who informed him he was only 49! He also recalled talking to Roy Marshall in the Mayor's tent at Bournemouth after Hampshire had clinched the Championship in 1961. He asked Roy how often a bowler had genuinely dismissed him rather than he getting himself out. Roy's reply was "once I suppose" (Editor's note: Marshall still scored 2,607 runs in the season). There was also a wonderfully nostalgic review of the 1954/55 series in Australia, particularly the bowling of Frank Tyson and Brian Statham which enabled England to win three consecutive Tests after being thrashed in the first at Brisbane. There was much else besides as his audience enjoyed a unique trip down memory lane.

Andy Ray's warm vote of thanks matched the tenor of John's talk. Our Chairman, Susanne Marlow thanked the Ageas Bowl staff for all their work during the evening. Over seventy members and guests enjoyed an excellent Christmas meal.

(The editor is indebted to his wife, Jennie, and Robbie Wilton for providing notes of John Woodcock's address).

SIR PATRICK MOORE

Obituaries on Sir Patrick Moore, who died on 9 December, aged 89, referred to his interest in cricket. He spoke to the Society at Basingstoke over thirty years ago, on 24 September 1981. Tony Mitchener's report of the meeting captured the comedic nature of his address perfectly. He told a number of outrageous stories, including conceding 16 off one delivery, when the ball disappeared down a rabbit hole inside the boundary and no one shouted "lost ball", and a catch being taken off a rebound from a goat. The latter prompted a Laws enquiry to Lord's. The MCC reply, equally tongue in cheek one suspects, ruled that the goat had no business to be on the field of play! Not surprisingly, the famed astronomer also touched upon inter-planetary cricket. For cricket on the moon the lighter gravity would require fielders to be spread over 5 miles from the bat; the atmosphere of Mars would probably assist swing bowling; and for the 50 years' journey to Uranus for an away fixture the selectors would need to select a very young side at the outset!

CHRISTOPHER MARTIN-JENKINS

Christopher Martin-Jenkins had been ill for much of 2012, but his death on 1 January was still a shock. The tributes from broadcasters, journalists and players alike have demonstrated his universal popularity throughout the cricketing world. He addressed the Society on 26 February 1981. Tony Mitchener's report mentions that "some of the highlights of an entertaining evening were found in the amusing anecdotes retold in brilliant mimicry of the voice and manner of those involved".

TONY GREIG

A tribute to Tony Greig, who died 29 December 2012, will be included in the next Newsletter. It will incorporate his performances against Hampshire, against whom he claimed a number of match-winning performances. It has been instructive that the obituaries and tributes have been of a revisionist nature, and that his contribution to cricket as a whole has been portrayed in a much more positive light than hitherto.

GEORGE BAILEY

Members will be aware that Hampshire have signed the Tasmanian, George Bailey, as their overseas registration for 2013. He is Australia's T20 captain. He made history in 2012 by becoming the first player to be named on his Australian debut since Dave Gregory in the very first Test in March 1877.

GEORGE JOHN BAILEY was born in Launceston on 7 September 1982. He is a middle-order right hand batsman, who made his first-class debut in 2004/5. He was an integral member of the Tasmanian side that won their inaugural Pura Cup (formerly Sheffield Shield) in 2006/7. He led the state to victory in two matches that summer, whilst acting as stand-in for the injured Dan Marsh. Four years later, in 2010/11, he captained the side to their second success. By now, the Sheffield Shield had been reinstated. He has scored over 700 runs in an Australian season on four occasions, his best aggregate being 778 (avge. 45.22) in 2005/6. He has scored 14 first-class centuries to the end of 2012.

His representative cricket has been for Australia Under-19s, Australia A and for his country in 13 ODIs and 13 T20 matches. His highest score in ODIs is 65 against England at The Oval last summer. He toured India with the A side in 2008/9.

The editor's contact in Australia regards him more as a limited-overs specialist. His career to date bears out that observation. He has appeared for the Chennai Super Kings in the IPL and for Melbourne Stars and Hobart Hurricanes in Australia's Big Bash. He also played for Scotland in limited overs matches in 2007 and 2010. In the latter year, he scored an impressive 90 in a losing cause at the Rose Bowl, an innings that no doubt prompted Hampshire's interest.

JOHN CARR LORD

George Bailey will be the second Tasmanian to play for Hampshire. The first was John Carr Lord, who played as a 19 year old in the Country's inaugural first-class match, against Sussex at the Antelope Ground at Southampton in July 1864. He was living with his Tasmanian-born sister in Portsmouth at the time. Lord made 11 (opening the innings) and 4 not out (batting at 10)! It was his only match for Hampshire. He returned to Tasmania shortly afterwards and played for the island against Victoria at Launceston in March 1873. (The editor is currently researching all those men who played in Hampshire's first match, with a view to producing a book for the 150th anniversary of that fixture in 1864).

GLENN MAXWELL

The Australian Cricket Society has nominated Glenn Maxwell as their Young Cricketer of the Year in 2011. Since his startling performances for Hampshire in the T20 competition last summer, the expansive right-handed batsman and off-spin bowler has won a place in both the Australian ODI and T20 side. He also played for Hampshire in the Champions League (T20) in South Africa in early October. He is currently playing for the Melbourne Stars (captained by Shane Warne and managed by Viv Richards) in Australia's Big Bash. One interesting feature of his appearances last year was his footwear. As far as the editor can recall, Maxwell was the first Hampshire player to wear red shoes!

SIMON KATICH

In an article in *The Cricket Paper* on 7 November 2012, it was reported that Simon Katich's long-term career plans involved "player welfare" in Aussie Rules football. A week later, it was announced he was joining Lancashire, for whom he played one match in 2010, next season. In his four summers with Hampshire (2003-05 and 2012), the nuggety left-handed batsman played in 39 matches, scoring 2661 runs (avge. 46.68). The highest of his six centuries was 196 against Yorkshire at Headingley last summer. He also held 33 catches, mainly at slip. He was the Society's Player of the Year in 2003. He was integral to Hampshire's victories in the final stages of both the T20 and CB40 competitions last summer when he brought his streetwise technique to bear at the end of the innings time and again. His last appearance for Hampshire was in the CB40 final at Lord's in September, in which his 35 not out off 26 balls enabled his side to post a match-winning total. He will be a difficult act to follow in the shortened forms of the game next summer.

RORY KLEINVELDT AND IMRAN TAHIR

Hampshire supporters will perhaps be surprised to learn that Rory Kleinveldt, who made one low key performance for the County against Lancashire at the Rose Bowl in 2008, made his Test debut for South Africa against Australia at Brisbane in November. He retained his place for the next Test at Adelaide. It was in the latter match that Imran Tahir suffered the misfortune of the worst-ever analysis by any bowler in the history of test cricket, conceding 260 runs in 37 overs without taking a wicket. Both were omitted for the third and final test at Perth, in which South Africa won so impressively by 309 runs to win the series 1-0.

SAEED AJMAL

Hampshire have signed Saeed Ajmal, Pakistan's off-spin bowler for August and September next season. He is indisputably the world's best off-spin bowler and his presence will add significant potency to Hampshire's bowling attack. He was, of course, the key player in Pakistan's 3-0 series whitewash against England in the UAE at the start of 2012. He took career best figures of 7 for 55, and then 3 for 42 in the first test in Dubai, and finished with a series aggregate of 24 wickets at the ridiculously low average 14.70. His award as man of the series was almost a formality. The England batsmen barely started to fathom his *doosra*.

SAEED AJMAL was born in Faisalabad on 14 October 1977. He made his first-class debut in 1996, but was not selected for his country until he was 30, in mid-2008, when he was selected for a one-day international against Pakistan at Karachi in the Asia Cup. His career suffered a setback when his action was reported during a one-day series against Australia early in 2009, but tests found that any elbow flexion was within the permitted 15-degree limit. Restored to the side, he was a great success as Pakistan carried off the World Cup in England during the following summer. He took 12 wickets (second only to Umar Gul's 13) and repeatedly strangled the middle-order of the opposition at a time when they were looking to move the score along. His Test debut followed against Sri Lanka at Galle later in the year and he has scarcely looked back since. At the time of writing (31.12.12), he has played in 23 Tests, taking 122 wickets (avge. 27.09). He has also appeared in 72 ODIs, claiming a further 109 wickets (avge. 23.66).

His spell with Hampshire will be his second in county cricket. He played for Worcestershire in 2011, when in three matches he dismissed 17 batsmen, averaging 27.70 in the process. Interestingly, county batsmen found him easier to counter than their test counterparts. He twice bowled marathon spells in claiming 5 for 150 in a drawn match against Somerset at Worcester and 6 for 124 as Worcestershire won at Horsham. To date, he has played in 112 matches, with a career aggregate of 423 wickets (avge. 26.71).

He is living proof that spin bowlers improve with age. A feature of his personality is his almost zenlike calmness. There are never any histrionics. His presence next season is certainly a mouth watering prospect.

NIC POTHAS

Nic Pothas has recently been appointed Director of Cricket for Guernsey. Cricket has enjoyed a recent uplift on the Channel Island in the past few years, thanks to the presence of Lee Savident, who returned to the island of his birth shortly after the end of his career with Hampshire, and Jeremy Frith, who played club cricket for Sparsholt in the Hampshire and Southern Leagues for many years.