

THE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Frank Bailey Shaun Udal

NEWSLETTER No. 324 – FEBRUARY 2013

KEN CHAPMAN

Members will be sad to learn that Ken Chapman died in January. Ken was one of the five founder members of the Society in 1975. He served as Chairman for a number of years and was the Society's longest standing committee member. The address at his funeral referred to him being a true gentleman and a gentle man. It was the most apt of descriptions. Ken's quiet and kind personality endeared him to all whom he met. His thoughtfulness and generosity were exemplified at committee meetings at May's Bounty when he always greeted his colleagues at the door and offered them a drink. His wise counsel in the conduct of the Society's affairs was much valued. The large turn out at his funeral was telling testimony to a life of public and voluntary service.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at Test Valley Golf Club prior to the next meeting on **Wednesday 6 March 2013. The AGM will start at 7pm.** Any resolutions and nominations for office on the Committee, duly proposed and seconded, should be submitted to our Chairman, Susanne Marlow, by Monday 25 February 2013.

The speaker after the AGM will be Cally Barlow, wife of the great South African all-rounder, Eddie Barlow. Cally comes highly recommended by other Societies. Long standing members will recall Eddie's passionate address to the Society on South Africa's then isolation in sport in September 1986.

Wednesday 6 February 2013- Meeting

Amol Rajan is unable to come to this evening's meeting because of a family illness. Fortunately, **DAVID ALLEN**, who was due to interview Mr Rajan, has agreed to step in. David needs little introduction. He is Hampshire Cricket's Archivist, and has been editor of the Hampshire Handbook since 2009. His comprehensive and informative articles on a number of matters relating to Hampshire and its cricketers have appeared in the Handbook since 1997. David has interviewed many former Hampshire cricketers and the product of all those discussions formed the basis of his excellent *Hampshire County Cricket Club 1946-2006: Entertain or perish (pub Phillimore)*. David first saw Hampshire play in his native Portsmouth in 1959. The match was against Surrey, whose bowling attack comprised Alec Bedser, Peter Loader, Jim Laker and Tony Lock, legends all and arguably the strongest bowling combination in the history of county cricket. Nevertheless, Henry Horton scored 140 not out and David saw Derek Shackleton dismiss future England opener, John Edrich, for a duck. It was start of a lifetime love affair. He has been a member since 1961. David received his education at Portsmouth Grammar School, and continued to contribute to the academic life of the city

as Head of the School of Creative Arts, Film & Media at the University of Portsmouth.

Wednesday 9 January 2013 – Report

Members enjoyed an interesting evening in the company of John Young. He started with a few thoughts on ethics, both in life and sport. He then gave an account of his early sporting memories. He remembered Hampshire's matches against Kent at the County Ground at Whitsun, particularly Leslie Ames lining up boys in an orderly fashion for an autograph signing session, and Hampshire dismissing Kent for only 32 in 1952, with Derek Shackleton and Vic Cannings bowling unchanged in the match. He recollected Roy Marshall's 135 for the West Indies in 1950. As John watched, he thought to himself "if only we had him". His dream was realised within three years. Marshall's innings was eclipsed, though, by Everton Weekes. The latter drove his first ball for four and, with one ball of the day's play remaining, was unbeaten on 246. Desmond Eagar then asked Reg Dare to bowl a dolly so that he could attain his 250. Dare responded but Weekes drove it straight into the stumps at the bowler's end and could not add to his score.

John then majored on hospital broadcasting in Southampton. The first commentary was a football match between Saints and Doncaster Rovers in 1952. Music was added in 1963 and cricket on 30 July 1966. John started in 1971 – his fellow commentators were Neville Rogers and Charlie Knott. He offered to manage cricket broadcasting on a temporary basis for 3/4 years. He was still doing so 40 years later, but handed it over in 2010. He gave a brief history of the various studios. The current one, off Tebourba Way, is the best appointed hospital broadcasting complex in the country. Broadcasts are no longer on a closed circuit. They can be picked up anywhere and it is known they have been heard as far afield as Belgium, Hong Kong and the House of Commons! Given it is hospital broadcasting, commentators had to be aware of appropriate phraseology. The box at the Ageas Bowl comprises a team of eight, operating in pairs. Among the celebrities they have interviewed (in addition to those mentioned in the last Newsletter) were Roy Castle and Robert Powell. From next season, people will be able to phone the commentators. There was much else besides as John gave an absorbing account of a unique facet of Hampshire cricket.

Wednesday 27 March 2013 – Meeting

IAN HENDERSON, former BBC Radio and television sports editor, who was unable to speak at the January meeting, will be the speaker at the above meeting.

GENTLEMEN/PLAYERS MATCHES HAMPSHIRE'S CONTRIBUTION

The introduction of limited overs cricket in 1963 (see November Newsletter) was not the only landmark of the season of fifty years ago this summer. There was also no Gentlemen v Players fixture, the distinction between amateur and professional having been abolished in the previous year.

Until the Second World War, apart from when the Australians were touring, the match between the two sides at Lord's was the highlight of the season. Whilst there were matches at The Oval (until 1934) and similar end of season festival fixtures at Scarborough and sometimes, Folkestone and Hastings, the Lord's meeting held primacy as the teams were selected from all counties. The strength of the teams in the encounters at the other venues was compromised by the championship fixtures taking place at the same time. A good performance in the Lord's match influenced both Test and tour selection. It was often a de facto Test trial. This situation prevailed until the last match there in 1962. The game was effectively an opportunity for the selectors to consider candidates for the captaincy for the forthcoming winter tour of Australia. Three amateurs, and therefore gentlemen, were in the frame: Ted Dexter, who was eventually chosen, Colin Cowdrey and the Revd. David Sheppard, who was enjoying a sabbatical from the church prior to devoting the rest of his life to the ministry.

Though there was animated gnashing of teeth by the traditionalists at the time, an analysis of the history of the fixture reveals that it propounded probably the greatest anachronism and indeed, hypocrisy, in the history of the game. That perceptive 19th century chronicler, The Revd James Pycroft, wrote that in London "all the play was professional; even the Gentlemen made a profession of it."

In a series which ran from 1806 until 1962, 273 matches were played. The Players won 125 and the Gentlemen 67. 79 matches were drawn. These statistics distort, though, the reality of the strength of the respective sides. In the early years the Gentlemen recruited professionals to try and ensure the matches were more competitive. On occasions, the Players were opposed by as many as 17 Gentlemen. In one match it was agreed that the Players field only nine men and still they recorded a handsome victory. Lionel Tennyson played for the Gentlemen in the inter-war years 21 times and finished on the winning side only twice. After the Second World War the amateurs won only two matches.

In the mid-19th century the match which attracted most attention was, in fact, North versus South. In retrospect this would have resulted in a far more competitive fixture over the entire time frame of the series. The Gentlemen were always generally weaker in bowling.

The only time that the Gentlemen held ascendancy for any length of time was during the career of W G Grace. He was, of course, the biggest "shamateur" of them all, earning far more in expenses than any professionals' fee. In the period from 1865 to 1881 when Grace was at his peak, the Gentlemen won 27 matches and lost only five. The Players were therefore by far the strongest side throughout the history of the fixture. It was really an anachronism from the end of the First World War. But for the influence of the dictatorial Lord Harris and Sir Pelham Warner, the fixture should have been knocked on the head some forty years earlier than its eventual demise. From this distance the fixture simply lacked credibility.

It is small wonder that the more egalitarian Australians forged ahead, and remained in front, from about 1900 onwards. England were playing “catch-up” for the whole of the 20th century. Though the distinction between amateur and professional was abolished in 1962, its influence, as Colin Shindler demonstrates in the 2012 Wisden, still pervades today.

Despite all these faults, cricketers of the period who never played in Test matches valued their selection for the Gentlemen – Players fixture. It was an important part of their CV, rather like an appearance in a Lord’s final today. Indeed, it would have represented the pinnacle of their career.

How did Hampshire players fare? From the period from 1806 until 1863, Hampshire were very much in decline and not regarded as a “big county”. And yet there were three men in particular who excelled, in spite of the County’s lowly status.

The two inaugural matches in 1806 almost represented a Hambledon reunion, no fewer than 12 men having played for the club. Thereafter, in 1821, Thomas Beagley, a professional, scored the first century in the series when he made 113 not out. Another Hampshire player, William Ward, was the first centurion for the Gentlemen, when he scored 102 in 1825. Both centuries were made at Lord’s. Beagley equalled Alec Kennedy and Phil Mead (see table below) in making 16 appearances for the Players, though all his appearances were at Lord’s. Ward played for the Gentlemen on 18 occasions (all at Lord’s). He was surpassed, however, by Sir Frederick Hervey Hervey-Bathurst, who played 20 times between 1831-1854 (19 times at Lord’s, the other being at Brighton). Hervey-Bathurst was an army officer and left-arm fast bowler. He and the great Alfred Mynn of Kent, *were* the Gentlemen bowling for virtually the duration of his career. Two other men worth mentioning in the years up to 1864 are the brothers Edward and George Knight. The former played one match for the Gentlemen in 1825, and George played on five occasions whilst with Kent, though he earlier appeared for Hampshire. George was an articulate man who through persuasive, powerful and logical argument probably did more than any other in ensuring the legalisation of round-arm bowling. Both men were nephews of Jane Austen.

From 1864 until 1962, 43 Hampshire cricketers played in the fixture, as indicated below:-

1864 – 1962			
PLAYERS (17)	Years	Appearances	Lord’s
J Arnold	1931-35	5	2
J Bailey	1932	1	-
H Baldwin	1895	1	-
V A Barton	1901	1	-
G S Boyes	1930-31	2	-
G Brown	1919-30	9	2
W L C Creese	1935	1	-
L Harrison	1955	1	1
H Horton	1960	1	1

A S Kennedy	1914-34	16	3
W H Livsey	1922-27	2	1
N McCorkell	1932-36	2	1
R E Marshall	1958-60	4	1
C P Mead	1911-28	16	9
J A Newman	1922-28	6	-
P J Sainsbury	1958-60	3	-
D Shackleton	1950-62	3	3

It can be seen that ten players played at Lord's, six of whom played Test cricket (including Marshall for the West Indies). Derek Shackleton played in the last fixture at Lord's in 1962.

It is worth noting that George Brown captained the Players at Folkestone in 1930 and Alec Kennedy similarly at The Oval in 1934.

GENTLEMEN (26)	Years	Appearances	Lord's
R Aird	1925	1	-
A E G Baring	1931-34	2	-
C P Brutton	1927	1	-
A H Evans	1885	1	-
A J Evans	1912	2	1
W H B Evans	1903-09	4	3
C B Fry	1909-14	7	3
J G Greig	1901	1	-
H V Hesketh-Prichard	1903-05	3	3
A J L Hill	1891-1907	3	1
A C D Ingleby-Mackenzie	1958-60	3	1
T O Jameson	1921-26	4	-
A C Johnston	1912	2	1
C J Knott	1946-50	2	2
F E Lacey	1892	1	-
H M Lawson	1935	1	-
W G L F Lowndes	1930-33	2	-
R H Moore	1934-38	3	1
C G A Paris	1935	1	-
J P Parker	1927	1	-
R M Poore	1899	2	1
A W Ridley	1875-78	7	4
C Robson	1903	1	-
L H Tennyson	1920-35	21	2
R P H Utley	1927	1	-
E G Wynyard	1897-1906	5	1

Thirteen Gentlemen played at Lord's, five of whom played Test cricket (including Poore for South Africa).

Given his pre-eminence it seems surprising that Lionel Tennyson played in the Lord's fixture only twice, once as captain. He captained the Gentlemen seven times, the last three being in end of season jaunts at Folkestone. He

played under no fewer than seven different captains: F T Mann, Johnnie Douglas, Percy Fender, Freddie Calthorpe, Douglas Jardine, Percy Chapman and Errol Holmes. All except Fender and Holmes captained England. The three Evans were all related. Alfred Evans was the father of A J and uncle of W H B.

Charles Fry captained the Gentlemen on each of his seven appearances as a Hampshire player. On his three appearances as captain at Lord's, his side were undefeated, winning two matches (in 1911 and 1914) and drawing the other (in 1912).

Arthur Ridley never finished on the losing side whilst a Hampshire player. The Gentlemen won five and drew the other two matches in which he played. He actually played in the fixture on fourteen occasions, nine times at Lord's. His initial four appearances were whilst he was at Oxford University. He was a Middlesex player for his last three appearances.

Eight Hampshire players appeared in the fixture at The Oval in 1927, four on each side. Mead, Newman, Kennedy and Livsey were on the Players' side. Brutton, Tennyson, Parker and Utley appeared for the Gentlemen. The match was a rain-ruined draw. Alec Kennedy left his mark, however, by recording figures of 22.4 – 10 – 37 – 10 and 15 – 8 – 21- 2. He remains the only man to take ten wickets in an innings whilst a Hampshire player.

CENTURIES (8)

J Arnold	125 at	The Oval	1934
C B Fry	101 at	The Oval	1912
A C D Ingleby-Mackenzie	104 at	Scarborough	1959
C P Mead	223 at	Scarborough	1911
	108 at	Lord's	1921
A W Ridley	103 at	Lord's	1876
L H Tennyson	112 at	The Oval	1932
E G Wynyard	137 at	Scarborough	1906

FIVE WICKETS IN AN INNINGS (7)

A H Evans	5 – 20	Scarborough	1885
H V Hesketh-Prichard	5 – 80	Lord's	1904
A S Kennedy	6 – 36	Scarborough	1919
	6 – 82	Scarborough	1924
	10 - 37	The Oval	1927
C J Knott	5 – 66	Lord's	1950
P J Sainsbury	6 – 72	Scarborough	1958

Charles Knott's figures included a hat-trick. The first of his victims, Derek Shackleton, was caught off a skier at long on. His next two victims were stumped!!

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