

THE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Frank Bailey Shaun Udal

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Wednesday 6 March 2013 - Meeting

The Society extends a very warm welcome to Cally Barlow, wife of the late Eddie Barlow, the great South African Test cricketer. Longstanding members will recall Eddie Barlow's passionate talk on South Africa's isolationism at the Society's meeting in September 1986. Cally Barlow's address will be preceded by the Society's AGM.

Wednesday 6 February 2013 – Report

Those who braved a very cold night were rewarded by another excellent evening in the company of David Allen. David spoke about three forthcoming anniversaries: the 150th anniversary of the formation of Hampshire County Cricket Club on 11 September this year; the 50th anniversary of one-day county cricket (introduced in 1963) and the 40th anniversary of Hampshire's second Championship title in 1973. He also touched upon the 1963 West Indians who toured the UK under their first black captain, Frank Worrell. David also brought along the bat with which E G Wynyard scored 268 against Yorkshire at Southampton in 1896 and a silk scorecard of the match. He also passed around another silk scorecard of the Poore/Wynyard partnership of 411 against Somerset at Taunton in 1899. There was also a poster of an early match between a local side and the United England XI at Portsmouth in the mid-18th century and a scorecard of James Aylward's monumental 167 at Sevenoaks in the Hambledon era. There was much else besides and members spent much time talking to David and examining the artefacts on display after his talk.

SNAPSHOTS OF 1973

HAMPSHIRE AT SOUTHPORT

In this coming season, Hampshire will make their second visit to Southport, 40 years after their first. That match, in their second Championship season of 1973, proved pivotal to their fortunes.

Hampshire had started their season brightly by winning four of their first six matches. Their challenge then stalled as they drew their next six Championship games. When they arrived at Southport, they were third in the table, 12 points behind leaders Northamptonshire and four adrift of second placed Essex. Due to broken fingers, Trevor Jesty was absent for last three of those six games, and Barry Richards for the last two. Crucially, both returned at Southport.

Richard Gilliat won the toss and asked Lancashire to bat on a slow pitch. His decision seemed to have misfired when the home side made their way to 154 for two in mid-afternoon. Thereafter, though, wickets fell in a clatter and they were bowled out just after tea for 214. All the Hampshire bowlers shared the spoils, chief among them Lancashire born Tom Mottram (three for 32).

Richards and Gordon Greenidge then batted carefully to close of play, when the score stood at 74 without loss. Peter Lever only bowled four overs before sustaining a side injury. The pair made hay the next morning. They raced along to post 200 for the first wicket in a total of 169 minutes in 57.4 overs. Richards was dismissed for 128. *Wisden* commented that his innings included many majestic cover drives. Greenidge eventually fell for 153 in four hours. Hampshire then suffered a minor collapse before Peter Sainsbury (45 not out) marshalled the tail to enable Gilliat to declare at 388 for nine. Facing a deficit of 174 Lancashire fell to the swing of Jesty (five for 24). In one spell of eight balls he took four wickets without conceding a run. Only David Lloyd (54) offered any resistance. During the match both Richards and Greenidge reached 1,000 runs for the season. Hampshire returned to the top of the table where they were to remain for the rest of the season. They won five of their remaining seven matches.

BOB HERMAN AND TOM MOTTRAM

Perhaps the most endearing feature of the 1973 season was the success of Hampshire's opening bowling attack of Bob "Lofty" Herman and Tom "The Pink Panther" Mottram. On paper, they did not seem to pose a significant threat to their opponents. And yet they came into the season with a track record of working together successfully. They had first paired up in four matches in 1972. On the first occasion, they bowled out Ian Chappell's Australians for 191 (Herman 4 – 53; Mottram 3 – 45). Two months later, in their first Championship outing they bowled the County to victory against Worcestershire at Portsmouth (Herman 4 – 28; Mottram 5 – 45). After playing a part in Hampshire's win at Hove, they then bowled out a strong Kent batting line up for 179 at Folkestone (Herman 5 – 55; Mottram 5 – 80). They clearly possessed an intangible chemistry.

They complemented each other perfectly. Both obtained bounce; Herman moved the ball away, Mottram bowled very straight and nipped it about off the seam. Mike Taylor was Herman's preferred opening partner in the first two Championship matches. Tom Mottram was not selected. However, from the moment they teamed up against Yorkshire at Headingley they were the bane of opening batsmen. In 17 matches (Mottram was injured at Tunbridge Wells), they conceded only one century partnership for the first wicket (by Geoff Greenidge and Jerry Morley at Hove) and just four more of over fifty. Only three opening batsmen, Geoffrey Greenidge and Jerry Morley (both of Sussex) and Gloucestershire's left-handed Sadiq Mohammad scored a century. In fact, the latter did it twice: 109 at Bristol and 170 at Bournemouth. There was no match where the pair carried all before them but they

continually opened the door ajar to allow the other bowler to go about their work from an advantageous position. Herman's best performance was five for 49 in the opening championship match at Leicester. It was one of the few games Hampshire were in danger of losing. After Richard Gilliat had set the home side 261 in 210 minutes, they looked to be winning at 202 for three. However, Herman then took three wickets to check their progress and they finished 35 runs short. Mottram's best was six for 63 in Warwickshire's second innings at Coventry. As Warwickshire defended attritionally, (their 207 occupied 118 overs), he made the crucial breakthrough with three for four in 15 balls. It was Tom Mottram who also produced the season's champagne moment. Tall, angular and seemingly unathletic he produced a stunning dive to his right to hold an amazing caught and bowled off Ray Virgin in the first innings of the crucial encounter against Northamptonshire at Northlands Road. Herman finished the championship season with 63 wickets (avge. 23.76) and Mottram 57 (avge. 22.00).

MIKE TAYLOR

Mike Taylor, released by Nottinghamshire at the end of the previous season at the age of 30, proved to be an inspired signing. Like Tom Mottram, though with lesser bounce and pace, he bowled very straight and moved the ball off the seam. He ended the season with 63 wickets (avge. 19.33) in the championship, the same number as Bob Herman. He was a dynamo in Hampshire's engine room. He made eye catching, crucial contributions in no fewer than eight of the county's 19 matches en route to the title: 33 not out and 4 for 39 in the first win of the season against Sussex at Southampton, 50 at Leeds in the next match (also won), when he accompanied Gordon Greenidge (196 not out) in a game changing seventh wicket partnership of 113, match figures of 9 for 90 in a rain affected draw at Tunbridge Wells, 5 for 65 in a drawn encounter with Glamorgan at Portsmouth, match analyses of 7 for 76 in the win at Worcester, 4 for 40 in the Essex first innings at Portsmouth (drawn), 4 for 30 to bring a hasty conclusion to Northamptonshire's first innings in that never-to-be-forgotten game at Southampton, 49 and 37 not out when his former County were massacred by 295 runs at Bournemouth, and 7 for 53 in Gloucestershire's first innings at Bournemouth. Later in the latter match, he was at the wicket with Peter Sainsbury when Hampshire gained the batting point which secured the championship. Hardened professional that he was, Mike Taylor must still have felt he was in dreamland. This most approachable and affable men went on, of course, to give the county wonderful service as player, assistant secretary and marketing manager until 2002.

RICHARDS AND GREENIDGE

Barry Richards and Gordon Greenidge recorded six century opening partnerships in 1973, three of which were over 200. Of all those partnerships, three laid down the foundations of victory. On the first morning at Coventry, the pair put on 119; the century coming off in just 81 minutes. After Greenidge's dismissal for 56, Richards delivered a masterclass racing to 240

out of 370 whilst he was at the wicket. It was to remain his highest score in this country. The eventual win, by seven wickets, took Hampshire to the top of the table for the first time in the season (on 8 June).

In the match after Southport, they started Hampshire's second innings at Worcester with a stand of 139 (Richards 82; Greenidge 104). Hampshire posted 302 for four in just three hours, thus enabling Richard Gilliat to set Worcestershire 316 to win in four hours. Hampshire bowled them out for 124. **Mike Taylor** took four for 17, claiming all of his wickets in 17 balls, and **Peter Sainsbury** (three for 3). Both Sainsbury and Trevor Jesty had been able to bowl only six overs between them in Worcestershire's first innings because of stomach upsets.

Notwithstanding their brilliant batting throughout the summer, their fielding at slip was outstanding and did as much as any other factor to secure the championship. At first slip, Richards claimed 35 catches in 17 matches; at second slip, Greenidge held 36 in 20. Greenidge had volunteered to field at slip as a result of a post-match conference after catches had been floored in the drawn, rain affected, match at Bristol. Richards had been absent. In the next match at Swansea, Greenidge held two blinders to dismiss Tony Lewis and Roger Davis and remained in the slip cordon upon Richards' return. **Bob Stephenson** also dismissed 63 batsmen (58 ct; 5 st) behind the wicket. In all matches, he was the country's joint leading 'keeper (with David Bairstow). The rest of the side held 88 catches. Desmond Eagar described the collective effort as "probably the best fielding side Hampshire has ever had".

TREVOR JESTY

Trevor Jesty's bowling figures at Southport marked the third improvement in his career best during the summer. He had previously taken five for 30 in the drawn match at Leicester and five for 27 in a 5 wicket win at Swansea respectively.

NEXT MONTH

A look at 1973 recalling the captaincy of Richard Gilliat, the all-round skills of Peter Sainsbury and David O'Sullivan's incredible climax to the season.

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE SOUTH AFRICANS AGAINST HAMPSHIRE 1955 – 1965

January was a sad month for the cricket fraternity. After the passing of Tony Greig and Christopher Martin-Jenkins at the turn of the year, the South Africans Neil Adcock and Peter van der Merwe died in January. They were followed by Frank Keating, one of the most readable and entertaining of all cricket writers.

On his two tours of England in 1955 and 1960, the hostile Adcock never played against Hampshire. The star of the South African side against the County in both years was the off-spin bowler, Hugh Tayfield. In 1955 he returned figures of six for 86 and eight for 40 as the tourists won by 275 runs before lunch on the third day. In 1960, he took five for 66 and six for 78. On that occasion South Africa won by nine wickets. Tayfield therefore claimed 25 wickets for 270 runs (average 10.8) in the two matches.

Peter van der Merwe was the South African captain in 1965 and played in one of the most exciting of all tourists' fixtures at the County Ground. The first day (Saturday) was memorable for glorious sunshine and Geoff Keith's 101 not out, his only century for Hampshire. Bryan Timms scored 80, as the pair added 143 in 152 minutes. Hampshire declared at their close of play with 286 for seven on Monday. The South Africans were then hypnotised by Derek Shackleton. He took wickets in his second, third and fourth overs. Van der Merwe was then run out for one. At one stage, the tourists were 31 for six, but thanks to Ali Bacher (74) they finally reached 133. The 41 year old Shack finished with six for 29.

Two wickets then fell to Alan Wassell, including Bacher for a duck, at the start of the South African second innings. However, Eddie Barlow (129) and Denis Lindsay (30) then added an unbeaten 136 by close of play. On overcast Tuesday, Graeme Pollock played one of the great cameos ever seen at Northlands Road. He thrilled his audience by scoring 96 in only 66 minutes. The innings included three sixes and 15 fours, and 24 off one over from Wassell. The slow left-armed persevered and finished with five for 135 (eight for 152 match) when the declaration came at 354 for nine. Van der Merwe made 30 before being trapped lbw by Shackleton. Hampshire were set 202 in 155 minutes, but were hanging on grimly at the end on 87 for eight. Keith was again to the fore on 21 not out. It had been a remarkable turn round of events.

FRANK KEATING

The death of Frank Keating was rightly greeted by purple prose from his colleagues, old and new, in the print media. He reserved his best work for two of his Gloucestershire favourites, Tom Graveney and Arthur Milton. His book *Another Bloody Day in Paradise*, an account of the MCC tour to the West Indies in 1981, was also outstanding. There must be something in the air that makes west country cricket writers men apart: Crusoe, Alan Gibson and Frank Keating. There is a unique warmth, perception, generosity and humour about their work. Happily, Vic Marks and Stephen Chalke maintain the tradition. We must not forget David Foot, though his appearances are now becoming more infrequent. Peter Roebuck also deserves mention, though he was from a slightly different mould.

THE CRICKET PAPER

BACK SPIN

With the standards of *The Cricketer* declining dramatically in the last year, the cricket magazine market was ripe for more competition. Two new publications have undoubtedly provided it.

The *Cricket Paper* hits the stands once a week, price £1.50. It covers the week's events comprehensively. It was a particular godsend in the summer. There was coverage of each county match. Though there was little description of the matches there was much on the views of the respective captains. Even these morsels, though, were preferable to the paucity of coverage in *The Cricketer*. County cricket is clearly not a priority for them. The *Cricket Paper* also has a comprehensive club cricket section, not only in the summer but in the winter also. There was a weekly report on every main league in the country. Women's cricket, disability cricket and the Minor Counties also received attention. Among the players interviewed in the past few weeks were Chris Wood and Michael Carberry. Nic Pothas was also asked to nominate the best eleven with whom he played in a recent edition. His reprise demonstrated the high standard of cricket in South Africa and England in which he played:- Jimmy Cook, Simon Katich, Jacques Kallis, Daryl Cullinan, Ken Rutherford, Shane Watson, Andy Bichel, Shane Warne, Stuart Clark, Shane Bond and Kenny Benjamin. It can be seen that six, all overseas players, were with him at Hampshire. Cook was also the county's coach for a while. The team lacks a wicket-keeper, but Nic Pothas never mentioned if he had earmarked that role for himself.

The other magazine is *Back Spin*. It appears it may become a quarterly publication. Two editions have been published to date (price £3.99). The magazine majors on nostalgia, embracing the period 1950s, 60s and 70s. Hampshire coverage has been limited to date but the latest edition (January) included a splendid interview with Tim Tremlett on his family's cricket heritage and a piece by Duncan Hamilton on the Derbyshire – Hampshire encounter at Burton-on-Trent in 1958. If anybody needs reminding Hampshire were shot out for 23 and 55 in response to Derbyshire's 74 and 104. Derek Shackleton and Malcolm Heath bowled unchanged throughout but came off second best to Harold Rhodes and the legendary Les Jackson. Derek Morgan also took three wickets in Hampshire's second innings, as well as scoring 46. The next highest score in the match was 19. Mike Barnard top scored in each innings with five (jointly with Henry Horton) and 16! Thirty-nine wickets fell on the second day, after rain had restricted play to 23 minutes on the first. One onlooker was the immortal Wilfred Rhodes who declared "he'd seen nothing like it". Hampshire were in the running for their first Championship until the match, but their challenge hit the buffers as a consequence. Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie said it was the most "shattering" experience of his career.

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