

THE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Frank Bailey Shaun Udal

NEWSLETTER NO 326 – MARCH/APRIL 2013 MEETINGS

Wednesday 27 March 2013 – Meeting

The Society is pleased to welcome **IAN HENDERSON** to this evening's meeting. Many members will remember Ian as the voice of Radio Solent sports reporting during the 1970s and early 1980s. He was born at Ryde on the Isle of Wight in 1946. He played cricket from a very early age being captain of Sandown Grammar School, playing in his first men's game for Ashey Cricket Club at the age of 10 and was club vice-captain at 17. Ian entered journalism in 1970 and joined BBC Radio Solent two years later as a freelance reporter. He became Sports Editor two years later and held that post until 1983 when he assumed the same role at BBC TV South. After two years he became a full-time freelance and worked for many BBC and commercial radio stations, and was a reporter for Sky Sports News when they started in 1990. Whilst at Radio Solent he covered Southampton's 1976 Cup Final triumph and their subsequent adventures in the European Cup Winners Cup. He also reported on Hampshire's various early Sunday League successes. The highlight of his career, though, was interviewing Muhammad Ali in 1975. He joined Hursley Park Cricket Club in 1971 and is still going strong 42 years later. He was Chairman of the Club for two five year spells. In 1992 in the second spell as Chairman, the club achieved the marvellous "double" of winning the Southern Premier League title on the final Saturday of the season and then the National Village Championship at Lord's on the following day. In 1997, he became Sports Editor of the Hampshire Chronicle and greatly expanded their sports coverage until his retirement in 2006. He has continued with some freelance work and was recently elected Chairman of the XL40 Club Southern District and will be playing both for them and Hursley Park this coming season. He has also been a stalwart for Dorset Rangers over the years. He is currently writing a book about his many experiences. Ian's theme tonight is "40 years in sports journalism".

Wednesday 6 March 2013 – AGM – Report

Main points to arise from the AGM were:-

- The Society has a Secretary! **Jo North**, a new member volunteered for the role and her appointment was confirmed. The Society is very grateful to her.
- Tony Atkinson has retired from the committee. His place has been taken by **Gary Lane**. All other officials and committee members were returned en bloc
- In 2014, the AGM will be held at the Ageas Bowl in the hope of attracting a larger turn-out of members. The meeting will be held in April
- The Society has 201 members, of which 77 have chosen to receive their Newsletters by email

- There will be no change in subscription rates for 2013/14
- Susanne Marlow announced that the Society has received an invitation from Glamorgan for a conducted tour of the SWALEC stadium, including the new museum. It is proposed the event will be open to families and friends of Society members. In order to assess interest/viability, would members please contact Susanne

Wednesday 6 March 2013 – Report

Cally Barlow entertained an attentive audience with an account of the life of her late husband, the South African all-rounder Eddie Barlow. He started with games in the garden with his brother Norman. When he first began playing competitively, he was a wicket-keeper. He converted to bowling at Wits University though their coach, Peter Walker, the former Glamorgan player, suggested he concentrated on rugby! He was indeed an accomplished centre who played for Transvaal against both the British Lions and the All Blacks. He gave up rugby when called up for South Africa against New Zealand as an opening batsman at Durban in December 1961. Notwithstanding his success with the bat, he always had a “feeling” when he would do well with the ball, and badgered his captains to bowl. It was such instincts that led him to taking three for six at Adelaide in January 1964; earlier in the match he had scored 201, putting on 341 for the third wicket with Graeme Pollock (175). He regarded the elegant left-hander as the best batsman he ever saw. Another “feeling” resulted in him claiming four wickets in five balls, including the hat-trick, for the Rest of the World against England at Headingley in 1970. Cally Barlow also related a host of stories of his tours and coaching days in South Africa, England (with Derbyshire and Gloucestershire – he met Cally at Cheltenham) and Bangladesh. He was always a committed opponent of Apartheid. He was also a good friend of Hansie Cronje and remained so, even after the match-fixing allegations. After suffering a stroke in Bangladesh, he coached from a motorised scooter in North-East Wales, where he died in 2005. Cally Barlow provided members with an uplifting evening, with insights of the politics of South African cricket, and humour.

SNAPSHOTS OF 1973 – PART 2

RICHARD GILLIAT

What are the characteristics of a great captain? Before the season started, Hampshire were 66/1 to win the Championship. The bowling attack was regarded as steady rather than penetrative. Yet Hampshire were undefeated during the twenty match programme. In nine of their ten victories they bowled out the opposition twice. In the other match they took nineteen wickets. They were regarded as the most surprising of all County Champions. Most of the great captains have a potent bowling line up. Though Peter Sainsbury was enjoying a marvellous Indian Summer and Bob Herman had performed splendidly in the previous season, this could hardly be said of Hampshire. Richard Gilliat must therefore be given enormous credit for marshalling his resources. He also engendered tremendous respect in the dressing-room. When he spoke to the Society in September 2010, Trevor Jesty commented that Gilliat was an outstanding individual as a man and an excellent man manager. He gave the players belief and knew exactly what to say to them in

different situations. These sentiments echoed those of Gordon Greenidge in his autobiography *The Man in the Middle*. He wrote “his greatest asset was to get the best out of ordinary players” He then went on to say that in August when the press were following Hampshire around he took the pressure off the players by making sure they were all thinking positively. He then added “Gilliat forced us over those final hurdles by his own quiet determination, not necessarily by his skill on the field but by his steely approach off it”. Mike Taylor, when he addressed the Society in April 2006, also paid tribute to Richard Gilliat’s captaincy, adding he had to manage a team containing some very strong characters. Desmond Eagar writing in the Hampshire Handbook in 1974 stated “(he) has an important attribute in leadership – unselfishness - and his team always came before any other consideration”.

With regard to his batting, his most important contribution was two centuries during Portsmouth week. Against Essex, in difficult conditions, he made 110, his first century since 1969. He added 127 runs in 110 minutes with David Turner (98). A feature of the partnership was the pair’s running between the wickets. Hampshire ran out of time and were just unable to enforce the win. In the following match, however, Hampshire defeated Derbyshire by ten wickets. The captain’s contribution was 103 in 156 minutes out of a total of 378. Interestingly, four of his colleagues reached 40 without achieving their half-century. In respect of both innings, Eagar commented “he gathered in a crop of batting bonus points where the fainter-hearted might well have decided he must get his head down!” He also proved an impassable fielder at mid-off, holding 23 catches.

Richard Gilliat reinforced his unique captaincy prowess in the run-in to Hampshire’s John Player League success in 1978, but that is another story. Many shrewd judges still regard him as Hampshire’s best ever captain.

PETER SAINSBURY

Peter Sainsbury was the only man to have played in both Championship sides of 1961 and 1973. His contribution in the latter year was immense. At the end of the season, he was third in the batting averages behind Richards and Greenidge, and top of the bowling averages, with 53 wickets (avge 17.83). His 758 runs were exceeded only by the opening pair and David Turner.

As was the norm throughout his career, he reserved his best performances in adversity. In the first match at Leicester, he rescued Hampshire from a precarious 94 for five with a long, patient 77 not out to steer his side to 233. That total proved sufficient to give Hampshire a valuable first innings lead of 34. The match was eventually drawn. In the following match, against Sussex at Southampton, his bowling was the key contribution to the county’s first win of the season. In the first innings, he spun out Sussex for 124. He took six for 29 in 29.2 overs; during one eight over spell he claimed five wickets whilst conceding only four runs. In the second innings he snared the Sussex batsmen in his web with three for 45 in 48 overs. Such figures would suspend belief in today’s game. Hampshire cruised home by seven wickets. Two matches later, his four for 12 in nine overs in Glamorgan’s second innings

hastened their dismissal of 98 and Hampshire's eight wicket victory. In his first four overs, he had dismissed three batsmen whilst conceding only a single. His second innings figures in the next match at Coventry were even more surreal than those against Sussex. Warwickshire were defending for their lives but his analysis of 25 – 20 – 8 – 1 was startling.

Hampshire were in danger of defeat in four matches all season, at Bristol (when they were bowled out for 82 in their first innings – Sainsbury 11 not out), Hove, Tunbridge Wells and Taunton. At Hove, Sainsbury skippered the side in Richard Gilliat's absence and was required to bat the last 90 minutes with Andy Murtagh (37 not out) to ward off John Snow and Mike Buss. He finished unbeaten on 17. In the next match at Tunbridge Wells, Hampshire held out at 84 for six, Sainsbury having fallen to the rarely deployed leg-breaks of Colin Cowdrey. Taunton. His piece de resistance was at Taunton. Hampshire's first innings was in ruins at 78 for seven. He had walked to the wicket at 41 for four. He found an ally in his fellow left-arm spin bowler, David O'Sullivan (45), who assisted him in a partnership of 107 in 49 overs. Sainsbury batted five and a quarter hours, and was unbeaten on 120 when the innings closed at 262. He had spent half an hour on 99. It was his first century since 1964. The match was eventually drawn.

As Hampshire entered the home straight towards the end of July, his 45 not out shepherded the Hampshire tail at Southport after a middle-order collapse in the wake of a Richards/Greenidge opening partnership of 200. He then scored a first innings 41 and took three for 23 in Worcestershire's second innings as Hampshire romped to a 191-run success at New Road. In the second match at Portsmouth week, he scored 45 and then tortured the Derbyshire batsmen in their second innings by taking five for 41 in 28.3 overs. Hampshire won by ten wickets. In that great match against Northamptonshire at Southampton he was at the wicket (14 not out) with Barry Richards as the county eased home by seven wickets. Finally, in Bournemouth week, he (two for three in ten overs and three for eight in 8.3 overs) and David O'Sullivan wrought havoc against Nottinghamshire. It was fitting that he (41) should have been at the wicket, with Mike Taylor, in the second match of the week against Gloucestershire when Hampshire secured the batting point which clinched the title.

Peter Sainsbury had produced stellar professional performances throughout the campaign, bringing all his experience to bear. He thoroughly deserved his ensuing accolade as one of Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year.

DAVID O'SULLIVAN

David O'Sullivan's impact in the last six matches of Hampshire's championship season was so dramatic that those who followed their progress in that period will never forget it. He did not quite spring from nowhere; the slow left-armer from New Zealand had played in seven previous championship matches during the summer. Hampshire's fixture list was a lop-sided affair with all the away fixtures being completed by the end of July. Six home games then remained, starting with Essex and Derbyshire in

Portsmouth Week. Hampshire decided to play an extra bowler and O'Sullivan was restored to the side. He leapt into the headlines by taking six for 35 in 27 consecutive overs on a spin friendly wicket in Essex's second innings. Against Derbyshire, his four for 60 were the best figures in the visitors' first innings of 176. Richard Gilliat's century and Peter Sainsbury's five for 41 (see above) secured the win. Having not bowled in the first innings, he then claimed five for 50 in the two day win over Northamptonshire at Southampton. It was a prelude to an extraordinary performance as the county over-ran Nottinghamshire by 295 runs at Bournemouth. The latter were bowled out for 127 and a paltry 49 with O'Sullivan taking six for 26 (in 16.5 overs) and five for 15 (in 12 overs). Gloucestershire managed him better (one for 15 and three for 75) in the following match when Hampshire won the title. He finished with one for 68 and five for 93 in the academic last match of the season against Kent at Southampton. He had taken 38 wickets in those matches and given Hampshire an additional match-winning dimension in the process. His final wicket tally was 47 (avge. 21.10) as he finished second to Sainsbury in the averages.

For 1974, Hampshire had to address the conundrum of whether to retain David O'Sullivan, or recruit Andy Roberts who had cut a swathe through Second XI batsmen in 1973. They chose, of course, Roberts. A hugely disappointed "Sully" went home to New Zealand, played test cricket for them and became Central Districts' record wicket-taker in the Plunket Shield.

Only thirteen players appeared for Hampshire in the championship during the summer. Those not mentioned so far were:

David Turner:

Hampshire's number three batsman accumulated runs consistently, but without making a century. He enjoyed a purple patch in late July/early August when, in successive matches, he scored 77 and 68 not out at Worcester, 98 against Essex and 44 against Derbyshire, both at Portsmouth. His season's tally of 963 runs was the third highest, behind Greenidge (1656) and Richards (1326).

Richard Lewis:

Sometimes opening when Richards was injured in July, he usually vied for a place in the middle order with Andy Murtagh until Hampshire opted to play David O'Sullivan in the run-in. However, he struggled in the championship; his best innings was 98 against the West Indians.

Andy Murtagh:

The right-hander, with the moustache and shoulder length hair played in five matches. He batted purposefully particularly with Peter Sainsbury at Hove when he scored 47 and a match-saving 37 not out, and against Glamorgan at Portsmouth, with an unbeaten 21 in the second innings. With the veteran all-rounder he batted out the last 35 overs after Hampshire had previously lost their first four wickets for 18.

NEIL McCORKELL

Members will be sorry to learn that Neil McCorkell died in March, three weeks short of his 101st birthday. He was the subject of a special Newsletter to celebrate his centenary last March.

ADAM WHEATER

Hampshire have signed wicket-keeper Adam Wheeler from Essex. **ADAM JACK WHEATER** was born at Whipps Cross, Essex, on 13 February 1990. He attended Millfield School and made his debut for Essex in 2008. He played for Cambridge MCCU in 2010 and has also played first-class cricket in Zimbabwe and for Northern Districts in New Zealand. At Essex, he was reserve to the omnipresent James Foster but then slipped in the pecking order for the wicket-keeping berth behind the emerging England Under-19 player, Ben Foakes. He certainly has batting credentials. In 50 matches to date, he has scored 2463 runs (avge. 39.09). The highest of his three centuries is 164 against Northamptonshire at Chelmsford in 2011. Hampshire will undoubtedly have remembered his 98 in 111 balls (12 fours and four sixes) which took Essex to the brink of an unlikely win as they sought 360 at Chelmsford last summer. He eventually holed out on the boundary to give Hampshire a two-run victory. It seemed, though, an irresponsible shot in the circumstances.

Hampshire have undoubtedly given themselves a dilemma. Michael Bates signed a new two year contract in the close season. It is difficult to believe that Wheeler is a better wicket-keeper than him. Bates has been simply outstanding since making his debut in 2010, and has three deserved Cup Final medals to his credit. His 57 dismissals last summer equalled the best in the Division. Bates started 2012 well with the bat and scored a maiden century (103) against Yorkshire at Leeds. However, he tailed away quite badly scoring only 85 runs in the last seven matches. It is this fact that has probably led to Hampshire signing Wheeler. It was though his first full season in which he played every match and tiredness must have played a part in his decline.

Some Hampshire followers will be uncomfortable with Wheeler's signing especially when considered alongside Danny Briggs playing so infrequently last summer on seam-friendly wickets at the Ageas Bowl. Adam Rouse, the reserve wicket-keeper, has also been touted as an outstanding prospect. Will Hampshire's "golden crop" of youngsters go the way of others that have come through their much-vaunted, and well respected, youth system in the last 25 years? So few have managed to establish themselves in the first team in that period.