

THE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Frank Bailey Shaun Udal

NEWSLETTER No. 327 – SUMMER 2013

The Society's first meeting of its new winter season will be on WEDNESDAY 9 OCTOBER 2013 at the Ageas Bowl. The speaker will be Giles White, Team Manager-Hampshire Cricket.

Enclosed with this Newsletter are:-

- 1. The Society's Programme Card for 2013/14.** For Sat Nav purposes the post code for each venue is included on the first two dates.
- 2. A pro forma for subscriptions and nomination for HCS Player of the Year**
- 3. A copy of the audited accounts**

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

HON. SECRETARY STILL REQUIRED

Unfortunately, the Society is now in need again of an Hon. Secretary. Would any volunteers please contact Susanne Marlow for further details on 01489 877200 or email susannemarlow@aol.com .

HAMPSHIRE'S T20 CAMPAIGN

Hampshire's form in limited-overs cricket this summer has been in direct contrast to their fortunes in the championship. Apart from the eventual outcome, their T20 campaign was the most memorable since the competition was introduced in 2003. They were omnipotent in their group, winning eight of their ten matches. There was one no result at Chelmsford, and an unexpected loss at home when they were outfielded by a very youthful Kent side. Otherwise they strode through the tournament with a series of illuminating performances with the bat.

Surrey, their eventual nemesis on finals day, were the first to fall at the Ageas Bowl. Before the Sky cameras, Hampshire romped to victory by five wickets with five balls to spare. Michael Carberry, who had already batted fearlessly, handsomely and with awesome power in the YB40, was the star of the show as he clattered 60 off 45 balls. His form continued throughout, culminating in a quite marvellous century off 66 balls, again in front of a TV audience, in the nail-biting one run victory over Lancashire at home in the quarter-finals. It was a performance that earned him deserved selection for England's T20 squad.

He also joined Michael Lumb and Jimmy Adams (twice) as the only Hampshire batsmen to record centuries in the competition.

Hampshire's other notable performer in that opening match against Surrey was Neil McKenzie. As with Carberry, he gave notice of what was to follow. His placement was quite miraculous at times as he steered the ball through the gaps with radar like precision. Bowlers must have despaired. There was simply no way of stemming his stream of ones, twos and boundaries. His run scoring was always in tempo with the requirement. Those critics of T20 cricket may well have changed their minds had they seen Neil McKenzie bat in the tournament during the summer. He demonstrated that there was room for subtlety and artistry amid the inevitable freneticism. He was also a source of invaluable advice to his partners, particularly Sean Ervine. The pair have always batted well together in T20 cricket, particularly in Hampshire's triumph in 2010. As the tournament progressed to its conclusion, the Zimbabwean produced a series of blistering displays of clean hitting, mainly in company with McKenzie.

The scenario of Carberry producing fireworks at the start of the innings and McKenzie driving bowlers and captains to distraction at the end, set the scene for the summer. They were both prominent in the wins against Sussex (twice) and Essex at the Ageas Bowl. James Vince played an eye-catching innings (84) at Richmond. Jimmy Adams and Liam Dawson, though not making big scores, always kept the scoreboard moving.

If this piece has concentrated on the batsmen it was because of the feeling they could chase down any target set by the bowlers. Hampshire won six of their group matches batting second.

Hampshire's semi-final defeat to Surrey by four wickets was an anti-climax. It was their only below par performance of the competition. Only Sean Ervine (47) was able to break free when they batted. In response, Surrey were 17 for two, and then 112 for six, but de Bruyn (41) and the talented Ansari (21) slammed the door shut. The nine wides conceded were critical. Azhar Mahmood, who had destroyed the county whilst playing for Auckland Aces in the Champions League last winter, conceded only nine runs in his four overs, capturing the crucial wicket of Carberry early on and then Ervine towards the end.

However, the memory of the quality of Hampshire's batting beforehand can never be erased. It was quite exceptional and a real pleasure to watch.

SOCIETY NEWS

Three of the Society's previous speakers have died since during our last meeting in March:

Mike Denness, who died on 19 April, aged 72, addressed the Society at the Wessex Hotel in Winchester on 22 November 1989. He talked of his early

days on the Kent staff, a humorous encounter with Fred Trueman, his famed partnership with Brian Luckhurst, his England tours and his then role in cricket public relations. He was accompanied by Eric Hood of Britannic Assurance, then sponsors of the county championship. Both men stressed the importance of commercialism and sponsorship to sustain the modern game, a recent innovation in those now far-off days. How cricket has changed since the 1980s.

Sir Colin Stansfield Smith died on 19 June 2013. As CS Smith, he was one of the last of a relatively short line of amateur fast bowlers. In a career for Lancashire and Cambridge University, from 1951-1958, he played in 106 matches, taking 293 wickets (avg 24.50). He earlier played in minor counties cricket for Cheshire as a 16 year old in 1949. He also scored 103 not out for the University against Warwickshire at Edgbaston in 1957, in which year he represented the Gentlemen at Lord's. He obtained a Blue in each of his four years at Cambridge. He addressed the Society in February 1979. His biographical notes in the Newsletter mentioned he made his first-class debut for Lancashire against Hampshire, and that his first victim was Neil McCorkell, whom he bowled. At the time of his Society appearance, he was an HCS member and was serving on both MCC and Hampshire committees, and the Newsletter commented that they would have greatly benefitted from his counsel.

His architectural career brought an end to his cricket at the highest level. He designed the new pavilion at Fenner's and many obituaries referred to his ground-breaking work in school design whilst County Architect of Hampshire County Council. After he left Hampshire, he became a professor at the University of Portsmouth's School of Architecture and went on to win more awards in building design. He was appointed CBE in 1988 and knighted in 1993.

That great rugby player and broadcaster, **Cliff Morgan**, who died on 29 August, was inveigled by our late and much lamented secretary, Jack Moore, to address the Society's meeting on 9 April 1997. The evening was a celebration of sport. The Newsletter's report commented that rugby featured prominently but his talk embraced a number of other themes; the values of sport and how they were continually being eroded by financial considerations; the power of stories and the use of language; the beauty of movement in sport; the great sportsmen exemplified by Jesse Owens and Irish rugby player Tony O'Reilly; and the voices on radio and television personified by John Arlott and EW Swanton. With Cliff Morgan's passing, sport has lost yet another of its great voices.

JOHN BARCLAY

Members will long remember John Barclay's addresses to the Society in November 1988 and October 2007. *Lost in the Long Grass* (published by Stephen Chalk's Fairfield Books) is an engaging series of essays on cricketers and other cricket people whom he met in key stages of his life. In true Barclay idiosyncratic fashion he concludes with a piece on his dog! It is a

highly unusual way of writing an autobiography but it works splendidly. There are enlightening chapters on Malcolm Marshall and Vic Cannings but perhaps he is at his best on his discourses on Imran Khan and Ian Gould. He not only gives both men a personality but a voice also. Another factor in recommending this book is a most entertaining Foreword by our Patron John Woodcock.

JOHN WOODCOCK

Their cup will be overflowing for those who have enjoyed a lifetime reading John Woodcock's work. Not only will they have revelled in the Foreword to John Barclay's book (above), but also his reflective pieces in *The Times* on England – Australia's Tests at this summer's venues. He also has a chapter devoted to him in the magisterial *The Little Wonder : The Remarkable History of Wisden* by Robert Winder (published Bloomsbury). John was editor from 1981 – 1986. The scope of the book is awe inspiring as it covers the evolving social conditions of the times, Wisden's editorial policies, the management history of the publication and the key on-field events over the last 150 years. There are countless shafts of light but perhaps the most illuminating is that for many years they gave little credit to WG Grace for his gargantuan run scoring.

John's own account of his period as editor is also included in this year's *Wisden*.

MARTIN GUPTILL- AN INNINGS OF RECORDS

Martin Guptill's 189 not out for New Zealand against England in the one-day international at the Ageas Bowl on 2 June was not only a ground record but also equalled the highest score in ODIs in this country. Viv Richards made the same score at Old Trafford in 1984. This innings was even more extraordinary than Guptill's. The peerless West Indian made his runs out of a West Indian total of 272 for nine in 55 overs. Eldine Baptiste (26) and Michael Holding (12 not out) were the only other men to reach double figures. Richards and Holding added an unbeaten 106 off 88 balls for the tenth wicket. Given the latter's score, Richards' dominance is self-evident. Michael Holding was at the Ageas Bowl in the Sky television commentary during Guptill's innings. It was good that some people recognised him as he walked around the ground and equally pleasing that he was willing to sign his autograph if approached. Hampshire players Gordon Greenidge (9) and Malcolm Marshall (four and one for 20) were also in the West Indian side at Old Trafford. David Gower (15), then still with Leicestershire, was England's captain.

Guptill's innings was also the highest recorded on any Hampshire ground in a List A match, eclipsing Gordon Greenidge's 172 against Glamorgan at Northlands Road in the Gillette Cup in 1975.

AARON FINCH

Members will be aware that Aaron Finch's extraordinary innings of 156 off just 63 balls for Australia in the T20 international against England at the Ageas Bowl on 29 August was the highest individual score in such matches. On

researching Cricket Archive, the editor finds that Finch appeared in Hampshire in two non first-class matches in the county whilst touring with Cricket Victoria in 2005. He made 43 against the Southern Cricket Premier League at Havant Park as his side made 296 for 5 in their allotted 45 overs. The SPCL, captained by **Richard Scott** (who addressed the Society last November), replied with 260 for 9. Their highest scorer was **Chris Rogers** (see below) who scored 100 off the same number of balls. Finch then made 17 against Hampshire 2nd XI at the Rose Bowl nursery ground two days later.

BRAD TAYLOR

When he made his championship debut against Lancashire at Southport on Wednesday 28 August, off-break bowler Brad Taylor (born in Winchester on 14 March 1997) became the County's youngest debutant in the competition. At 16 years 167 days, he was one day younger than the previous holder of the record, Alec Kennedy (v Leicestershire at Aylestone Road, Leicester in 1907). Taylor was also the youngest player to appear in List A matches (v Bangladesh A at the Ageas Bowl on 6 August) and in inter-county List A matches (v Lancashire at Old Trafford on 20 August). The youngest man to appear for the county in first-class cricket remains **Charles Robertson Young** at 15 years 131 days old (v Kent at Gravesend in 1867).

HAMPSHIRE PLAYERS AND CLUB CRICKET

It is quite rare for current and former Hampshire players to appear in club cricket. However, there have been a sprinkling of occasions this summer. **Jimmy Adams** and **Adam Rouse** have played for St. Cross in the Southern Premier League. The latter made his first-class debut against Kent at Canterbury. The pair joined three ex-Hampshire players at St Cross: **Laurence Prittupaul**, club captain **Richard Logan** and **John Francis**. Logan also played minor counties cricket for Berkshire, who reached the final of the MCCA Trophy Final against Northumberland at Wormsley.

Michael Carberry made an explosive appearance for Spencer against Malden Wanderers in the Surrey League on 6 July. First, he took five for 43 and then hammered 124 off 108 balls (17 fours and three sixes). He scored another century, as well as claiming three wickets, a few weeks later. **Chris Benham** turned out periodically for Wimbledon in the same league, hitting 120 off 118 balls against Sunbury in mid-August.

Hamza Riazzudin helped Henley maintain their grip at the top of the Home Counties League with a devastating six for 38 against High Wycombe on 13 July. **Michael Roberts** also played for the club.

Henley were much in the news following **Ashton Agar's** extraordinary test debut innings of 98 at Trent Bridge. He had made three appearances for them at the start of the season, batting just once in league games. In those matches he took seven wickets, including a hat-trick-all lbw-in the last against North Mymms. It is doubtful that any newcomer in recent years has generated so many column inches. He was, of course, one of the six Australians brought

over to this country by Hampshire at the start of the summer. In the *Henley Standard*, club chairman Brian Kenworthy stated “that he was a very nice guy and fitted into the Henley changing room seamlessly”. Club captain Bjorn Mordt added that he “helped coach some of the youngsters and that it was a privilege to work with him. He was very quiet and unassuming”.

(The editor thanks HCS member Richard Pemberton for his wonderful support in obtaining information on Ashton Agar’s brief stay at Henley CC).

Another quiet man, whose feats in this summer’s tests will have been applauded in club cricket locally, was **Chris Rogers**. He played Southern League cricket for South Wilts in 2006 prior to joining Northamptonshire half way through the season.

BOOK REVIEWS

Punchy Through the Covers: The Early Years 1928-1949 by Alan Rayment
(Pub Alan Rayment Books)

Many will recall Alan Rayment’s eloquent and descriptive address to the Society in April 2008. He spent some time on that occasion describing his childhood. The above book is in many ways unique. Genuine self-written autobiographies by any cricketer, let alone Hampshire players, are relatively rare. It is doubtful whether any cricketer has consumed so many words on his early years. The book was primarily written for his family and friends, but his growing up in the 1930s, evacuation at the start of World War II, the Blitz, post-War Britain, and national service will resonate with many who either experienced this period or as in the Editor’s case, listened to their grandparents, parents and in-laws. Alan Rayment has had the good sense to write it all down. He emerges as an engagingly hyperactive character, inquisitive, adventurous, very confident and possessor of a wide range of ability and talents. Though always his favourite sport, cricket was probably very fortunate to claim him. His other great passion was ballroom dancing (he later opened a dance school with his wife). There is a particularly evocative chapter where he dissects the technique and temperament of Denis Compton and Doug Wright; he also describes Patsy Hendren’s last innings in first-class cricket and meeting and talking to the great batsman of the inter-war years. The author greatly valued and acted upon his wise counsel. There are also delightful references to Hampshire’s (and Kent’s) Alan Shirreff who was his captain in the RAF. Throughout the well-written narrative there are enigmatic references to a future life in America and Hawaii, his future career, the ups and downs of his private life, as well as an intention to write about the great post-war cricketers, whom he observed at close quarters.

Though a long read – 376 pages and 152,000 words, by the end of the book (just prior to his Hampshire debut) the reader is itching to know what happens next. The next volume is eagerly awaited. The book can be obtained from Alan at 5 Longcliffe, Victoria Road, Milford-on-Sea, Lymington, Hants SO41 0NL –price £23 including postage and packing.

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