

THE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Frank Bailey Shaun Udal

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The Society extends a very warm welcome to Hampshire's much respected and highly popular team manager, Giles White. In the last four years he has plotted Hampshire's unparalleled success in the T20 competition. They have of course reached finals day in each of these years and won twice, at the Ageas Bowl in 2010 and Cardiff in 2012. The county also completed a notable double in the latter year when they won the CB40 final at Lord's. Earlier during his tenure Hampshire won the C&G Final in 2009.

GILES WILLIAM WHITE was born in Barnstaple on 23 March 1972. He was a natural athlete, exemplified by his attending Millfield School and Loughborough University. He first played Minor Counties cricket for Devon as a 16 year old in 1988, for whom he enjoyed more success as a leg-break bowler than as a batsman. He continued to play for his native county until 1993. In the intervening period, he made his debut in first-class cricket for Somerset against the Sri Lankans at Taunton in 1991, scoring 42 and taking one for 30. His second appearance was for Combined Universities against the New Zealanders at Fenner's in 1994. He marked the occasion by recording a determined 104 in five and a half hours to give his side a first innings lead. By now, he was on the Hampshire staff.

He went straight into the county's side on coming down from Loughborough. The first match was against South Africa at Northlands Road, when he experienced the daunting task of facing Allan Donald in full cry. Batting at five, he made a useful 30 before being caught behind off the great South African fast bowler. He went on to play 126 matches for Hampshire until his retirement in 2002, scoring 6,048 runs (avge 30.39) including eight centuries. His best season was in 1998, when he scored 1,211 runs and made his highest score, 156 against Sri Lanka at the County Ground.

Perhaps his best performance, though, was in the final first-class match at Portsmouth, against Kent in 2000. His batting in the second innings is often overlooked because of the previous and now famed titanic day-long contest between Shane Warne and Rahul Dravid earlier in the match. It was our speaker who eventually bowled the marvellous Indian with his leg breaks. Though having a first innings lead of 68, Hampshire subsided to 136 second time around. Giles White batted throughout the innings to be left undefeated with a superb 80. Perhaps strangely, he was not called upon to bowl in the final innings when Dravid stroked Kent to victory. It was the second time in the season that our speaker had carried his bat; he did so earlier against Somerset (78 not out) at Southampton in another losing cause.

Upon his retirement he joined Hampshire's coaching staff, and has been Cricket Manager since 2008.

DIMITRI MASCARENHAS

All members will be aware that Dimitri Mascarenhas played his final match for Hampshire in their semi-final loss to Glamorgan in the YB40 competition on 7 September. It marked the end of a distinguished 18-year career, during which he was one of the most loved cricketers by spectators and much respected by those on the field.

He played the game with a smile on his face, though the eyes burned when he was annoyed. Despite his normal countenance, he played the game hard. He was the meanest of medium-paced bowlers. During the early part of this century, he was one of the most economical and accurate of bowlers in first-class cricket; Derek Shackleton would have been proud of him. He was also the most joyous of stroke-makers, with a never-say-die approach. He backed his keen eye and judgement to the full when putting bat to ball. And yet this seemingly carefree approach marked a real steeliness. He was often at his best in a crisis. Whilst the Ageas Bowl wicket was settling down following Hampshire's move there, he batted with great skill on a series of difficult pitches. Indeed, in the inaugural match on the ground in 2001, he scored the first century. With the county precariously placed at 79 for six against Worcestershire, he proceeded to stroke a calculating 104 to set the tone for Hampshire's domination of the encounter. He also played a key part with the bat, in partnership with his great friend Nic Pothas, in Hampshire's remarkable victory after following on against Glamorgan in 2003. Coming to the wicket with his side still 138 runs in arrears, and only five wickets remaining, he made 75, as he and Pothas (121) shared a sixth wicket partnership of 149 to bring Hampshire into credit and turn the tide in their favour. Until the achilles injury which hastened his retirement, he fielded athletically; he was always the safest of catchers.

His introduction to the game as an unknown 18 year old in August 1996 was startling. During that season, Hampshire had fielded 22 players, thirteen of them front line bowlers. With a mounting injury list and several suffering from loss of form, and never to play for the county again, he was thrust into the side for the championship fixture with Glamorgan. He announced his arrival by taking six for 88 (in 32 overs) and three for 62. He followed with another seven wickets in the next match at Canterbury. His team-mates in those matches included current Hampshire team manager, Giles White, Robin Smith and Liam Botham. After Smith's departure in 2003, he was the only one in those sides still playing. He therefore became "senior pro" at the age of 26.

After an injury -plagued 1997 he cemented his place in the county side in the following year with a series of explosive performances with the bat in particular. HCS members were so taken with his uninhibited approach that they voted him as their Player of the Year that season, despite not scoring a century or taking five wickets in an innings. He was still only 20 years of age and remains the youngest-ever recipient of the award. He was already gaining a reputation as an "impact player" in one-day cricket. Before a national television audience, he frightened the powerful Lancashire side in the Nat. West Trophy semi-final at Northlands Road with an innings of 75 after his

team stood on the brink when 28 for five. Though Hampshire eventually fell short, it was clear that a new talent had emerged. His name was propounded by Hampshire supporters as worthy of an England one-day place from that day forward.

It was to be another nine years – his Benefit Year of 2007 – before he received national recognition. As England experimented with a succession of lesser all-rounders, he should surely have been selected earlier. It is even debatable that he would have been chosen at all had not his Hampshire captain, Shane Warne, tirelessly advocated his cause in the media. In the meantime he had established a reputation as the best “finisher” in limited-overs cricket, as well as being one of the fastest runners between the wickets in the game and the shrewdest exponent of bowling with a new white ball. He did, of course, become the first player to take a hat-trick in a Twenty20 match at Hove in 2004.

Upon making his international debut against India, who possessed one of the most talented batting sides the world has ever seen, his impact was immediate. He bowled economically and, at Lord’s, penetratingly (three for 23), and in two matches lit up the international arena with pyrotechnic batting displays. He hammered 52 off only 32 balls (including five 6’s) at Bristol and then achieved cricketing immortality when he launched all the final five balls of England’s innings over the boundary ropes at The Oval.

He was to endure a strange love-hate relationship with the selectors. Time and again he was left out of England’s ODI sides and T20 sides, mainly to their detriment. He eventually played in 20 ODIs, and 14 T20 matches for England.

Dimi Mascarenhas was county cricket’s pathfinder in T20 cricket. His short game expertise was recognised by the Indian Premier League when he became the first English professional to win an IPL contract. Warne was undoubtedly instrumental in the arrangement but he justified his place in the squad. He played for the Rajasthan Royals between 2008 and 2010 and King’s XI Punjab in 2012. The downside, of course, was that he became less available for Hampshire. He remains a strong advocate for county cricketers to be given the opportunity to play in the IPL for the ultimate benefit of the England side in international competition. He revealed in *The Cricket Paper* that he reimbursed Hampshire for that part of his contract covering the IPL season. He was also the first county cricketer to play T20 cricket in New Zealand and last winter appeared for Melbourne Stars in Australia’s Big Bash, and Rangpur Riders in the Bangladesh Premier League. He was also the first Hampshire player to appear in the Champions League when he played in the 2009 version in South Africa.

On the domestic scene, he captained Hampshire to victory in the C&G Final against Sussex at Lord’s in 2009 and similarly versus Yorkshire in the T20 Final at Cardiff in 2012. The latter game demonstrated his vast experience in the format, as he moved his field, without fuss, like a puppet master. He knew

all the angles. He did the same in this summer's commanding run to T20 finals day.

It was a pity that he could not end his career in a Lord's final in the YB40 tournament. However, he can still look back on his career in the knowledge that he played in three Lord's finals, two of which were won. In the successful C&G Final in 2005, his mid-innings spell on a perfect wicket prevented Ian Bell and Nick Knight from accelerating and taking the game away from his side. The sole defeat was in 2007 when, significantly, the Durham batsmen refused to let him, and indeed all the other Hampshire bowlers, including Shane Warne, settle into a rhythm.

His achievements have therefore been wide and extensive and in many ways unique. He has much of which to be proud. It is probable that for many of the cricketing public he will be remembered as a limited-overs/T20 specialist. To Hampshire followers in particular, he was far more than that as his first-class aggregate of 6495 runs (avge. 25.07), eight centuries, 450 wickets (avge. 28.22) and 76 catches testify. His best score was 131 against Kent at Canterbury in 2006; his best bowling figures were six for 25 against Derbyshire at the Ageas Bowl in 2004, a year in which he won the Society's Player of the Year award for a second time.

His final first-class appearance against Gloucestershire at the Ageas Bowl this summer exemplified the essence of his cricket. Though clearly injured, he bowled 25 overs, seven of which were maidens, and took four for 61. But for a dropped catch, he would have finished with a five wicket haul. It was probably the slowest he ever bowled but the batsmen had to concentrate on every ball as he moved it this way and that. Hampshire then collapsed in their quest to score 411; he top-scored with an aggressive 41 off 50 balls. He decided not to bother too much with running between the wickets: 34 of his runs came in boundaries (seven 4s and a six). It was fitting that he should have returned to the pavilion in the late afternoon sunshine. His cricket always generated warmth.

He has been Hampshire's premier all-rounder in the modern four-day championship era. It may be some years before his figures are bettered.

In all matches for the county Dimi's record was: 11211 runs, 829 wickets and 149 catches. He struck a half-century on 48 occasions.

MICHAEL CARBERRY

Michael Carberry's career has undergone so many dramatic changes in the last month or so that it would not be surprising if he is struggling to make sense of it all. An interview in *The Cricket Paper* last winter suggested he had virtually given up playing for England and that he was going to concentrate on securing a contract with an IPL franchise. The manner in which he biffed bowlers in this year's T20 competition, culminating in a vivid century against Lancashire at the Ageas Bowl in the quarter-finals, can have

done his prospects no harm at all. Furthermore, he was just as effective in the YB40 tournament. His 150 against Lancashire at the Ageas Bowl was the highest by a left-hander for the county in a 40 over competition and the fourth best by a Hampshire batsman, behind Gordon Greenidge, Trevor Jesty and Barry Richards – legends all.

He was unable to replicate his short-overs form early on in the four-day championship but then came good with 154 and 66 at Canterbury and 94 and 62 against Glamorgan at the Ageas Bowl. They were to be his last two championship matches for the county for some seven weeks.

At this stage of his career his appearances at the top level had been confined, of course, to one Test against Bangladesh at Chittagong in March 2010. He did not let England down as he scored 30 and 34 and broke a stubborn and long late wicket partnership by effecting a brilliant run out with a retrieval and throw to the stumps.

He was first picked for England A, and then the Lions as far back as February 2007 on a tour of Bangladesh. He could have done little more to advocate his claims for promotion. On his five appearances for the Lions he made 492 runs at the princely average of 61.87. He scored two centuries, 112 against Central Zone in India in 2008 and then 108 against the New Zealanders at the Ageas Bowl a few weeks later. However, perhaps crucially, he was unable to tour the West Indies with the Lions in the winter of 2010/11 because of a life-threatening lung condition. Within weeks of his return in the latter part of the following summer he scored an unbeaten 300 not out at the Ageas Bowl as he and Neil McKenzie established a new UK record third wicket partnership of 523 against Yorkshire.

He was, though, recalled to the Lions team for their encounter with the West Indies at Northampton in 2012. Again, he stamped his class with 32 and 72 not out. In that second innings, he and Joe Root (115) shared a stand of 197 in 181 minutes to give their side an emphatic ten wicket victory.

That Bangladesh test appearance was always as a shoo-in for Andrew Strauss, who was rested for the tour. However, on the latter's retirement in 2012, the selectors turned to Nick Compton for the tour of India and New Zealand. The Somerset and ex-Middlesex opener had barely figured in the Lions' set-up and was called up as a result of one exceptional season in county cricket. Michael Carberry's scepticism on playing test cricket again was therefore understandable.

Compton, of course, failed to convince, despite two test centuries in New Zealand and Root was moved up to open against the Australians, responding with a magnificent 180 at Lord's. It seemed to have cemented his place in the same way as his three illustrious Yorkshire predecessors, Herbert Sutcliffe, Len Hutton and Geoffrey Boycott had done in the last century.

Michael Carberry still continued to impress on his Lions appearances. Last May he scored 77 against New Zealand at Leicester, again sharing a long partnership, 182 for the second wicket, with the precocious Root (179).

He then, of course, received his unexpected call-up for the England squad for the T20 and ODIs against Australia. Hampshire supporters were flabbergasted when he was omitted from the two T20 internationals. Would England ever pick him again? When he was selected to play against Ireland in Dublin, nerves consumed him. He dropped two simple catches (the Hampshire faithful could barely believe it, such is his athleticism in the field) and played a short skittish innings when he batted. Had his chance gone?

To their credit, Ashley Giles and his team kept faith in him. After being well and truly KiPpered at Edgbaston, when Pietersen's call for a short run left him no hope whatsoever of making his ground, he at last came good with a fine innings of 63 at Cardiff, as he and Eoin Morgan steadied England on their way to victory after the loss of three quick wickets. He then made 30 at the Ageas Bowl after the Shane Watson show. On watching those two innings, one could not help but admire him. At the age of 32, he was learning how to play international cricket. He was having to assimilate his experiences as his innings progressed. His younger colleagues will have the benefit of learning over a series of matches over years. The bowling was better and faster than he was used to. Fielding positions to stem his runs were more astute. The fielding itself was far better. He was having to adapt to all these circumstances. It must be hoped that James Vince does not have to wait as long for his international call-up.

And so, to the delight of all Hampshire followers, Michael Carberry has been selected for an Ashes tour. It has been a long road for him. An England Under-19 international, he always had to make way for returning test players at Surrey and had to make way for an overseas player at Kent. Many men would have buckled but Michael Carberry seized his opportunity when moving to Hampshire. He scored more centuries (22) for the county than any other player in the Ageas (Rose) Bowl era.

How often he will play in Australia is questionable. It is far harder to be selected for England then be dropped once a man is in the team. Nevertheless, he has reached the pinnacle of any cricketer's career and all of Hampshire will wish him well.

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