

THE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Frank Bailey Shaun Udal

NEWSLETTER No. 329 – October 2013 (2)

ANNUAL DINNER

Please find enclosed form for the Annual Dinner, which should be returned to Susanne Marlow, with a stamped addressed envelope. Susanne's address is on the form.

NEW TREASURER

Susanne announced at September's meeting that Brian Ravenhall has resigned as Treasurer, and thanked Brian for his management of the Society's affairs during his stewardship.

The Society is fortunate that **John Grapes** has volunteered at short notice to fill the vacancy. If any member has still to pay their subscriptions, would they please send the form and cheque to John as soon as possible. Members will be aware that the form also gives an opportunity to nominate their HCS Player of the Year.

MEETINGS

Wednesday 30 October 2013 - Meeting

The Society extends the warmest of welcomes to Bob Parks, Hampshire Cricket's Academy Director, and former wicketkeeper, to this evening's meeting. He has ensured that the academy still remains a fertile source of recruitment to the county's playing staff. At the September meeting, Giles White mentioned that left-arm pace bowler Tom Barber and wicketkeeper, Lewis McManus have been awarded development contracts for 2014.

Older members will recall his playing days warmly. They will remember him covering vast distances to make catches off Malcolm Marshall or standing up to make leg side stumpings off his great friend, Tim Tremlett. His jaunty walk, ever smiling countenance and his transferring of the ball from gauntlet to gauntlet whilst changing ends were also his trademarks. Throughout the 1980s, he was an indispensable member of the Hampshire team. His consistency was phenomenal. He missed only one Championship match – against Surrey at The Oval in 1987 – through injury (broken finger) during that decade. He also claimed more victims than any other wicketkeeper **in the world** in that period.

In a career from 1980 until 1992, he set two Hampshire wicket-keeping records that may well stand the test of time. He effected exactly 1000 dismissals in all cricket and 700 (630 catches; 70 stumpings) in first-class cricket. But for rain washing away the last match of the 1986 season at Northlands Road, he would also surely have taken more dismissals in a

season than any other Hampshire wicket-keeper. He was left stranded with 81 victims, two short of the record set by Leo Harrison in 1959.

In the mid-80s, when he was considered the country's best wicketkeeper standing back, he must have come close to gaining a much coveted test cap. In the end, he had to be content with a four hour walk-on role on the Saturday of the Lord's test against India in 1986, when he substituted for Bruce French (now England's wicket-keeping coach).

He gained some compensation, however, by gaining two Benson and Hedges Cup Final winners medals at Lord's (in 1988 and 1992), and another in the John Player Special (Sunday) League in 1986. He played a valuable part in securing the latter trophy at The Oval when he helped Kevan James add 35 runs for the ninth wicket in the last five overs when the county were in desperate trouble. Hampshire's final winning margin was a mere three runs.

He also toured Zimbabwe with an English Counties XI in February and March 1985. That team possessed a distinct Hampshire flavour, which emphasised the quality of Mark Nicholas' side in the 1980s. It was led by the Hampshire captain, and also included Paul Terry and Tim Tremlett.

His batting was based on simple lines. Like his father, Jim, before him, he was always a very quick footed and assured player of spin bowling. His best scores were 89 against Cambridge University at Fenner's in 1984 and 80 v Derbyshire at Portsmouth in that memorable year of 1986. In the latter innings, he came in as night watchman and coped admirably with Michael Holding in indifferent light. The great West Indian was bowling at his quickest; one bouncer to Gordon Greenidge comfortably cleared the wicket-keeper and bounced only twice en route to the boundary.

This is Bob Parks' third appearance at a Society meeting. He first addressed us at the Annual Dinner in December 1982 and then again in October 1992.

150 NOT OUT

Dave Allen, Hampshire's Curator and a Society member, has written a book with the above title to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Hampshire's foundation. It is available from the club shop, price £20. The proceeds will go to community projects and a proposed museum in the Shane Warne stand. Dave will, of course, be addressing the Society in January on the anniversary.

TWO DOUBLE CENTURIES IN A SEASON

During last season, Jimmy Adams achieved the rare feat of scoring two double centuries: 219 not out against Worcestershire and 218 versus Northamptonshire, on both occasions at the Ageas Bowl. As far as the Editor is able to ascertain, only two other Hampshire players have scored two double centuries for the county, in the same season. Philip Mead (who else?) did so twice, in 1921 and 1922 and Gordon Greenidge achieved the landmark in 1977.

PHILIP MEAD 1921

280 not out v. Nottinghamshire at Southampton

This innings was the left-hander's highest score in first-class cricket. Facing a deficit of 232 on first innings, Hampshire were 17 for 2 when Mead lumbered his way to the wicket. One of the batsmen dismissed was CB Fry who was dismissed for a duck in what proved to be his last innings in first-class cricket in this country. Mead completed his first century in 130 minutes and needed only another 75 to reach his double hundred. By close of play on the second day, he was 209 not out. When he ran out of partners on the third afternoon, he had batted for 315 minutes. A ninth wicket partnership of 157 with Walter Livsey (69) had extended Hampshire's total to 507. When Nottinghamshire set off in pursuit of 286 in 175 minutes, Jack Newman reduced them to 55 for 5. However, they eventually eased home for the loss of eight wickets with 15 minutes to spare. Mead had scored 45 in the first innings.

224 v. Sussex at Horsham

This match followed the above. By now, Mead was well and truly in the groove. He scored 113 on the first day and 224 in the second innings. He virtually played Sussex on his own. In the first innings, Hampshire totalled 260. The next highest score was Alec Bowell, with 35. Facing a deficit of 99 (Maurice Tate having struck a whirlwind 142 in 119 minutes), Hampshire were 175 for six at close of play on the second day. Mead was unbeaten on 66. Another interesting feature of the day was that 510 runs had flowed from the bat. (Batsmen of 2013 vintage please take note). Hampshire eventually reached 411. The next highest scorer was Alec Kennedy (46). In the time remaining, Sussex breezed to 182 for five against front line bowlers. The match was drawn. The third day had therefore yielded a further 418 runs. Mead had scored 662 runs in a week! During that June, he amassed 1159 of them (avge 96.58), an aggregate exceeded only by Yorkshire's Herbert Sutcliffe and Len Hutton.

PHILIP MEAD 1922

235 v. Worcestershire at Worcester

By any test, this was an extraordinary innings. Only a few weeks earlier Philip Mead had been unconscious for long periods with pneumonia and doctors feared for his life. His runs came in 285 minutes (32 fours and one five). Hampshire totalled 373. He and Stuart Boyes (22 not out, the next highest score) added 147 for the tenth wicket. Worcestershire were then dismissed by Alec Kennedy and Jack Newman for 134 and 124 as Hampshire strode to victory by an innings and 115 runs. Philip Mead had operated in a parallel universe. No other batsman on either side made more than 40.

211 v. Warwickshire at Southampton

In the first match between the two sides earlier in the season, Hampshire were famously bowled out for just 15. Mead, though, remained unbeaten on six. The county's batsmen demonstrated cricket's vagaries in the return by plundering 553 for seven declared, 522 of which came on the second day.

This time Mead was well supported by Harold Day (107), Alec Bowell (52) and Lionel Tennyson (94). Mead and Tennyson smacked 165 for the fifth wicket in only 75 minutes. Hampshire again recorded an overwhelming victory, this time by an innings and 178 runs.

GORDON GREENIDGE 1977

200 not out v. Surrey at Guildford

Like Mead against Nottinghamshire in 1921, Gordon Greenidge finished on the losing side. After scoring 64 in the first innings, he tore into the Surrey bowling in the second. He reached his century in 101 minutes. He and Trevor Jesty (60) added 147 in the last 68 minutes of the second day. Greenidge attained his double century (24 fours and 6 sixes) by lunch on the final day, at which point Richard Gilliat declared leaving Surrey to make 291 in 165 minutes plus a minimum of twenty overs. It proved to be a generous declaration as the home side galloped home for the loss of only two wickets with seven overs remaining.

208 v. Yorkshire at Headingley

After Yorkshire had posted 229, Greenidge completed a scintillating innings in only four and a half hours (27 fours and 5 sixes). As Mead had done over fifty years earlier, he totally dominated the scoring, the next best innings being Mike Taylor's 21. On a fast wicket, Andy Roberts (four for 47) and John Rice (four for 48) then bowled out Yorkshire for 139. Hampshire eased to victory by eight wickets (Greenidge 15 not out).

JIMMY ADAMS 2013

Jimmy Adams is the only Hampshire captain to perform the feat and they were by some distance the two longest innings. His knock against Worcestershire was the highest by a Hampshire captain since Dick Moore's record 316 in 1937, and laid the foundation for an eventual victory by an innings and 42 runs. He batted throughout the innings; his declaration came with Hampshire on 500 for nine.

The match against Northamptonshire was yet another excruciatingly boring draw on the flat Ageas Bowl wicket. On that occasion, he was eight man out, with the score standing at 494.