

THE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Frank Bailey Shaun Udal

NEWSLETTER No. 330 – NOVEMBER 2013

MEETINGS

Wednesday 13 November 2013 – Meeting

Tonight's speaker, Alan Rayment, will evoke nostalgic memories for those members who watched Hampshire cricket during the 1950s. They will recall his attractive, stylish batting and the brilliance of his fielding, particularly in the covers. Unlike many cricketers, upon his retirement in 1958, the most interesting part of his life still lay before him.

ALAN WILLIAM HARRINGTON RAYMENT was born in Finchley on 29 May 1928. He played for Finchley before making his debut in first-class cricket in one match for the Combined Services in 1947. He played for Middlesex 2nd XI the following year, before joining Hampshire on special registration in 1949.

He went on to play 198 matches for the county. He often produced his best form on difficult wickets, never more so than at Weston-Super-Mare in 1955. On the broken pitch on which Derek Shackleton famously took eight for four, Alan Rayment scored a dazzling century (104). Only two other batsmen – Henry Horton (59) and Harold Stephenson (52) reached fifty. Moving lightly on his dancer's feet, he repeatedly moved down the pitch to hit the Somerset slow left-arm spin bowler, Australian John McMahon, down the ground. It was an extraordinary innings. Earlier in the season, he made a priceless and fluent top score of 30 on another bowler's wicket in the tied match against Sussex at The Saffron's Ground at Eastbourne.

Right-handed, and of medium height, he scored 6333 runs for the county in a manner that always demanded attention. He reached the thousand run landmark on two occasions (1952 and 1956), as well as scoring four centuries, his best score being 126 against Gloucestershire at Bristol in 1953. The innings bore a lop-sided look on that occasion. With Cliff Walker (150 not out), he added 246 for the fourth wicket in four and a quarter hours, out of a total of 375. Play was extended on the first two days to allow a 2pm start on the third, Coronation Day. Another highlight was his membership of the 1955 team which finished in third position in the Championship, the highest position the county had attained at the time.

Roy Webber, writing in the Hampshire Handbook of 1953, recalled a startling fielding feat at Finchley, his home ground, in 1950 during a Minor Counties match.

“Making a good save at cover, he trod on his finger and sent a spike through the nail – it remains to add that he returned the ball to the wicket and ran out the Middlesex batsman very smartly”

During his county career, our speaker established his own dancing school which proved to be lucrative. His CV has since encompassed a summer at Lord's, where he turned down the job of head coach, estate agent, property developer, social worker, mature student and psychotherapist.

Members will be aware that Alan published the first part of his autobiography "Punchy Through The Covers" during the summer. It comprises 152,000 and only covers the period from his birth to 1949!

The Society extends him a very warm welcome for the second time. He previously entertained us at The Ageas Bowl in April 2008.

Wednesday 9 October 2013 – Report

The evening with Giles White took the form of a Q & A session with Terry Crump. Our speaker began by saying that he was an Arian and that his personality characteristics accorded with the stereotype! His audience heard about his early days in the game starting with badgering his father to play with him and then to Millfield School where his contemporaries included David Hemp and Ian Ward. He played his club cricket for Thorveton in South Devon and then Exeter and Sidmouth. He was originally selected for Devon as a leg spinner; he batted at 11. He played for his native county in two Minor Counties Trophy winning sides at Lord's (Editor's Note: in 1991 and 1992, both against Staffordshire. Giles White scored a match winning 79 not out in the second of those matches)

When he played his first match for Somerset, his first captain was Jimmy Cook, who was later to be Hampshire's coach during part of his career with the county. Some of his memories of his Hampshire playing days included facing Allan Donald on his debut, the captaincy of Mark Nicholas, Robin Smith's rollicking century against the Australians in 1993, the first game under lights at Edgbaston and Shaun Udal's practical jokes. His last season (2002) was a difficult one with the variable Rose Bowl wicket and change of coach. He therefore decided to call it a day but Hampshire offered him a coaching role.

He then gave a number of insights on the coaching/managing role and the relationship with the captain. The manager and coaching roles are distinctly separate. He still provides some coaching input and has a role in supporting the various specialist coaches. The captain's role is fuller than in football. The captain is on the pitch for two hours or more at a time; he has to be in charge and the chief decision maker in those periods.

Attention then turned to Hampshire's recent fortunes. In the shortened form of the game, they had found a winning formula. Every member of the side was clear on their role. With regard to 4-day cricket, youngsters, reared on limited cricket, needed to learn how to play the longer game. He then commented on Matt Coles, who reminded him of Ian Botham, and Will Smith, whose experience of being a member of four championship sides, as well as being a brilliant fielder, would be invaluable. He concluded by confirming that

Tom Barber, a left-arm fast bowler, and Lewis McManus, a wicket-keeper/batsman had been awarded development contracts in 2014.

In the ensuing Q&A session, the topics included the Ageas Bowl wicket (endeavouring to obtain more “carry”), bowling strategies, the difference between 40/50 overs cricket, the wicket-keeping position, release of players for the Lions and T20 tournaments around the world, scoring rates and Brad Taylor. On the latter he commented that Hampshire would like him at this stage to concentrate on his education during the school term period.

Wednesday 30 October 2013 – Report

The season’s first meeting at Test Valley Golf Club was graced by Bobby Parks. He started by mentioning the family dynasty, two of whom played for England. Later on in the evening, he described his own “walk on” appearance for England on the Saturday of the Lord’s Test against India in 1986. Asked to report to the ground because of an injury sustained by Bruce French, he only learnt he was actually playing whilst listening to TMS on the car radio en route. He was determined to enjoy the experience.

As a boy, he came through the Sussex system but finding his way blocked by Tim Head, he sought to pursue a career elsewhere. He played for Somerset 2nd XI but his path was determined after a match against Hampshire 2nd XI at Andover in 1976. In the Hampshire side were Nick Pocock, Nigel Cowley, Tim Tremlett and Barry Reed (captain). (Editor’s Note: Tremlett dismissed our speaker in both innings). Charles Knott subsequently invited him for a trial with the county. Ironically, he eventually made his first-class debut against Sussex at Southampton in 1980. He commented it was an exciting time as the side was a young one, in a state of rebuilding. His team mates that year included Paul Terry, Chris Smith, Mark Nicholas, Malcolm Marshall, Pocock and Tremlett, all to become integral members of a successful side during the ensuing decade.

He brought to the meeting three of his most treasured artefacts:- a Gordon’s Gin award for wicket-keeper of the month, a photograph of three generations of the Parks’ family, taken just before his grandfather died, and a B&H Gold Award which he received from Denis Compton after taking five catches against Somerset in 1985.

He then touched on the difference in today’s game with that of the 1980s. The primary one was that every county possessed a genuine fast bowler. On taking up the appointment of Academy Director 18 months ago, he formed a Bowling Development Group, majoring on fast bowlers (though without excluding spin bowlers). Six quick bowlers had been identified to work under the tutelage of Craig White and James Tomlinson.

He spent a few minutes talking about Malcolm Marshall. Only two batsmen were not afraid of taking him on: Northamptonshire’s Wayne Larkins and Viv Richards. He commented that matches against Somerset were always exciting. He recalled in particular the encounter at Taunton in 1985. Ian Botham made a century in Somerset’s first innings. With Hampshire in

desperate trouble in reply, Kevan James and Tim Tremlett then created a new record eighth wicket partnership of 227 to take the county into the lead. Our speaker was padded up for four hours but never reached the wicket as Paul Terry declared upon James' dismissal. When Somerset batted again, Richards slammed 186 before a Botham declaration set Hampshire 325 to win in 66 overs. They won by five wickets with three balls to spare.

He also admired Geoffrey Boycott for his sheer weight of runs. Of the bowlers he faced, he thought Derek Underwood and Richard Hadlee (who inflicted the only pair of Bobby Parks' career) were the best. Alan Knott, Bob Taylor and Jack Russell were the best wicket-keepers. He now placed Michael Bates in the same category.

After he left the game, following a year playing a few games for Kent (he found it strange walking into the dressing room of a team who had previously been opponents), he dovetailed coaching Portsmouth Grammar School with a career in accountancy for 12 years, the last three of which were in London. Raj Maru inveigled him back to Hampshire to coach wicket-keepers in the youth system. He first tutored Michael Bates when the latter was an 11 year old. With Paul Terry's agreement he then worked with Nic Pothas, Tom Burrows and Michael Brown on a sessional basis. On gaining a contract as a specialist wicket-keeping coach he gave up his accountancy job. As Academy Director, he has also established a Batting Development Group with Jimmy Adams taking a lead role.

It was a measured address, quietly and modestly delivered. It prompted a flurry of questions from the floor, many of which were concerned with Hampshire's coaching system. It was evident that it was systematic, comprehensive and extremely professional (with technology being brought to bear in many facets). It deserves to succeed and its fruits were shown by Liam Dawson, James Vince, Danny Briggs and Bates now flourishing in the first X1.

HAMPSHIRE FAREWELLS

It is always sad when a county has to release those young players still in their prime but who did not quite establish themselves in the team. Two such players left Hampshire at the end of the season.

In fact, **DAVID GRIFFITHS** left to join Kent on loan during August. During the latter part of his career with Hampshire, he was undoubtedly the fastest bowler on the staff. However, recurring injuries and then inconsistency, leading to loss of confidence, dogged him throughout. Born in Newport on the Isle of Wight on 10 September 1985, and educated at Sandown High School, he came through the county's junior system. He played for England Under 19s in 2004/05 before making his first-class debut against Loughborough UCCE at the Ageas (then Rose) Bowl in 2006. He played in 36 matches for the county, taking 105 wickets at an average of 34.80. His best bowling performance was 6 for 85 against a strong Nottinghamshire side in 2011. The highlight of his career was probably in 2012 when he was a member of

Hampshire's CB40 final winning side at Lord's, taking the crucial wicket of Ian Bell.

HAMZA RIAZUDDIN has retired. He was a feisty and enthusiastic all-rounder who suffered more than most from the competition for places. When given an extended opportunity at the start of the 2012 season, he batted most usefully and returned his career figures of five for 61 against Glamorgan at the SWALEC. The previously injured James Tomlinson returned to the side shortly afterwards and he never played a first-class match again. In T20 cricket, he was a major influence in Hampshire's success in the Caribbean in early 2011. Bowling in the middle of the innings, his clever changes of pace consistently changed the course of matches in his side's favour. Born in London on 19 December 1989, he was educated at Bradfield College, alma mater to Mark Nicholas and Will Kendall. He first played for Hampshire as an 18-year old in 2008, and also appeared for England Under-19s in the following months. He played in eight first-class matches scoring 130 runs (avge. 18.57) and taking 17 wickets (27.59) with his right-arm medium-pace bowling delivered with an unconventional action, which seemed to be off the wrong foot.

Others on the staff to be released were **ADAM ROUSE** and **JACK SHEPPARD**. For those on the outside, Rouse's departure was surprising. The Zimbabwean-born wicketkeeper/batsman was a schoolboy prodigy for whom many shrewd observers forecast a long and successful career. Like Griffiths and Riazuddin he played for England Under 19s (in 2010). He played one match for the county against Kent at Canterbury in 2013, scoring 9. He will remain in posterity in Hampshire's history in that he fielded as substitute in the test between England and Sri Lanka at the Ageas Bowl in 2011 and held a catch at gully to dismiss Kumar Sangakarra.

Sheppard, primarily a right-arm fast medium bowler, played for Hampshire in one List A match against Bangladesh A at the Ageas Bowl last summer, taking 2-49 in 9 overs.

BANGLADESH PREMIER LEAGUE

During the winter, **Liam Dawson** (for Prime Bank) and **Sean Ervine** (Brothers Union) will both be playing in the Bangladesh Premier League.

Memories of 1973

As the 40th anniversary of Hampshire's championship success in 2013 draws to a close, **Imogen Grosberg** makes a welcome return to the pages of the Newsletter with a poem to celebrate that wonderful summer (see overleaf). It was written in September 1973, but has never previously appeared in the Newsletter.

Championship Calypso

Before the season started
we were a bit down-hearted –
Hampshire sixty-six to one
made us feel a little glum
 Champions flag flies from the stand
 Hampshire best team in the land.

But we gained an early lead,
we all said that's what we need.
Against Warwickshire in June
Barry Richards called the tune
 Champions flag flies from the stand,
 Hampshire best team in the land.

Fielders were super and their catches
helped to win ten of the matches.
Batsman plays bad stroke and snicks,
snapped up easy on the slips.
 Champions flag flies from the stand,
 Hampshire best team in the land.

Bowlers all bowled a good length,
other teams fell to their strength.
We hit them all over the field,
generally they had to yield.
 Champions flag flies from the stand,
 Hampshire best team in the land.

Northants thought they could catch us
but they couldn't match us,
In two days they had to fall –
Hampshire won off a no-ball.
 Champions flag flies from the stand,
 Hampshire best team in the land.

At Bournemouth we played Gloucester
and showed who was the boss, sir!
Bonus points put us quite clear,
Hampshire top team of the year.
 See the Champions flag unfurled,
 Hampshire best team in the world!

Imogen Grosberg