

# HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

**Patrons:** John Woodcock Frank Bailey Shaun Udal

**NEWSLETTER No. 335 – MARCH 2014 (2)**

## MEETINGS

### Wednesday 26 March 2014 – Meeting

The Society extends a very warm welcome to the Hospital Broadcasting Team. There will be three speakers. The first is **ALAN LAMBOURN**. He is seldom absent from a microphone, having been a member of Southampton Hospital Broadcasting Association (HBA) since he was a schoolboy in short trousers.

The seed of this interest began when he assembled equipment to relay entertainment directly from his bedroom via cable to a speaker placed under the bed of his grandmother further along the building. He pretended to be the “Home Service” and also recorded these programmes so later he would sit with her during playback to observe audience reaction! In the late nineties Alan enjoyed ten years at the studios in Fareham of Ocean Sound, presenting classical music mainly, as well as arts programmes from Chichester out of a make-shift studio in the grounds of its cathedral. Parallel to this he worked in teacher training for 26 years at La Sainte Union, in Southampton, helping future teachers embrace new technical devices designed to assist ‘their daily challenges’ in the classroom. He took early retirement from LSU in 1997 but still uses his voice to earn a modest income announcing at small exhibitions, or major events such as the Boat Shows in Southampton and London.

Alan will reflect on the roots and basics of HBA.

**JOHN YOUNG** is, of course, a former Chairman of the Society, and has served on its committee for some 30 years. Whilst studying to be an accountant, he served his National Service in the Army. Upon qualifying he moved into industry, working at Pirelli General Cable Works, Southampton, and then at their Eastleigh plant.

His first educational appointment was at the City of Birmingham College of Commerce, followed by a senior lectureship at Southampton College of Technology, before a final move to the University of Southampton. During his academic career he pursued his own bachelor’s and master’s studies. His research work on the problems of agricultural credit took him to Africa several times. Upon “retirement”, he was asked to continue teaching in his department as a Visiting Fellow, which he did for many years.

His previous service in khaki continued at a later date when, over a period of 13 years, he commanded two Army Cadet Force Units in addition to serving with the North Saskatchewan Regiment for a year whilst on sabbatical leave in Canada. His principal sporting activity was soccer. A prolific goal scorer at senior and county levels, his main claim to fame was that he was Terry

Paine's first inside forward partner whilst with Winchester City. He also played cricket for the Old Edwardians CC and his College and University staff teams. He is a life member and Vice President of Hampshire Cricket. For 40 years, he was Organising Commentator of the HBA's commentary team covering all Hampshire's home matches.

**KEN MAXTED** has been a member of Hampshire since the early 1950s. He played club cricket extensively in Hampshire and Dorset for around 30 years, including at both the County Ground and Dean Park in Bournemouth. In the 1980s he became actively involved with Hampshire CCC in the general management of Dean Park, and in the later attempts to preserve the county's position there. Thereafter, he continued to work with the Cooper Dean Estate to secure the future of the venue exclusively for quality cricket.

He has commentated regularly for forty years on cricket for The Hospital Broadcasting Association, locally at both Northlands Road and the Ageas Bowl and during the last ten years of the county's tenancy at Dean Park. He has been responsible for the HBA cricket output since 2010, setting up in August of that year, on their behalf and with *BeatPortFM*, the first ECB Accredited independent online radio commentaries, reaching supporters worldwide.

(The editor thanks our three speakers for their biographical details).

### **Wednesday 5 March 2014 – Report**

Those present to hear Andrew Renshaw's discourse on cricketers and the First World War were rewarded with a thoroughly absorbing evening. He began with reminiscences of John Arlott. As editor of the Basingstoke Gazette, Andrew wrote to JA asking if he would be prepared to write an article on his memories of Basingstoke. The latter responded positively within two days. The setting down of those memories prompted JA to write his autobiography, *Basingstoke Boy*. One of JA's earliest memories was of going to Basingstoke station to see soldiers arriving home after Armistice Day. He and his mother were looking for his father; he eventually returned.

Andrew then referred to the 1998 Hampshire Handbook for which he was editor. It included a number of landmark articles written by him on One Match Wonders and men who served in WW1. A few days after the publication, Mike Spurrier, the *authority* on cricketer/servicemen phoned him. Thus began a great friendship which continued up until Mike's death.

In 2010, he bought a 1912 Wisden. Inside was an inscription from "Neil" to his father. Below, his father had written "How sweet and fitting it is to die for one's country". But who was Neil? There were numbers referring to matches played by Rugby School, but no mention of a Neil. An American researcher eventually established that one of the Rugby cricketers, BW Fagan, had a brother Neil. Further research by Andrew ascertained that Neil Fagan was critically wounded on the first day of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 1916. He lay in no-man's land for 48 hours before crawling back to his own lines. He was taken to a hospital in Chichester but died a few days later, aged 20.

On the way to a match at Arundel, Andrew and Mike took a detour to Chichester and found Neil Fagan's grave by the War Memorial. Andrew wrote an article of his research in the 2012 Wisden. It later transpired that, even as a teenager, Fagan was a collector of Wisdens.

Andrew ran across Hugh Chevalier of Wisden at a concert in London. Their discussion prompted him to write to Wisden with a proposal to write a book about cricketers in the Great War. The original WW1 Wisdens were slim volumes and many "obituaries" were merely a list of names. He reported that 24 Hampshire cricketers died in the war, the most for any county. It was interesting that most counties were better off financially in 1919 as they had not had to pay any players but members continued to pay their subscriptions. He concentrated on Hampshire players but many facts he unearthed were representative of what occurred during the war. He referred to the many sons of clergymen who went to war believing they were doing God's work. Many families suffered multiple bereavements. The cricketing Woodroffe and Belcher families both had three sons who died. Arthur Jaques and his brother were killed on the same day. Overall, there were 220 sets of brothers who died on the same day. The father of ACP Arnold conducted the service at St. Trinity Church, Fareham for the unveiling of the War Memorial which included his son's name.

In undertaking the work he inevitably found a number of errors and omissions. Cricket's most decorated soldier was HT Forster -two DSOs and two MCs- as well as being mentioned in despatches on five occasions, and yet he never received an obituary in Wisden. He rewrote the obituary of H J Rogers, Neville's uncle. He found that former Hampshire Secretary, FH Bacon, attended a different school; it was, in fact, Andrew's former school.

He referred to Patsy Hendren. His brother died in 1915. When cricket resumed in 1919 the great Middlesex brother enjoyed a wonderfully successful season. Was it in homage to his brother?

He ended by touching on cricketing literature connections:- Peter Llewellyn-Davis (the inspiration for JM Barrie's Peter Pan), Rupert Brooke and Terence Rattigan. There was also Tommy Nelson, to whom John Buchan dedicated *The Thirty Nine Steps*; spookily he died in the same battle on the same day as Buchan's brother. There were also suicides, one of whom shot himself because of envisaging the maiming and slaughter of horses in the war. More happily, he found three men for whom there was a wartime obituary but who lived for many years afterwards!

It was a task that had consumed him – and still does – for four years. His biggest regret was that due to space constraints, he was unable to include "Cricketer's Brave" articles written by Mike Spurrier.

**Andrew's book *Wisden on the Great War: The Lives of Cricket's Fallen 1914-1918*, is scheduled to be published on 8 May, price £40. It can be pre-ordered on Amazon.**

## MORE BOOKS

Two books by the editor are scheduled to be published in the next few months. The first is ***Hampshire Cricket Miscellany***, which is a companion to *Hampshire Cricket On This Day*. Amongst a welter of trivia and statistics, it also celebrates all of Hampshire's trophies in all forms of the game. It is the first book to comprehensively cover the history of their performances in one-day and Twenty20 cricket. There are also short histories on each of the grounds on which Hampshire have played first-class cricket, and resumes of international cricket at the Ageas Bowl and the former County Ground in Southampton. There is also a section on Women's Cricket. Cricket for people with disabilities, of which Hampshire have been brilliantly supportive, also has two entries. The book should be available in the club shop at, or shortly after, the start of the season.

Members will be aware from the January meeting and Newsletter that the editor has been working on a book to celebrate **the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of Hampshire's first match as a first-class county in 1864. It will contain a report of the match but, more importantly, biographies of the eleven men who took the field for the county in that inaugural match (v Sussex at Southampton's Antelope ground). Virtually all of the information has never been published before. The title has yet to be decided but it is hoped that publication will coincide with Hampshire's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 7 July. It will be a limited edition of 150 copies.

## DALE BENKENSTEIN

Members will be aware that Dale Benkenstein has been appointed Hampshire's first team coach. In one interview, he stated he had not officially retired as a player and so it is conceivable that Hampshire supporters will see him take the field. Those who have followed Durham's fortunes in the last decade will know that he is one of those men who makes a difference. In fact, the latter attribute has been prevalent throughout his career. His impact on Durham when he originally joined them on a Kolpak registration in 2005 was immediate. After finishing bottom of the pile in 2004, for the fifth time in 13 years, he was one of those whom the county brought in to introduce a more durable approach. Part way through the season, he substituted as captain for Mike Hussey, when the latter was called into Australia's one-day squad. Durham went on to gain promotion. Under his full-time captaincy from 2006, Durham's rise was startling. In 2007, they won their first trophy when they outplayed Hampshire completely in the final of the Friends Provident Trophy. They executed their game plan quite magnificently, so much so that from virtually the first over, Durham were able to exercise complete control, notwithstanding the presence of Shane Warne as Hampshire captain. On one of the very few occasions in his whole career, the magnetic Australian with the outsize personality was outgeneralled by the quiet South African. Besides his outstanding captaincy, Benkenstein also contributed to his side's triumph with a calculating 61 not out at the end of their innings. Durham also finished second in the county championship that year. Benkenstein also acquired a British passport, so that he was no longer a Kolpak registration. In 2008, they

won the championship for the first time. He was, almost inevitably, nominated as one of *Wisden's* Five Cricketers of the Year. In the words of John Westerby in his biographical essay "The collection of wandering souls had found a leader to whom their eyes naturally turned on the field". He captained Durham again in the following season, before handing over the reins to Will Smith, whom he joins on the Hampshire staff. He had been captain of Durham's limited overs side since 2011.

Whether as batsman, bowler, fielder or captain, Dale Benkenstein made an impact on virtually every match in which he played. Time and again, he rescued his county from a precarious position with an important innings in the middle order. He has left Durham as their record run scorer in first-class cricket. In 137 matches, he made 9055 runs (avge. 45.96), including 21 centuries, another record. His highest score for Durham was 181 against Somerset at Taunton in 2009.

Given the time he devoted to captaincy and batting, he bowled sparingly. He was, though, a most useful and accurate change medium-pace bowler. The editor recalls that when Michael Lumb (158) and Michael Carberry (162) were in full cry in a second wicket partnership of 314 at May's Bounty, Basingstoke, in 2010, it was Benkenstein who was the only bowler to enforce any restraint. He dismissed the latter and conceded only 19 runs in his 14 overs. He claimed 44 wickets (avge. 38.11) for Durham. He was also a fine close to the wicket fielder, who held 70 catches for Durham.

DALE MARTIN BENKENSTEIN was born in Salisbury (now Harare), Rhodesia on 9 June 1974. He came from a cricketing family; both his father and two brothers, one of whom was his twin, played for Natal B. His father also played for Rhodesia. His father moved to Durban at about the time that Rhodesia gained independence. After attending Durban High School, alma mater to Barry Richards and Robin Smith, and Michaelhouse High School, he made his debut for Natal (later KwaZulu-Natal) in 1993-94. He continued to play for them until 2003/04, after which he appeared for the Dolphins from 2004/05 to 2007/08. When he made his debut for Natal, his captain was Malcolm Marshall. In the *Wisden* article referred to above, he commented "Not many people think of Malcolm as a captain but he was a genius in the way he analysed a batsman and placed his fielders. In my eyes, he took the art of captaincy to another level". The student Benkenstein obviously learnt well. When the great fast bowler retired in 1996, Benkenstein succeeded him as captain, at the age of only 22. As at Durham, he made an immediate impact. In his first season as captain, Natal won both the four-day league and knock-out competition.

He was touted as a successor to Hansie Cronje for the South African captaincy, but he had to be content with 23 ODI appearances for that country between 1998/99 to 2002/2003. He also toured the West Indies, New Zealand and Sri Lanka with South African representative sides. His highest score in first-class cricket was 259 for KwaZulu-Natal v Northerns at Durban in 2001/02.

He thus joins Hampshire as a coach with the most impressive track record and wide experience as a player. His appointment seems a very shrewd and, indeed, exciting move by the county. Good players do not always make good coaches, but his career suggests that he possesses that x factor to be a success.

### **GLENN MAXWELL**

Hampshire have also signed the Australian Glenn Maxwell for T20 matches. He played, of course, for the county in 2012 when he attracted headlines for his extraordinary six hitting exploits and very fast rate of scoring. He had begun that season playing for South Wilts in the Southern Premier League but his performances for Hampshire immediately catapulted him into the Australian squad. Since 2012, he has played in two tests, 24 ODIs and 15 T20 matches for Australia. He has also played for Dehli Daredevils and Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League. Last season, he played for Surrey in T20 cricket but without making the same impact as he did for Hampshire. Nevertheless, he was in the Surrey side which was defeated by Northamptonshire in the final.

### **JAMES VINCE**

Members will be aware that James Vince will be Hampshire's vice-captain next year. He returns to Hampshire after a mixed winter. He performed well for the England Emerging Players squad in Australia. Unfortunately, he failed to do himself justice with the England Lions in Sri Lanka, and was not selected for the three "unofficial tests". He is, though, a hugely talented batsman and, aged only 23, he will surely continue to give the selectors notice of his ability in all forms of the game.

### **PROSPECTS FOR 2014**

This year's second division of the County Championship should be the most competitive ever. All counties have strengthened their squads considerably. At this stage, virtually all nine counties will fancy their chances. For Hampshire, the challenge will be to post competitive totals, and at a much faster rate than last season in order to give themselves to bowl out the opposition twice. Michael Carberry and James Vince will certainly wish to stake their claim to an England place. Matt Coles and James Tomlinson proved a penetrative new ball pairing at the end of last season and, of course, they will now be supplemented by Kyle Abbott, fresh from a call-up to the South African test team. The determining factor in the success of the season may well be the ability of Hampshire's spin bowlers to exert their influence.

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