

# THE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Shaun Udal

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## FRANK BAILEY

Members will be sad to learn that Frank Bailey died on 4 October. Frank was one of the Society's founder members. He had been a member of The Cricket Society, based in London, for some time, and with others in the car home from Taunton after "Botham's Match" in 1974, a notion to create a Cricket Society in Hampshire was discussed. The first meeting was held in January 1976. He became the Society's first Chairman and was then Hon. Secretary. He continued to attend meetings on occasions until the final year of his life when the Society was nearing its 40<sup>th</sup> year. Through his approachable personality - there was always a twinkle in his eye and he smiled and laughed readily - he provided unassuming and wise leadership in its early years. Frank worked tirelessly; he represented the Society at the Council of Cricket Societies for many years, and is still fondly remembered there. He also arranged printing and circulation of the early Newsletters; in those years it was prepared on a stencil and was of foolscap size! He was wonderfully supportive of the Society's three Newsletter editors. And, of course, as Hon. Secretary, he arranged the programme of speakers. Latterly, he accepted the invitation to become one of the Society's Patrons. He also served on the Hampshire Committee for a while. Besides cricket, his interests included rugby union, concert and theatre going, mainly to matinees in London. The Society would not have taken root without Frank Bailey and his friends in the Basingstoke area, and will therefore be forever indebted to them.

## MEETINGS

### Wednesday 14 October 2015

The Society is very pleased to welcome **STEPHEN CHALKE** to this evening's meeting. This will be the third occasion he has addressed the Society, having previously visited in September 1999 and February 2007.

In the past fifteen years he has probably been responsible, as author and publisher (Fairfield Books), for more cricket books than any other individual. His first, *Runs in the Memory*, published in 1997, an evocation of county cricket in the 1950s, set the trend. All books were sold and it was Frank Keating's Sports Book of the Year in *The Guardian*. The book was founded on interviews with players of that era. It was a format that touched a nostalgic nerve, capturing the spirit of the game and the decade, and proved extremely popular. Since then, he has accumulated a fund of stories which is probably unmatched.

This year's publication of *Summer's Crown; The Story of Cricket's County Championship*, which came about from a commission from the ECB marks the peak of his researches. It is a majestic book charting the competition from 1890 to the current day. It abounds with stories about the counties and the players, set against an abbreviated social and political history of Victorian England and the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Besides his first book, four others have won awards. *At the Heart of English Cricket* – based on the life and memories of the former administrator Geoffrey Howard – won the Cricket Society Book of the Year prize. His collaborations with Bob Appleyard (*No Coward Soul*, jointly written with Derek Hodgson) and Tom Cartwright, (*The Flame Still Burns*) were both **Wisden Book of the Year**, making him the first author to win the award twice. A collection of his articles, *The Way It Was*, won the National Sporting Club's Cricket Book of the Year award.

The Editor's particular favourite is *One More Run* which captures the flavour and essence of the Cheltenham Festival, in a match between Gloucestershire and Yorkshire in 1957. It is based on interviews with that incomparable character the late "Bomber" Wells, the Gloucestershire and Nottinghamshire off-spin bowler.

As a publisher, three other books have won Book of the Year awards. His stable of authors includes John Barclay, David Foot, Derek Hodges, Simon Lister, Douglas Miller, Ivan Ponting, Peter Walker, Anthony Gibson, Patrick Murphy and Mark Waugh.

Stephen Chalke was born in Salisbury in 1948. He saw much of his early cricket at Bournemouth. He has played the game since the age of nine. He is still taking wickets in league cricket in Wiltshire. After some years of working in adult education, he took up writing in 1997. He has been a regular contributor to *The Wisden Cricketer* magazine and has also written for *The Times* and *The Independent*. As part of his first degree he studied Drama, a vocation he has revived in his hugely entertaining talks to Cricket Societies, and others, all round the country.

### **Wednesday 30 September 2015 – Report**

Jimmy Adams entertained his audience with an insightful address, full of self-deprecating humour. He began by recalling five of his favourite players from whom he drew experience and inspiration. The first was James Tomlinson, with whom he made his first class debut for British Universities and off whom he held the catch at short leg in the dying minutes of the match against Kent at Canterbury to ensure that Hampshire stayed in Division 1 in 2010. Another was his hero Robin Smith, who taught him to play the game hard and yet at the same time for enjoyment and thus remembering the reason why he had first played the game. The others were Dimitri Mascarenhas, Neil McKenzie, whom he sat next to in the dressing room, and Shane Warne. He said of the latter that nobody played the game more competitively, and he changed the way Hampshire played their cricket.

He felt he was incredibly lucky in his career. There were very few regrets. Two he mentioned were that Dimi Mascarenhas could not finish his career at Lord's as Hampshire were knocked out at the semi-final stage of the YB40 competition in 2014. As a captain, his most painful decision was to leave out James Tomlinson at Lord's this season; he had never played there during his career. Equally soul searching was making decisions affecting players' careers, none more so than concerning Michael Bates. He was proud to have been captain and enjoyed the challenge over three different formats. He always strove for dressing room harmony. In 2015, which coincided with his benefit year and a new addition to his family, he found it difficult to devote all his energy to the captaincy, and hence he stood down. His objective now was to enjoy the remainder of his career.

During an informative Q and A session he talked about Hampshire's recovery at the end of last season. The main reasons were Fidel Edwards' ability to take wickets on flat pitches, Ryan McLaren's experience, and the batsmen finding form. The decision to declare against Yorkshire was, after initial reservations, supported by the team. He also commented on the differences between divisions 1 and 2, the main being that the wickets were flatter, but teams needed to dismiss sides twice. All teams possessed four good bowlers.

Jimmy Adams provided fascinating psychological insights on his own temperament, and came across as an open, honest and caring man. At the start of meeting, Susanne welcomed new members, and gave a special greeting to Mike Barnard, which prompted spontaneous warm applause from all present.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

#### **Wednesday 11 November 2015-Test Valley Golf Club, starting at 2.30pm**

Our speaker will be **Isabelle Duncan**, author of *Skirting the Boundary – A History of Women's Cricket*. In the latter part of the season, she was heard commentating on cricket on the radio, and was in the commentary box for Hampshire's famous victory at Trent Bridge. Members wishing to eat beforehand at the venue, Test Valley Golf Club, should contact Susanne Marlow (see membership card for telephone number), so that she can appraise TVGC of potential numbers. Both a simple, hot meal or sandwiches will be available. Last year's afternoon meeting at the Golf Club was very well attended and it is hoped that this will be the case on this occasion.

#### **Wednesday 2 December 2015 Annual Dinner-Ageas Bowl, starting at 7pm**

Our speaker will be **Clive Radley**, the former Middlesex and England batsman. An application form for the ensuing Annual Dinner is attached. Members who have attended the Dinner in the past have always found it to be a very enjoyable occasion. It is the Society's premier social event of the year and again, it is hoped that as many members and guests as possible will support the event.

#### **Wednesday 6 January 2016-Ageas Bowl, starting at 8pm**

The speaker at this meeting, **Tim Jones**, has recently written a book on Don Kenyon, the former Worcestershire and England batsman, who led his county to their first county championship titles in 1964 and 1965. It is assumed that Tim will be bringing copies of the book to the meeting.

#### **Wednesday 3 February 2016-Test Valley Golf Club, starting at 8pm**

Just to confirm that Hampshire favourite, **James Tomlinson**, will address this meeting. He comes highly recommended by Jimmy Adams. He has, apparently, a fund of very entertaining stories.

### **THE GREAT ESCAPE (2)**

And so, Hampshire completed the Great Escape on the last day of the season at Trent Bridge. As Nyren reputedly said over 230 years ago: "Do not bet against such men as we are". It was a remarkable comeback. The county were 26 points adrift at the foot of the table in mid-July and still 16 points in arrears entering the final match. Under the captaincy of James Vince, they won three of their last five matches, against Warwickshire at home and then, marvellously, Durham and Nottinghamshire away. What seemed a quixotic declaration in the penultimate match against Yorkshire at the Ageas Bowl, which was won by the County Champions, heaped even more pressure on the team. To avoid relegation, they had to win at Trent Bridge and Sussex lose at Headingley, as well as gaining more bonus points than their South Coast neighbours, which is what, of course, transpired.

It is not difficult to pinpoint the main reason for Hampshire's change of fortunes: Fidel Edwards. The lithe, athletic, slightly built West Indian with the Jeff Thomson-like action was mainly instrumental in the side gaining all their four victories. In the second innings at Hove in early June, he blew away the Sussex top-order and finished with five for 58. Two months later, the exciting leg-spinner Mason Crane dismantled the early Warwickshire batting before Edwards breezed in to decimate the tail. Crane took five for 35 and Edwards five for 32. He claimed four more wickets in the second innings. At the Riverside he had match figures of seven for 100 before finishing with 10 for 143 at Nottingham. In eight matches he took 45 wickets at 20.88. It is no wonder that the telephone wires and internet hummed with reminiscences of Malcolm Marshall in the days after. He had missed four matches in mid-season as he had to return to the West Indies for their t20 competition.

It is too fanciful to state that had he been available all season, Hampshire would have been more successful. Whilst he was still finding his feet, the county were thrashed by Yorkshire at Headingley and then drew with Middlesex (home). They later drew with Somerset (away) and lost that strange match against Yorkshire at the Ageas Bowl.

There were two main reasons for their travails. The batting only once posted a first innings total of 400, ironically against Yorkshire at the Ageas Bowl. In mid-season they went three successive matches without gaining a single batting point. Only three batsmen, Sean Ervine and Adam Wheater (against Sussex at home and away respectively) and Liam Dawson in the penultimate match posted first innings centuries. The other two centurians – James Vince and Jimmy Adams recorded their sole centuries in the second innings (the win against Warwickshire and the drawn match at Taunton respectively). Michael Carberry was by far the most successful batsman emerging with 1129 runs - only four men posted more in the division. He passed 50 on ten occasions, though without reaching a century. Will Smith was next with 859 runs. Joe Gattling, given a run in mid-season, batted grittily to add steel to the batting generally, topped the averages but was then not offered another contract. Hampshire finished with both the lowest number of batting and bowling bonus points. After his early century, Ervine struggled for runs, though was not helped by a long absence due to his finger injury. Critically though, the batting became more consistent towards the end as Carberry, Adams, Vince (after a wretched summer in the four-day game) and Dawson prospered.

With both bat and ball, Gareth Berg proved an invaluable acquisition. He took the most wickets (46). He started by capturing a wicket with his first ball for the county against

Sussex at the Ageas Bowl. Conversely, he was then dismissed first ball. He enjoyed a fine all-round match at Hove, claiming four for 56, bowling long and accurately, and then scoring 99, before being run out. At Trent Bridge he made 72 and shared a ninth wicket stand of 123 with Ryan McLaren (52) to bring Hampshire almost to parity with Notts' first innings total.

Of the other bowlers, both James Tomlinson and Danny Briggs disappeared from the radar screen in July. Liam Dawson returned from his brief sojourn at Essex to bat and bowl well in the Championship and Royal London Cup. McLaren bowled and batted usefully in his three matches in September. The Australian Jackson Bird arrived injured and apart from a vivid spell at Worcester, never really hit his straps. His commitment and enthusiasm were, however, obvious. As mentioned earlier, the arrival of Mason Crane was the most eye catching development for the future. Until he tired, he bowled accurately and always tested the batsmen with his variations. If he continues to progress, the main challenge will be not to over-bowl him. In the absence of Kyle Abbott and Matt Coles (who enjoyed a splendid season with his former county) Hampshire started the season with a weaker bowling attack than when in Division 2. It took Fidel Edwards to lift the attack to the level required to be competitive in Division 1. As a result, Hampshire were a far better side at the end of the summer than they were at the start.

## MEMBERS' TALES

### RICHIE BENAUD

Society member **Richard Pemberton** writes with a memory of Richie Benaud at the County Ground in 1961.

"I was playing for Trojans who set up a hospitality tent on the Hulse Road side of the ground, to which the Australian tourists were invited after close of play. I remember, having managed to engage Richie Benaud in conversation, he was stung by a wasp on his bowling and drinking hand. He showed no pain but then boosted my ego by asking if I was from the Press! I was asking him for his opinion as to whether Roy Marshall should be playing for England. He had qualified by virtue of his residence. His short answer was 'no' as he considered Marshall would be too risky for test match cricket."

### FRANK TYSON

Members will be aware that Frank Tyson, possibly the fastest bowler of them all, died in Australia on 28 September. His death prompted the following memories from **Don Crossley**, which include an unusual personal encounter with the "Typhoon".

"I once faced Frank Tyson in the evening nets at Middleton CC in Lancashire in August 1951. I was staying with my elder brother Ian, with relatives, who happened to have as their neighbour the late Bill Williams, who at the time was Chairman of Middleton. I can

still recall Bill leaning over the back garden fence and saying "...Come on down to the ground to watch the lads practice this evening".

Off we went, chauffeur driven to the Towncroft ground in our civilian clothes to watch the club members in the nets. Then at 9.15, towards the end of the practice session, Bill turned to me and said "Come on Don, pick up a bat and our Frank will bowl to you". Well, with no gloves, pads or box, and being a brave and confident young man (I was aged 13), I survived the brief experience. I was proud of my feat and noticed that within seconds brother Ian had obtained a signature from the bowler, who from my memory wrote FH Tyson, Knypersley, Staffs Lge.

Many years later in the mid 70's, I was sales rep and whilst travelling through Staffordshire, I came across a road sign to Knypersley. I thought: that's where Tyson played and further up the road I noticed a cricket ground. Wandering towards the ground and groundsman's shed I noticed an old man, sleeves rolled, hands covered in grease, and I opened the conversation by asking "Is this where Frank Tyson played?" Came the reply: "Not half mate, look at my ruddy fingers". He apparently was the wicketkeeper for the side when Tyson played during his National Service days. He recalled the first occasion when they went out and set the field for a normal opening bowler. They had heard that he was "pretty nippy". The 'keeper recalled that the first ball flew through his gloves to the boundary. It was decided that the two slips, gully and the 'keeper should go back a further four yards. The net result from the second ball was that it sped off the edge of the bat through the deep slip fielders for another four; so again they paced out a further four yards and by the time Tyson had gone back to his 30 odd yard run, he was a distant figure indeed. The Knypersley 'keeper said the reason Tyson was so fast, was that he had longer arms than the normal person. He went on to add that he was a "smashing lad" in more ways than one. He only claimed expenses and refused the fee for playing.

I made my way to my relatives' home again in 1955 to watch the Typhoon make his test debut against the South Africans at Old Trafford, and what a spectacle! On the second day England made 459, with Compton scoring 158. I recall the bars and toilets were all emptied as Tyson went to mark his run-up before unleashing a bouncer to Jackie McGlew. It flew over Godfrey Evans and rattled the sightscreen; yet another four byes from Tyson.

I am reminded the true story of a charity match in the Hampshire countryside at Tichborne Park, when Tyson opened the bowling and yet again the first ball beat the bat and wicket-keeper, thumped into the sightscreen and went through it! The screen may have rotted in that particular spot, but how many speed merchants have laid claim to such a feat?

Editor's Note: Frank Tyson took fewer wickets against Hampshire than any other county - in nine matches, he claimed 15 @ 29.40. Although not noted as a batsman, he scored 72 against the county at Peterborough in 1955, and then 71 in his farewell appearance in first-class cricket, at Bournemouth in 1960. In the ACS book on his career he opined that Jack Robertson (Middlesex), Joe Hardstaff (Nottinghamshire), and Roy Marshall were fine but comparatively unsung players of fast bowling.

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