

THE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Shaun Udal

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MEETINGS

Wednesday 2 December 2015 – Meeting

The Society extends a very warm welcome to **Clive Radley**, our speaker for this season's Annual Dinner. He is one of those men who have spent a lifetime in the game, as a player, coach and, latterly, as President of Middlesex CCC. Many will remember him as one of the most consistent of all county cricketers during the period covering his 23 year career with Middlesex between 1965 and 1987. He was one of the great accumulators. There was no frippery or ostentation. His business was scoring runs as safely and as unfussily as possible. When he was set, he seemed impregnable. He sold his wicket dearly, yet always adapted his approach to the needs of the situation. A notable part of his method was his sprinting- in fact it was more of a scamper – between the wickets; he was quick to spot a single, and to turn ones into twos and so on.

He was a multiple trophy winner. In the eleven seasons between 1976 and 1986, Middlesex, with perennial rivals Essex, were one of the most formidable sides in the game's history. In that time, they won four championship titles (in 1976, 1980, 1982 and 1985) and shared another (in 1977 with Kent). On their home turf, they also won five cup finals (in 1977, 1980, 1983, 1984 and 1986). Their success was built around a powerful and varied bowling attack, comprising Wayne Daniel, Vincent van der Bijl, Mike Selvey, the young Norman Cowans and Angus Fraser for pace; the spin bowling was in the hands of Fred Titmus, Phil Edmonds and John Emburey. Oh those memories of not so long ago. In the batting, there were strokemakers such as Graham Barlow, Roland Butcher, Wilf Slack and Mike Gatting but the beating heart and ballast was provided by Clive Radley, along with his skipper Mike Brearley.

In first-class cricket, he passed one thousand runs in a season on sixteen occasions. His two best aggregates (1491 runs in 1980 and 1375 runs in 1985 – the latter at the age of 41) were garnered in years in which Middlesex won the county championship. It was in the latter year that he made his highest score of 200 against Northamptonshire at Uxbridge.

He was equally prolific and influential in limited-overs cricket, as exemplified by his winning the Man of the Match Award in three of the five cup finals in which Middlesex were successful. He made 85 not out against Glamorgan in the Gillette Cup in 1977, an undefeated 89 v Essex in the Benson & Hedges Cup in 1983 and 67 against Kent in the Nat West Trophy a year later. He was indeed a man for all seasons.

Although his consistency was almost metronomic, he was not given an opportunity to play test cricket until February 1978, at the age of 33. He grabbed the moment with both hands, scoring a marathon 158 in 648 minutes in his second test, against New Zealand at Auckland followed by taking 106 off the Pakistan bowlers at Edgbaston in his next. After two half-centuries in the ensuing home series against New Zealand, he was an automatic choice for the tour of Australia in 1978/79. Unfortunately, he was struck on the head, a wound that required seven stitches, by Rodney Hogg in the opening match of the tour against South Australia at Adelaide. He struggled thereafter and Derek Randall claimed his place. In an eight match test career, he scored 481 runs at the striking average of 48.10, nearly thirteen runs more than that for his first-class career.

His century at Auckland, notwithstanding the fact that he was playing for his test place and that it was a slow, low wicket on which runs were hard to come by, attracted some criticism, unfairly, for his slow rate of scoring. He answered his critics though, and again demonstrated his adaptability, in his four one-day international appearances in 1978. He scored 79 against Pakistan at Old Trafford on debut, and 117 not out in his final appearance on the same ground versus New Zealand. He never let England down.

CLIVE THORNTON RADLEY was born in Hertford on 13 May 1944 and received his education at King Edward VI Grammar School in Norwich. Like Bill Edrich and Peter Parfitt before him, he came to Middlesex via minor counties cricket with Norfolk. He played a full season for them in 1961 and made his debut with Edrich (then aged 45 and who scored 110 not out) and future television commentator Henry Blofeld. It was Edrich who paved the way for him to join Middlesex. He first played for the County's 2nd XI in 1962, before making his debut in the first-class game in 1965. He gave immediate attention of his talents in that year with a memorable 148 against that strong South African touring side. His final career tally is impressive by any standards. In all cricket, he played 968 matches, scored 36,917 runs including 53 centuries and 196 half-centuries. He was also a very fine close to the wicket fielder, holding a total of 654 catches. He was nominated as one of Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year in 1979, and was awarded two Benefits by his county, in 1977 and 1987.

Besides his two England tours already referred to, he made two visits to South Africa with DH Robins' XI in 1972-73 and 1974-75. He was again productive and scored two centuries in the former year. He also played with Middlesex in Zimbabwe in 1980-81 and one a List A Match in 1984-85.

He still retained a presence at Lord's after his playing days when he succeeded Don Wilson as MCC's head coach. His retirement in 2009 brought to an end almost five decades at cricket's headquarters. In the previous year, he received the MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours List. He then returned to Lord's in 2014 as President of Middlesex.

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