

THE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Shaun Udal

NEWSLETTER No. 354 – SUMMER 2016

**THE SOCIETY'S 40th ANNIVERSARY DAY AT THE CRICKET
Monday 23 May 2016**

<A picture will be added here when available>

Seventy-five members and guests enjoyed a splendid day in the Shaun Udal suite at the Ageas Bowl on 23 May to celebrate the Society's 40th Anniversary. Besides watching an absorbing day's cricket, members were able to take pleasure in much convivial conversation over bacon butties and coffee on arrival, and then lunch and later, tea, which included a special anniversary cake (see front page). The weather was very kind and we were able to sit outside for the day. The event proved a splendid setting for members to get to know each other better in a more relaxed atmosphere than is possible at the normal meetings which are of course of a much shorter duration. David Allen also displayed interesting items from Hampshire's collection of bats, sweaters, ties and other memorabilia. Throughout the day there was a real buzz, and many members not only expressed their delight and satisfaction with the event but suggested that a similar day should be held annually. Our chairman, Susanne Marlow, wishes to thank all those who supported it and made it such a success.

In view of the comments made by members, the Committee has unanimously decided to organise a similar day in 2017. Details will be circulated as soon as next year's fixtures have been announced.

JOHN WOODCOCK – 90 NOT OUT

John Woodcock celebrated his 90th birthday on 7 August. In a marvellous two-page interview with Mike Atherton in *The Times* on 30 July, it was revealed that Longparish, the village in which he has lived for nearly all his life, was organising a party reserved just for the villagers. John's family have been connected with the church and village since 1765, and to celebrate that long association, a stained glass window, *The Four Seasons*, was commissioned last year. The contents of that window demonstrate his deep love of the countryside. The article also contains much else besides including: his dogs, all named after cricketing terms, golf, shooting, and fishing with the greats, recollection of Colin Cowdrey's first century in Test Cricket at Melbourne in 1954-55 (if offered the choice it was the one innings he would like to watch again), Neville Cardus, John Arlott, and thoughts on greatness.

The Society has sent its own card to John to convey its congratulations.

OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness that this Newsletter has to include notice of the passing of three men who contributed greatly to cricket in the County in their different ways.

PHIL BICHARD

Phil Bichard died on 17 June, aged 94. He was one of the Society's founder members and its first secretary and Newsletter editor. It was he who set the benchmark for recruiting the high quality of speakers. Similarly, as Newsletter editor, he set the standard for the years ahead. He edited 25 issues between January 1976 and January 1979. In an Appreciation of him handing over to his successor, Tony Mitchener, Frank Bailey wrote "Due to Phil's enthusiasm and hard work over the past three years, the Newsletter has been far more than its name implies. It has included several articles of major research and interest, and statistical information at national,

county and club level. The pen pictures of our speakers and the subsequent reports of the talks, all produced by Phil himself, have included many little gems of acute observation". On re-reading those Newsletters, this editor can confirm that Frank was spot on. There were wonderful nuanced witticisms concerning, among others, Arthur Holt (included in Newsletter No. 308) and Desmond Eagar. When the latter died at the end of the 1977 season, Phil wrote "...he seemed to be a permanent fixture of the Northlands Road ground, surveying the play, spectators and gatemen from his office window". John Arlott's first appearance at a Society meeting in October 1977, prompted a splendidly evocative paragraph on the old town of Basingstoke during the time that the great broadcaster grew up there. His Newsletters were wide-ranging indeed. Phil was a schoolmaster, and evidently a well read one, as he often quoted poetry and extracts from novels in his writings.

He was an outstanding opening batsman for Basingstoke and North Hants Cricket Club. In a career spanning 20 years, he scored over 20,000 runs, often comfortably passing one thousand runs in a season whilst he was at his peak. His highest score was 184 not out against Swindon at May's Bounty in 1962. Society member, **Simon Sweetman**, who now edits the ACS Journal and writes in *The Cricket Paper*, was scorer at the time and he remembers that Phil's captain tried to keep him going for his double century, but he was too exhausted. He played in one match for Hampshire 2nd XI against Kent at Bournemouth in 1949, scoring 23 in his only innings. Also in the side was Jimmy Gray. In those days, Hampshire 2nd XI played in the Minor Counties Championship. Simon Sweetman remembers that he gave up cricket to play golf for a while but then returned.

With Hampshire's Bernard Harrison, Phil co-authored *Basingstoke and North Hants Cricket Club 1865-1965* which remains the definitive volume on cricket in the northern part of the county.

He was a natural sportsman, exemplified by the fact that another Society member, **Brian Gray**, enjoyed seeing him star at football for Basingstoke Town. Phil was his schoolmaster. Brian also recalls that when he was playing football in his school's trials, Phil was referee. At one point, the latter was standing behind him and whispered "shoot". He did so and scored, with the result that he was appointed captain!

Among other comments received were from **Andrew Renshaw**, who played the odd match with him and described him as a "lovely man". Finally, **Tony Mitchener**, my predecessor as Newsletter editor, recalls Phil's smiling welcome from the early days of HCS and valued his encouragement to succeed him as Newsletter editor.

In his early years, he worked in the cash office for Southampton Transport, before service in the RAF in Italy during WW2.

NEIL JENKINSON

Neil Jenkinson died on 20th July. Neil was a historian par excellence. He created files for every Hampshire player and possessed an encyclopaedic knowledge of the game, particularly the Hambledon era and the Edwardian Golden Age. He was usually the first port of call for any author wishing to write a book connected with

Hampshire cricket. He was always only too happy to share information and provide tactful and sensitive advice on areas for further research. A common theme in communications since his death is that he was a “gentleman”, and much loved and respected by all who came into contact with him. One of his finest claims to fame was that he was John Arlott’s solicitor and enjoyed at least one of JA’s famously bucolic dinners at the latter’s home in New Alresford.

He preceded David Allen as Hampshire’s Archivist. Due to the paucity of space to display and store items at the former County Ground and the Ageas Bowl, he once held a substantial part of the Club’s collection at his home in Winchester.

Neil addressed the Society in December 1993, taking as his subject Philip Mead on whom he had just written a book. In one of those poignant coincidences that repeatedly occur during life, he asked the audience if any of them had seen Mead play. Three raised their hands, one of whom was Phil Bichard. Phil had seen Hampshire’s greatest run-maker (the title of the book) score a century against Kent at Southampton in the 1930s.

Neil was born in Winchester in 1939. He attended Peter Symonds Grammar School (as it then was) in the city, and such was his affection for his alma mater that he wrote a book on its history in 1992. After university at King’s College, London, where he studied Classics, he qualified as a solicitor and worked in Winchester. He remained with the same firm until 1987, when he became a Chairman with the Employment Tribunals network until his retirement in 2000.

For the next twelve years, he became a prolific writer with works on Hampshire’s great comeback in Birmingham 1922, two publications on Hampshire cricket – *Images of Sport, Hampshire County Cricket Club (with his historian friends Dave Allen and Andrew Renshaw)* and *Hampshire CCC Greats (with Dave Allen and Bill Ricquier)*- a book on the Hambledon Club, after its 18th century heyday – *Here’s The Hambledon Club*, and two biographies in the ACS Lives in Cricket Series on Richard Daft of Nottinghamshire, and Hampshire’s Charles Llewellyn. In both works, he vividly outlined the hardships of professional cricketers in their respective eras. He also contributed a series of varying and exhaustively researched articles for the Hampshire Handbook, particularly during Andrew Renshaw’s stewardship. The editor remembers in particular one on Fred Hyland who played for Hampshire in one match at Northampton in 1924, which lasted for 12 balls and 10 minutes because of heavy rain. Neil has left a very significant legacy relating to Hampshire cricket. He was a Hampshire Life President.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Another long standing HCS member to pass away during the summer was Colin Campbell. He was also a Hampshire Life President who followed a career as an accomplished professional pianist whilst a school teacher.

MEETINGS

Wednesday 23 March 2016

Ken Burney filled a missing gap in the Society's 40-year history with a most informed and authoritative account of the life of WG Grace. He enhanced his talk by bringing many interesting items of memorabilia on his subject, which he invited his audience to examine at the end of the evening. William Gilbert Grace was born at Downend, Bristol on 18 April 1848, on his mother's (Martha) 36th birthday. He died at Mottingham, Kent on 23 October 1915, aged 67.

He played first-class cricket for some 30 teams over a span of 44 years (1865-1908). He therefore appeared in his last match at the age of 60. In 1896, he was sole recipient of the Wisden Cricketer of the Year award for his feats in 1895 when, at the age of 47, he became the first man to score both 1000 runs in May and record a career century of centuries. The only other men to be similarly honoured by Wisden are Jack Hobbs and PF Warner.

His statistical legacy was prodigious: 54211 runs (fifth in all-time list), 2809 wickets (6th) and 875 catches (second, behind Frank Woolley). He also stumped five batsmen. He was inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame in 2009.

Like many men, before and since, he was out for a duck on his debut. He did, though, make a startling contribution with the ball by taking 13 wickets. Such was his domination thereafter, he was known as The Champion at the end of only his fifth season in 1869.

Mr. Burney then gave a few observations on his batting technique. He held the bat at the top of the handle; his back lift was high and he possessed fast bat speed in the hitting area.

His county was, of course, Gloucestershire. Up until 1870, he played only for representative teams. He played in Gloucestershire's inaugural county match in 1870 and then appeared for them until his acrimonious departure in 1899. For much of that time, he was captain and sole selector. His policy was to select as many amateurs as possible to keep the costs down. By now, he had started to qualify as a doctor. He did so in 1879, after 11 years of training. He then practised for the next 20 years. Our speaker held a sympathetic view on his reputation as a "shamateur". He often performed considerable unpaid medical work. It is a fact, though, that he earned a considerable sum from the game but such was his fondness for celebratory food and drink, and innate generosity in sharing with others on such occasions, he left only just over £6,000 in his Will. His generosity extended to his treating the poor of his parish to a cup of tea on Christmas Day.

His appearances in test cricket were spasmodic, due to his medical duties. He played in only 22 of England's first 60 test matches. Almost inevitably, he scored his country's first test century – 152 on debut against Australia at The Oval in 1880.

In the latter part of his life, 1899 was a pivotal year. His daughter, Bessie, died of typhoid aged 20. He retired as a test cricketer, left Gloucestershire, and gave up practising as a doctor.

The majority of his subsequent cricket after leaving Gloucestershire was for London County, though, compared to championship cricket, the fixture list was largely sub-standard.

MICHAEL CARBERRY

In July, news emerged that Michael Carberry had been diagnosed with cancer. He has fought a life threatening illness before. One of the most popular of all cricketers, the whole cricket world, and those beyond, will be hoping that he recovers from his current condition. The Society convey their very best wishes to him. He is in our thoughts and prayers.

HAMZA ALI

Hamza Ali, a promising right-handed all-rounder, drowned in an accident in the River Avon near Bristol on 9 June, aged 20. He was born in that city on 5 August 1995, where he attended City Academy Bristol and Filton Sixth Form College. He had played six List A matches for Rawalpindi (between January 2015 - January 2016). He made his debut for Hampshire 2nd XI in 2015, and appeared in his only first-class match for the County against Cardiff MCCU at The Ageas Bowl only two months before his tragically untimely death. He took two for 47 with his medium-pacers and held a catch in that match. He was also an MCC Young Cricketer. As a mark of respect, Hampshire players wore black arm bands in their ensuing t20 match at The Oval.

A SEASON LIKE NO OTHER

Hampshire have endured a season like no other before in their history. Besides the death of Hamza Ali and Michael Carberry's illness, the entire original first-team squad, apart from James Vince, have been injured. Vince and Liam Dawson, of course, have been absent on England duty. Also, Dale Benkenstein resigned as coach towards the end of July. Charlotte Edwards' injury during the course of the inaugural Southern Vipers fixture on 31st July, somehow summed it all up. Is The Ageas Bowl jinxed? Not even Shakespeare or Hardy in their gloomiest moments could have dreamt of such a series of misfortunes.

One benefit emerging from these travails is that Hampshire have had to blood a number of youngsters, who have responded extremely well. There will be more on this in future Newsletters.

HAMPSHIRE PLAYED THERE ONCE

Given a further reduction in the number of championship matches in the first division in 2017, it seems inevitable that teams in the upper league will retrench and play all their four day matches at their Headquarters ground, with the exception of Yorkshire. It is difficult to see them omitting Scarborough from their schedule. Middlesex may not have a requirement to move away from Lord's for the odd match.

Teams in division 2, who will play two more home matches than those in the first division, may have more scope to visit their outposts. Indeed, a cherished part of cricket's heritage is still being maintained by championship matches being played at Chesterfield, Cheltenham, Colchester, Arundel and Tunbridge Wells.

Whilst teams may take some t20 or 50 over matches to other parts of their respective counties, memories of first-class cricket being played on outgrounds are receding into the distance. Indeed, *The Cricket Paper*, has captured the mood by running a series of articles on county cricket's past and present outgrounds in the last month or so.

In the coming winter's Newsletters, the editor will be looking back at those venues at which Hampshire played in the other counties, majoring on those grounds where they appeared on just one occasion.

It will be an alphabetical journey, starting with:-

DERBYSHIRE

Hampshire have played on the following grounds used by Derbyshire. Interestingly, one of these grounds, Burton-on-Trent is in neighbouring Staffordshire.

Ground	First Match	Last Match	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn
County Ground						
Derby	1876	2014	44	15	16	13
Chesterfield	1910	1997	24	7	8	9
Blackwell	1909	1909	1	-	-	1
Ilkeston	1933	1946	2	1	-	1
Burton-on-Trent (Ind Coope Ground)	1954	1958	2	-	1	1
Heanor	1987	1987	1	-	1	-
			74	23	26	25

It is worth mentioning that, the two counties never played each other between 1919 – 1929, and also in 1930 and 1939. It seems strange as Derbyshire were one of Hampshire's oldest opponents and from their admission to the County Championship in 1895, the two sides played each other home and away until the outbreak of WW1. Since the introduction of the two divisional championships there have been further intermissions between 2005 – 2011, and again in 2013 and 2015-16.

Of Derbyshire's other first-class grounds, Hampshire never played at Glossop, Burton-on-Trent's Town Ground, Buxton, Sheffield's Abbeydale Park and the Bass Worthington Ground, Burton-on-Trent.

The two grounds on which Hampshire played only once are the Miners Welfare Ground, Blackwell and the Town Ground, Heanor.

BLACKWELL

The fixture in 1909 marked the inaugural first-class match on the ground. The game was played out against the backdrop of a miners' strike which reduced the attendance. Around a thousand spectators were present on the first and third days.

Rain on the second prevented the players from taking the field, which consigned the match to a draw.

Scores: -

Derbyshire 228 (Arthur Morton 76; Charles Llewellyn 5 – 55; WHB Evans 3 – 59) and 167 (Jack Newman 5 – 52, George Brown 3 – 13)

Hampshire 212 (Evans 80; Arnold Warren 5 – 50)

HEANOR

This match remains the only one played at the ground in first-class cricket, though Derbyshire staged eight Sunday League games there between 1976 – 1989. On a ground with short boundaries, a flat pitch and a fast outfield, the encounter was a high scoring affair which Derbyshire won by four wickets.

Scores:-

Hampshire 349 – 2d (David Turner 104* and Mark Nicholas 103*, added an unbeaten 194 for the third wicket. Earlier Gordon Greenidge (67) and Chris Smith (58) had shared an opening partnership of 114) and 261 – 6d (Greenidge 73, Paul Terry 54*).

Derbyshire 314 – 7d (Kim Barnett 91) and 198 – 6 (Bruce Roberts 106, Roger Finney 53 *).

Hampshire therefore lost a game in which they scored 610 runs and lost only eight wickets. Derbyshire reached their target of 297 in 59 overs on an edge to third man with two balls to spare. Hampshire's attack was handicapped in the fourth innings by Stephen Andrew only being able to bowl two overs. The match did have one controversial moment in the home side's first innings when umpire Mervyn Kitchen warned Malcolm Marshall for short-pitched bowling. Having hit Kim Barnett on the head he then bowled five short-pitched deliveries in nine balls, at which point Mark Nicholas took him off. The good attendance had enjoyed an entertaining match in glorious sunny weather. However, both captains, Nicholas and Barnett, both criticised the small ground as being too much in favour of the batsmen. One observer commented that a defensive push had a fair chance of reaching the boundary. With Heanor being located only 11 miles from their Derby headquarters, the club made the decision not to play there again in first-class cricket.

Hampshire had played a Sunday match at Heanor in the previous season, en route to winning the League. Greenidge (51), Robin Smith (95) and brother Chris (73) were the only batsmen to reach double figures in a total of 257 – 6 in their 40 overs. The great Michael Holding claimed three for 29, dismissing both siblings and Marshall. Derbyshire replied with 184. At one stage, they were 68 for six, before Alan Warner took out the long handle to plunder a six laden 68 off 52 balls. He was eventually dismissed by Cardigan Connor, who then mopped up the tail to finish with four for 25.

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