

THE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Shaun Udal

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MEETINGS

Wednesday 4 January 2017

The Society warmly welcomes David Smith to this evening's meeting. He has enjoyed a long career in cricket, first as a player and then as an administrator. He joins a lengthy list of distinguished Warwickshire cricketers to have addressed the Society.

Born in Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on 9 July 1956, cricket was in his blood. His father, with whom he shared the same initials – K D – played for Leicestershire in 1950/51. His younger brother, Paul, was an integral member of the Warwickshire side from 1982-96.

Kenneth David Smith was educated at Heaton Grammar School. His talent was recognised with his selection for the England Young Cricketers against their counterparts from the West Indies at Stone in Staffordshire in 1974. It was a star-studded cast for the future. Wayne Daniel and Jeffrey Dujon were in the West Indies side. His team mates included Mike Gatting, Chris Tavare and Nick Cook. Opening the innings, our speaker made 11 and 41, the latter being the top score.

A right-handed batsman, he had made his first-class debut the year earlier in 1973. He went on to play in 196 matches for Warwickshire until 1985, during which he scored 8718 runs (avge 27.58). For much of that period he opened the innings with Dennis Amiss. The highest of his nine centuries was 140 against Worcestershire at New Road in 1980. That year was his most productive with 1582 runs (avge 36.79). He also scored 1000 runs in 1976, 1978 (when he was capped) and 1983. Towards the end of his career he became a most effective strokemaker in limited overs matches.

Upon retiring, he established a successful business career and served on the Warwickshire committee for nine years. He also spent two years with Leicestershire as Chief Executive (2008-2010) and three years in the same capacity with Northamptonshire (2011-2014).

Wednesday 26 October 2016 – Report

Sean Ervine gave a fascinating account of his life in Zimbabwe. Born into a cricketing family, his parents lived on a large farm with a lot of wildlife; including all the South African big cats. He told a story of a close encounter with a lion. He was sent to boarding school, an event which taught him to take responsibility. He started as an off-spin bowler but scored his first century when only seven years old. Once he concentrated on cricket from the age of 16, his progress was swift. He played in two Under-19 World Cups and was accepted for the CFX (Zimbabwean) Academy,

where he came under the guidance of David Houghton. On the eve of his 19th birthday he was selected for Zimbabwe A against England A and took three prized wickets: those of Nasser Hussein, Graham Thorpe and Ben Hollis. He was selected for Zimbabwe straight afterwards and embarked on a cricketing odyssey and adventure, touring Dubai, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka; where he suffered a stress fracture from all the work he had undertaken. After a nine month break he set off again, this time to Australia. He repeated his habit of dismissing the best batsmen when he bowled Brian Lara. In the World Cup of 2003, Zimbabwe reached the Super Six stage. However, after adding 63 in the last three overs (!) with Heath Streak against New Zealand, he was dropped for the next match. The decision made him realise that Zimbabwean cricket was not going in the right direction. He was, though, selected for the tour of England in the following summer. The conditions were completely different from anything he had previously experienced, as the ball swung and seamed. He recalled playing a warm up match against British Universities, where he met Jimmy Adams and James Tomlinson for the first time. He also made his test debut at Lord's.

In the following winter he was off to Australia again for a one-day series. He met Bruce Reid, with whom he discussed his future. The former fast bowler suggested he speak to Paul Terry. Zimbabwe beat Bangladesh easily on his return home in the first one-day International in which he played but then the selectors changed the side for the next. Zimbabwe lost. Player pressure led the selectors to reinstate the team that had played in the previous match, and Zimbabwe won again. However, after Streak was sacked as captain, Sean left his home and family and signed a two year contract to play for Western Australia from 2006. He admitted to feeling homesick but stuck to his decision to leave. He signed for Hampshire in 2005 and is very grateful for the support the club had given him thereafter. He mentioned the family farm was confiscated by the Government and his parents now ran an orphanage in Harare.

In the Q & A session, he thought that all the events which befell Hampshire in 2016 – would make the team tougher and stronger in 2017. Sean Irvine has always been regarded warmly by Hampshire supporters. That warmth had increased by the end of the evening.

Wednesday 16 November 2016

Dean Allen captivated members with the story of James Logan of Matjiesfontein in South Africa. It was an articulate talk delivered with verve and authority, enhanced by photographs.

James Logan was one of the earliest benefactors of South African cricket. He was a Scot whose original intention was to emigrate to Queensland. He stopped off at Simonstown, near Capetown, and because of the discovery of diamonds at Kimberley, which generated a development boom, he decided to stay in the then Cape Colony. He became a District Superintendent to develop the railway in the Karoo, which was the main stretch of country linking Capetown with Johannesburg in the north. In order to be eligible for the post, he had to marry. The ambitious Logan quickly found himself a wife.

He first became known in cricket circles through a court case. When WW Read's team toured South Africa in 1891/92, he loaned £1000 towards the tour costs. The team attempted to leave with an outstanding debt of £857. Logan had the English team arrested. It is evident he was already a wealthy man and his fortunes were enhanced when he was awarded an 18 year contract, without a competitive process, for catering on the South African Railways. He had made friends with Cecil Rhodes and throughout his life acquired a knack of making friends with famous people both in the cricketing world and beyond. They included Randolph Churchill, Lord Hawke, Rudyard Kipling and Mark Twain. A key factor was the development of Matjiesfontein as a renowned health resort attracting the rich and famous. He became known as The Laird of Matjiesfontein.

In 1894, he bought his own newspaper and became an MP. In the same year, he had a disagreement with Rhodes about the inclusion of Krom Hendricks - a Cape coloured – for the first South African tour to England in 1894. Wanting to pick the best team irrespective of colour, Logan argued for his inclusion. He was over-ruled by Rhodes. Logan was mainly responsible for persuading Lord Hawke to bring his own team to South Africa in 1895/96 and again in 1898/99. His cricket pioneering work continued with the establishment of the Logan Cup in Rhodesia in 1899. That competition is still played each year. At the outbreak of the Boer War in the same year, he invited the British Army to base themselves in Matjiesfontein. Controversially, he organised the inaugural first-class tour to England in 1901 when the war was still in progress.

Such was his fame and influence, the man who started life as a penniless, working-class Scot received an invitation to the Coronation of King Edward VII in 1902. He withdrew from politics in 1908 and died in 1920 aged 63. He was buried in the cemetery in the town which he created, a few yards away from George Lohmann, the celebrated Surrey bowler who had come to the town in an unsuccessful attempt to regain his health a few years earlier. Dean Allen was very grateful for the support he had received from the local community during his research for his book on Logan (see November Newsletter).

Wednesday 7 December 2016 – Report

At the Society's Annual Dinner in 2008, Henry Olonga gave a rendition of *Nessun Dorma*, which members still recall vividly. Jim Troughton rounded off his address with a guitar medley of Christmas songs over the last 40 years. It was equally unforgettable. He played left-handed, à la Paul McCartney. He had started performing publicly as part of an annual Troughton family Christmas charity show at the Swan Theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon, and has since played at Warwickshire social functions.

He began by modestly stating that he was the seventh most famous member of the Troughton family, being preceded, of course, by his acting relatives. He was, though, the best cricketer. It is evident, however, that his father possessed some talent with bat and ball. He had once taken nine for 27 for a side called the Weekenders, and also hit Gladstone Small for six. He recounted a number of humorous incidents involving his father and his interaction with his own cricket. On one occasion when batting at Edgbaston, he saw his father walking up the steps of one of the stands, practising a limp required for a role.

His first love was football. He once had trials for Stoke City, but it was evident that his lack of inches would inhibit his progress. He decided acting was not for him when his trousers fell down during a fight scene in a school production of *Romeo and Juliet*. He started playing club cricket in the junior section for Stratford and soon committed himself to the game. He was recommended to Warwickshire at the age of 15. He had been selected for England under-15s as a bowler. He concentrated on obtaining his degree at Birmingham University whilst on a retainer contract with Warwickshire.

His memories of matches against Hampshire were bitter sweet. He remembered fondly his maiden century on a difficult pitch at the Rose Bowl in 2002 and his hundred against Shane Warne, on an Edgbaston pitch receptive to spin, four years later. He recalled the crowd standing as one at Lord's in the C & G Trophy final to applaud Richie Benaud's last tv commentary in this country in 2005. He was bowled comprehensively by Andy Bichel next ball. Another recollection was of Neil McKenzie, who batted all day, and Michael Carberry depriving Warwickshire of the County Championship in 2011. (Editor's note: McKenzie made 115 not out and Carberry 111).

Earlier in the evening, he mentioned his wife's sister had married Ian Bell. He was now enjoying coaching at Warwickshire and had recently taken his Level 4 qualification. In the Q & A session, he commented that he was interested in the outcome of next season's competitions being played in blocks. It was a highly entertaining evening as Jim Troughton kept his audience in thrall with a judicious mixture of impish humour and reminiscence.

Members then enjoyed their excellent three course meal, for which our Chairman, Susanne Marlow, expressed thanks to the Ageas Bowl staff. The buzz of conversation and laughter during the meal were a good indication that members had a splendid evening.

LIAM DAWSON

HCS PLAYER OF THE YEAR 2016

At the start of December's meeting, Susanne announced that HCS members had voted **LIAM DAWSON** as their Player of the Year. Hampshire players had previously awarded him the same accolade. Indisputably, 2016 has been the high watermark of his career to date. He made his debut for England in all three formats during the year. His international baptism was in the Twenty 20 match against Sri Lanka at the Ageas Bowl in July. He seized his opportunity immediately by taking a wicket with his fifth ball. He dismissed three of the top four batsmen in the order at a cost of 27 runs in his four overs. He was not required to bat.

His initial ODI, against Pakistan at The SWALEC in Cardiff in September, was not as auspicious. The Pakistan batsmen decided to test him early and his first four overs were expensive. However, he showed his character by coming back to dismiss his tormentors, Shoaib Malik and Saifraz Ahmed later on. Earlier, he had scored 10.

And so his test debut in the massacre at Chennai in December. He owed his call to an injury to Zafar Ansari and joined the test squad after the third match of the series. He had previously been playing in the Bangladesh Premier League. He walked to the wicket after a middle order wobble had left England precariously placed at 300 for six, on a pitch which seasoned observers regarded 500 as par. The innings eventually closed on 477. He was undefeated on 66 (made in 229 minutes, with five boundaries and one six). The six came after he had reached his half century and was pursuing quick runs with only one wicket remaining. The ball actually slipped through the fielder's hands but he was already touching the boundary rope. He added 108 for the eighth wicket with Adil Rashid, an England record for that wicket in India. Understandably, given the quality of the pitch, he found life harder with the ball as India plundered a huge 759 for seven declared. Rahul hit him for two early sixes but he responded with a quite monumental effort of concentration to bowl 43 overs, more than any other bowler. He conceded 129 runs and claimed the wickets of Vijay Murali (lbw) and Ravindra Jadeja (caught in the outfield). He conceded only an average of 3 runs per over, less than his spin bowling colleagues, the more experienced Moeen Ali and Adil Rashid. He trooped off the field a weary man, with brown dust strewn across his shirt and trousers. It must be hoped that his second innings duck, bowled by Ashok Mishra's googly, will not detract from his performance beforehand. He had demonstrated with both bat and ball in the first innings that he possessed the character required of a test cricketer.

The season of 2016 marked a notable turnaround in Liam Dawson's fortunes. He was injured for a long period in 2014. In the next season, he went on loan to Essex to try and find some form. That he was out of form was contentious. Of all Hampshire's batsmen he has always looked the most assured at the start of the innings. One remembered that when he first came on the scene, he required only very few balls to get off the mark. In 2015, the problem was that he was unable to progress beyond 30 or thereabouts. He seemed to hit the proverbial mental wall; he rarely looked in any trouble and it seemed by the law of averages that a big score was just around the corner. However, his own frustration eventually resulted in dissent upon his dismissal against Somerset at the Ageas Bowl towards the end of June. Hampshire had just been handed a fine and a deduction of points suspension because of player behaviour. He moved to Essex shortly afterwards. He played in two Championship matches for them, making 99 in the second against Glamorgan at Chelmsford. He returned to Hampshire immediately.

The Royal London Cup was now beginning. He batted outstandingly (324 runs; avge. 64.80; four 50s) before posting a flurry of good scores in the championship as the season moved to a conclusion. In the penultimate match, he scored 140 against champions Yorkshire at the Ageas Bowl. He also claimed five for 139 in 34.5 overs on the batsman's paradise at Taunton on which the first three Somerset batsmen recorded centuries in a mammoth total of 630 for nine declared. Little could he have anticipated that it was a good rehearsal for events at Chennai some 15 months later.

He had leapt above Danny Briggs in the Hampshire spin bowling pecking order. With Ansari suffering a serious hand injury, he was propelled into the England Performance Programme. He was now on the international radar. He played for the England Lions squad in the UAE against Pakistan A in which he batted and bowled

impressively, so much so that he joined the England Twenty20 squad for the World Cup in India. However, he did not play as England reached the final.

Last season, he again batted extremely well in the Royal London Cup scoring 369 runs (avge. 52.71). This tally included a maiden List A century for Hampshire - 100 not out against Glamorgan at Swansea off just 68 balls (three fours and four 6s). (It was his second such hundred - he had made 113 not out whilst playing in Bangladesh in 2014/15). Judging by the reaction of opposing sides when he was dismissed, it was evident that his was the wicket they valued most. He also took 15 wickets with his naggingly accurate left arm spin bowling. It was also obvious that he was now a much more confident cricketer than hitherto, who was developing into a leader. In the other shorter format, he also reclaimed his rightful place in Hampshire's t20 squad. He had largely been ignored in 2015. He had a quiet year in first class cricket. He missed four championship matches and scored 644 runs (avge. 33.89). His sole century was 116 in four hours against Warwickshire at Edgbaston.

It will be interesting to see how Liam Dawson's career develops from now on. The possibilities are intriguing.

WILTSHIRE AND ENGLAND

In the last eight months, both **James Vince** and **Liam Dawson** have, of course, made their test debuts. Both cut their teeth in minor counties cricket for Wiltshire: Vince in 2007/08 and Dawson in 2006/07. It demonstrates that Hampshire's links with the neighbouring minor counties are invaluable.

As far as the editor can trace, their only predecessor was **Arthur (AJL) Hill, who** played three tests for England on Lord Hawke's tour in 1895/96. A Marlborough College schoolboy, he turned out for Wiltshire between 1887 and 1889.

It is worth mentioning that **David Turner** (Wiltshire 1965 and 1990-92) also stepped onto the test arena when he fielded as a substitute for England against West Indies at The Oval in 1973. *Wisden* commented that his fielding was a feature of the day's (the first) play. All four men were 16 years old at the time of their Wiltshire debut.

NORTH v SOUTH 2017

Teams selected from the two regions will participate in a three match one-day competition in the Emirates next Spring. Hampshire will have four representatives in the South side. **James Vince** will captain the side; he will be joined by **Liam Dawson, Tom Alsop, and Mason Crane**. Vince's selection as captain would appear to suggest that he is still in the minds of the England selectors, despite being overlooked for the England ODI and T20 squads in Sri Lanka in the New Year. Liam Dawson was an automatic inclusion in the South side because of his performances in the Royal London Cup last season. The left-handed Alsop has, of course, made a splendid start to his career, cemented by more promising performances for the England Lions in Dubai against the UAE and a first class match versus Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi in December. Crane has spent the early part of the winter taking wickets in the hard school of Sydney grade cricket.

