

# THE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Shaun Udal

NEWSLETTER No. 360 – FEBRUARY 2017

## MEETINGS

### Wednesday 1 February 2017-Meeting

The speaker for this afternoon's meeting is Sheffield born **MARTIN HOWE**, to whom the Society extends a warm welcome. After twelve years as a University Lecturer (when he played for the Sheffield University Staff Cricket Club), he moved south to join the Civil Service, where he held a number of senior posts. He is a member of Yorkshire CCC and has been a committee member and office holder of the Yorkshire Southern Group of the Club for many years. Since retiring from full-time employment in 1996, Martin has made a hobby of writing about Yorkshire cricket and cricketers. A number of his articles have been published in the *Yorkshire County Cricket Club Yearbook*, including biographical essays on *Louis Hall* and *Harry Halliday*. He has also written a nostalgic piece on *Bramall Lane*. Latterly, he has written three books in the ACS *Lives in Cricket* series: on *Rockley Wilson: Remarkable Cricketer, Singular Man*; *Frank Sugg: A Man For All Seasons* and, finally, *Norman Yardley: Yorkshire Gentleman Cricketer*, on whom he will be talking this afternoon. Martin and his wife Anne live in Hertfordshire.

(Editor's Note: Rockley Wilson (Yorkshire 1899-1923) has Hampshire connections in that he preceded Harry Altham as coach at Winchester College, and died in the City on 21 July 1957. He is, though, buried in the village of his birth, Bolsterone, near Sheffield. For those who have not heard of him, Frank Sugg played for Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Lancashire in a career from 1883-1899. He also played for five Football League clubs: Sheffield Wednesday, Derby County, Burnley, Everton and Bolton Wanderers. Both Wilson and Sugg also made England Test appearances).

## SOCIETY NEWS

### **AUCTION OF CARICATURES OF HAMPSHIRE CRICKETERS**

The Society has been gifted a picture frame containing caricatures of 38 Hampshire cricketers who played for the County from 1946 until the present century. It has been decided to auction this interesting item of memorabilia. Further information, including the bidding procedure are enclosed with this Newsletter.

### **THE SOCIETY'S DAY AT THE CRICKET**

Following last year's successful event, it is proposed to hold another similar day in 2017. Our Chairman, Susanne Marlow, has provisionally booked the second day of the Warwickshire match on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Confirmation and further details will be posted on the Society's website and in the Newsletter as soon as they are available.

## HAMPSHIRE PLAYED THERE ONCE

### (4) GLAMORGAN

	P	W	L	D	A	First Match	Last Match
Cardiff Arms Park	14	1	5	8	-	1921	1966
Swansea	23	12	2	8	1	1922	1999
Pontypridd	2	1	-	1	-	1930	1990
Newport	2	1	-	1	-	1951	1953
Neath	3	1	-	2	-	1958	1972
Ebbw Vale	1	-	-	1	-	1959	1959
Cardiff, Sophia Gardens (SWALEC)	19	8	3	8	-	1968	2014
	64	24	10	29	1		

### Commentary

Hampshire's first match against Glamorgan was at Cardiff Arms Park in 1921. Alec Kennedy took eight for 11 as the hosts were dismissed for 37 before lunch on the first morning. Hampshire responded with 183 but it was sufficient to secure victory by an innings and 32 runs. The County never won at that ground again and it was not until 61 years later, in 1982, that they won again in the Welsh capital.

No matches were played between the two Counties between 1924 and 1928 (inclusive), and then again in 1933 and 1934. The scheduled match at Swansea in 1957 was abandoned without a ball being bowled because of rain.

Glamorgan's first victory over Hampshire (both home and away) was not achieved until 1935, when they completed a 10 wicket victory at the Arms Park. It was in that match that Glamorgan's Cyril Smart famously hit Gerry Hill for 32 (664664) in one over.

One notable feature of matches between the two Counties in Wales has been the dearth of centuries by batsmen on both sides: 19 for Glamorgan and 21 for Hampshire. This is ample evidence that the wickets have generally been weighted in favour of bowlers. Such was the hold that **Derek Shackleton** held over them, that only one man reached three figures in Wales during his career (1948-1969): a quite astonishing statistic. **Jim Pressdee** scored 103 not out at Swansea in Hampshire's championship year of 1961, but he was unable to prevent his side sliding to an 83 run defeat.

For Glamorgan, it is usually the spin bowlers who have held sway. **John Clay**, **Jim McCannon** and **Don Shepherd** all enjoyed stellar moments in matches between the sides.

The only ground on which Hampshire played once was at Eugene Cross Park, Ebbw Vale, in 1959 (see over).

## EBBW VALE, 1959

### Scores:

Hampshire 311 (Henry Horton 132, Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie 57; McConnon 7-99).  
Glamorgan 88 (Shackleton 5-32) and 10-1  
Match drawn.

On the first day, Hampshire made their runs at almost a run a minute, though only the reliable Henry Horton and the flamboyant Hampshire captain really made sense of the difficult pitch. By the close, Glamorgan were struggling at 33 for 5. Shackleton went on to bowl unchanged for 30.2 overs, conceding barely a run an over. Vic Cannings (3-38) and Peter Sainsbury 2-14 off 14 overs) shared the bowling at the other end.

Intermittent rain halted Hampshire's quest for victory on the second day, when Glamorgan followed on, and no play was possible on the third.

1959 was Horton's best season as he recorded both his highest aggregate (2428 runs) and average (47.60).

## ERRATA

Ian Laidlaw has tactfully pointed out an error in the October Newsletter feature regarding Hampshire on Essex grounds. The County's last match at Castle Park, Colchester, was in 2014, and not 1995 as mentioned. The editor had ascribed the former match to Chelmsford. The last appearance at Chelmsford was therefore in 2013. Hampshire's performances on both grounds should therefore read:-

	P	W	L	D	First Match	Last Match
Colchester, Castle Park	8	3	3	2	1920	2014
Chelmsford	18	4	8	6	1927	2013

## THE HAMPSHIRE LIBRARY

**Test of Character: The Story of John Holder, Fast Bowler and Test Umpire by Andrew Murtagh (pub. Pitch).** This biography of John Holder is a fascinating one which will appeal to all Hampshire followers. It is, of course, written by a former team-mate and friend of long standing. The book describes its subject's life from sunny days among the cane fields in his home village of Superlative (sic) in Barbados to his initial working life as a conductor in the dark of the London Underground. He was in the second wave of West Indians to be recruited by London Transport. The support promised in Barbados regarding his arrival in London to help he and his fellow workers never materialised, but he fell in with friends of friends and began making a new life. He had played cricket at home and was soon participating

in the game on his days off in the capital. Most will remember him as a fast-medium bowler with the smooth, lithe run of a natural athlete and a whippy action. It appears that when he joined Hampshire, he was genuinely fast with a front on action in the manner of the later generation of West Indian fast bowlers who dominated test cricket from 1976 for almost the next 20 years. A photograph in the book confirms the statement. However, the Hampshire coaches made him bowl with a side on action in the manner of the MCC Coaching Manual; he lost pace and eventually injured his back, which enforced an early retirement. He and his biographer graphically describe the insecure life of an uncapped player; many felt they were only ever one poor performance away from not having their contracts renewed. Among his colleagues on the staff were Alan Castell, Richard Lewis and Keith Wheatley all of whom, like Holder, enjoyed moments in the sun, but never received their county cap. (Editor's note: these four men played a combined total of 337 matches for Hampshire). Though in his final year of 1972, he claimed 13-128 at Gloucester and a hat-trick against Kent at the County Ground, he knew his back would not stand the rigours of another full season in county cricket. And so he retired from county cricket, but went on to play in the Northern Leagues and, of course, became a hugely respected umpire at both County and Test level.

The chapters on his umpiring career are every bit as interesting, and indeed enlightening, as those on his playing days. One of his main claims to fame in his latter career was that, with John Hampshire, he officiated in the first series involving neutral umpires, between Pakistan and India in 1989-90. Any series between the two countries always has the potential to become incendiary but it passed off without incident. He even survived giving out Javed Miandad leg-before. One of the highlights of the series was that it marked Sachin Tendulkar's test debut. He was, and remains, an immensely popular man, highly regarded by his peers and players alike. He should have umpired at international level more often. However, he would seem to have earned the ire of the powers-that-be by reporting the England players for ball tampering at a time when the Pakistanis were in danger of becoming pariahs for allegedly doing the same.

In his retirement, he has worked on TMS and, ironically, been employed by the ICC as a regional development officer for umpires. With the artist, Paul Trevillion, he produced the best selling book *You Are The Umpire: The Ultimate Illustrated Guide to the Laws of Cricket*. He also makes some perceptive comments on the use of the technology available to umpires to aid their decision making.

The abundance of stories told in the book of his encounters with players during his playing and umpiring career, are the very essence of a Hampshire Cricket Society meeting. All cricket followers will obtain an insightful knowledge of the game at county and international level, and its players - at all levels in the first-class game - over the last 50 years.

There is much to admire about John Holder. He is a man of the utmost integrity who has overcome much adversity at various stages of his life by grasping and maximising any new opportunities that have come his way. The book is also a credit to Andy Murtagh, who continues to produce some high quality works. This book also reveals much of his own life and personality. Like his other books, it is a page turner and highly recommended.

