

THE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Shaun Udal

NEWSLETTER No. 361 – March 2017 (1)

THE SOCIETY'S DAY AT THE CRICKET

It is confirmed that the Society's Day at the Cricket has been booked for the second day of Hampshire's match with Warwickshire on Saturday 3rd June. The price will be £1 more than last year, ie £31 for those HCS members and guests who are also members of Hampshire CCC and £36 for those HCS members and guests who are not members of HCCC. Application forms will be sent via email or by post (in accordance with how members normally receive their Newsletter) after the Society's final winter meeting on 29 March.

MEETINGS

Wednesday 1 March 2017 – Meeting

The Society warmly welcomes Tony Borrington to this evening's meeting. He comes highly recommended by other Cricket Societies. **ANTHONY JOHN BORRINGTON** was born in Derby on 8 December 1948. Educated at Spondon Park Grammar School, he was an outstanding school boy batsman who scored heavily in club cricket. He progressed to the county side through the junior, club and ground, and second eleven sides. He also played for the MCC Schools at Lord's in 1967. He was an aggressive right-handed batsman and an athletic fielder. After playing in one Sunday League match in 1970, he first played for Derbyshire in 1971 and was capped in 1977. He continued to play for Derbyshire until 1981, scoring 4,230 runs. The highest of his three centuries was a notable 137 against Yorkshire at Sheffield in 1978. He also kept wicket in a few matches.

Having trained as a teacher at Loughborough College of Education, he became a school master. There have been few Derbyshire speakers over the years, and so it is sure to be an enlightening evening. Previous Derbyshire cricketers to have addressed the Society have been Bob Stephenson (September 1979), Guy Willatt (March 1985), Eddie Barlow (September 1986), David Steele (twice), Keith Stevenson (January 2004), and Peter Bowler (December 2010). Interestingly, of these cricketers, only Guy Willatt spent his whole career with the county. The effervescent Barlow captained the club during Tony Borrington's career.

Our speaker's address will be preceded by the Society's AGM.

Wednesday 4 January 2017 - Report

The evening in the company of David Smith was one of nostalgia and controversy. The nostalgia emanated from recounting his career in the first part of his address. He recalled the famous players he had played with and against. He first came across Ian Botham during the Bunbury Festival. He said that at that stage, Botham's achievements could never have been envisaged. He also recalled playing against Andy Roberts on his debut in 2nd XI cricket for Warwickshire at Northlands Road in

1973. He received his first opportunity to establish his place in the Warwickshire side in 1975, when his county's legendary West Indians – Rohan Kanhai, Alvin Kallicharran and Deryck Murray, as well as Dennis Amiss, were playing in the World Cup. He recalled his debut at Swansea when he became in awe of MJK Smith's remarkable hand/eye co-ordination. The latter was in his 40s; despite a bumpy outfield, he never misfielded a ball. Amiss became a good mentor when they opened the innings together. With the above galaxy of talent, he was unsure of a first team place for the remainder of 1975, and the next year, but he seized his opportunity when John Jameson retired suddenly at the end of the 1976 season. He spoke highly of Bob Willis; the latter is a very different character from that which he portrays on Sky.

He recalled two Hampshire greats. Barry Richards oozed class; his timing was perfection. He remembered one innings at Bournemouth when the South African went from an overnight 25 to 101 in about an hour, and then got himself out because he wanted to watch a test match on television. (Editor's Note: the match was in 1976. Our speaker modestly omitted to mention that he had earlier shared in a first wicket stand of 221 with Jameson; his own contribution was 84 - his highest score against Hampshire). He found it difficult to choose between Barry and his namesake, Viv, as to who was the best batsman. However, he said that he would choose Barry to bat for his life. He also mentioned the match at Northlands Road in 1982 in which Mark Nicholas was hit by Bob Willis whilst batting in a sun hat, having discarded his helmet at the lunch interval. The former Hampshire captain mentions the injury, which was a particularly nasty one, in his recently published autobiography. Malcolm Marshall then removed three Warwickshire batsmen towards the end of the day to reach 128 wickets, a record aggregate unsurpassed by any bowler in the modern era.

After our speaker retired, he worked for a plc in the entertainment industry and served on the Warwickshire committee until he became CEO at Leicestershire, and then held a similar position at Northamptonshire. He felt both clubs progressed during his tenure. At the former club, seven players in the first team had progressed through the youth system. Northants won the t20 competition in his final year.

His remarks on the current game made his audience sit up. He thought Hampshire's future depended on hosting the proposed t20 tournament and international cricket. T20 cricket is the only commercial avenue open to the game to generate new income. He made the interesting, and some would say, pertinent, point that the game is not spectator led; the key to sustainability will be the broadcasting deal. He thought that it would be difficult for teams in the second division of the championship to survive. There was a huge gap in standards between the divisions. He was of the opinion that any young player with test potential should move from division 2 to division 1 when the opportunity arose, particularly at the end of their existing contract. He thought Ben Duckett was the best young player he had seen since David Gower.

He then turned his attention to the game's management. He expressed outspoken views on the ECB's lack of accountability and vested interests of certain individuals. Whilst matters for the test side had not improved, and indeed deteriorated this winter, there had been no changes in personnel managing the England set-up. He

felt this would not have been the case in a plc. He also pointed to the lack of experience among the test selectors – he felt only Angus Fraser was really qualified. There was a disconnection this winter between the full side and the Lions; players such as Duckett should not have been kicking their heels but diverted to the Lions to continue to play competitively. It was stirring stuff and David Smith received tumultuous applause and the end of a most absorbing evening.

Wednesday 1 February 2017 - Report

Members enjoyed a marvellous afternoon at Test Valley Golf Club in the company of Martin Howe and the twin sons of Norman Yardley, Ed and Bob. Martin spoke about his subject's career in outline; Ed and Bob added some wonderful insights on family life and their father's personality. Members certainly received a rounded, privileged and most informed view of the former England and Yorkshire captain.

Yardley was born in Barnsley. His grandfather was a miner, who became a wealthy retailer. His father was a keen cricketer who, with the family fortune, sponsored much of his son's career. Norman was educated at St. Peter's School, York and then went to Cambridge University to study law. He toured India with Lord Tennyson's side in 1937/38 and enjoyed an extraordinary social and cricket experience. He captained Cambridge in 1938. His rise was rapid. He had already made his Yorkshire debut in 1935 and by 1938/39, he was vice-captain to Wally Hammond on the MCC tour to South Africa. He made his first test appearance in the opening test of the series at Johannesburg (scoring 7), but was not selected thereafter.

At the end of the 1939 season, he scored a century in the last match before WW2, at Hove. In his last match, Hedley Verity bowled Yorkshire to an overwhelming victory. Both Verity and Yardley joined the Green Howards. The pair last spoke to each other a few hours before Verity was killed. Yardley was wounded in the leg; some of the shrapnel was never removed. He was invalided out to Palestine as an Intelligence Officer. He met his wife there. His marriage was brought forward because of his selection for the tour to Australia in 1946/47. He did well, dismissing Bradman three times in the tests and leading MCC to their only victory of the tour against Victoria. He first captained England in the last test at Sydney.

On his return, he was appointed England captain for the series against South Africa, famous, of course, for the exploits of Denis Compton and Bill Edrich in their golden summer. Yardley made his highest test score of 99 in England's second innings of the first test at Trent Bridge. After following on, England looked to be sliding to defeat before he and Compton (163) put on 237 for the fifth wicket. He had walked to the wicket with his side still 155 runs in arrears. England eventually salvaged a draw. During the summer, he also recorded his highest score – 183 not out v Hampshire at Headingley – and was nominated as one of *Wisden's* Cricketers of the Year".

1948 proved to be a watershed year. He was appointed Yorkshire captain and also led the England side against Bradman's "Invincibles". Life was never quite the same thereafter. With the former, his task was to rebuild the side after the War. However, because of absences for tests, injuries and key players on National Service, he found it difficult to mould a team. Moreover, he led a Yorkshire side full of egos, who created, in the words of one player, a "poisonous" dressing room. Yardley was a Corinthian character. Sportsmanship was in his DNA and he found it difficult to cope

with leading a permanently argumentative side, most of whose members were always looking to score points off each other. It was felt that he might have received more support from Len Hutton, his senior professional, but the latter chose to maintain his own counsel. He suffered comparison with Stuart Surridge as Surrey began their period of domination. Surridge was a martinet who drove and bullied his side on. Such an outlook was anathema to Yardley. It also seemed strange that Brian Sellers, a similar character to Surridge in many ways, did not intervene. Nevertheless, he was helpful to younger players. Though he didn't rate Brian Close (as he wouldn't listen), Hutton thought that he (Yardley) was instrumental in making Freddie Trueman such a fine fast bowler. The Yorkshire public felt his side should have won a Championship, but Hutton later said that the Surrey side of the 1950's was better than that of Yorkshire in the 30's because of the prowess of their bowlers, and there were more of them.

On the test scene, England possessed no bowler of pace to rival Ray Lindwall, Keith Miller and Bill Johnston. It was a weak side compared to the Australians. His reputation received a knock when Australia scored 404 to win at Headingley. He took some stinging criticism for bowling Len Hutton (leg spin), who had not been a regular bowler for years. He offered to resign, but it was not accepted and he skippered in the final test – Bradman's last – at The Oval. He demonstrated his inbred sportsmanship by organising three cheers for the great Australian on his arrival at the wicket. Bradman was, of course, bowled second ball by Eric Hollies for a duck. Yardley led England to victory in the first test against the West Indies in 1950, but after defeats by considerable margins in the next two, he stepped down and never played test cricket. He had captained England in 14 of his 20 tests. His time as England captain therefore generally coincided with playing against stronger sides.

After he retired, he became a wine merchant in Bakewell and then Sheffield. His contribution to the game continued at grass roots level and by serving on the Yorkshire committee. After his business was taken over, he became a summariser on *Test Match Special* for 53 tests.

His appointment as Yorkshire President in 1981 should have been a pleasant and non-controversial culmination to his career. However, it coincided with the horribly divisive Boycott Affair, which was so foreign to his values. He resigned as a result. His sons mentioned that he was devastated and was never the same man afterwards.

At the end of Martin Howe's address, Bob and Ed Yardley fielded a number of questions and established a warm and excellent rapport with their appreciative audience. They had brought some interesting memorabilia, including family photographs, which members enjoyed viewing and discussing with them before and after the meeting.

HAMPSHIRE'S NEW SIGNINGS

Hampshire have signed three international players for the coming season. The Tasmanian, **GEORGE BAILEY** (aged 35), returns to the club as their overseas signing. He made five first-class appearances for Hampshire in 2013. He made an impressive start with a commanding 93 against Leicestershire at the Ageas Bowl, and in his final match top scored when he took 84 off the Lancashire attack, again at home. He then joined the Australian tourists but did not play in the test side until the following winter, when he appeared in all five tests against England. These remain his only tests to date. However, he left a mark in the third test at the WACA when he hit 28 runs off an over from James Anderson, equalling Brian Lara's record for the most number of runs in an over in test cricket. At the time of writing, he has played in 90 ODIs, scoring three centuries (HS 156 v India at Nagpur), and 29 T20 internationals. He has captained Australia in both limited overs format. He is a seasoned campaigner in t20 cricket, having played and captained sides in the IPL and Australia's BBL. His ability to bat destructively, and captaincy experience, should serve Hampshire well. It was noticeable that in his brief appearances four years ago that he was a willing lieutenant to the then captain Jimmy Adams. Since his season with Hampshire, he has played for Sussex (t20 in 2015) and Middlesex (all forms in 2016). He has played in 123 first-class matches, scoring 7908 runs (avge. 39.73). The highest of his 19 centuries is 160 not out for Tasmania against Victoria at Hobart in February 2011. He appears to be in good form; in the current Australian season, he has made 376 runs at an average of 62.66 in his four matches to date.

South African **KYLE ABBOTT** (aged 29), makes a most welcome return. His 36 wickets (avge. 20.33) were a significant factor in enabling the club to gain promotion in 2014. When he played in that season, he was already an international cricketer in all formats. He now joins Hampshire as a Kolpak, having decided, like Rilee Rossouw (see below), to obtain more security on a three year contract for Hampshire. He returns to the club as an experienced international, having played in 11 tests, 28 ODIs and 21 T20 matches for South Africa. His record in tests is a splendid one – 39 wickets (avge. 22.71) but he has never been sure of a place owing to his country's panoply of skilled opening bowlers. He has usually played as a replacement for Dale Steyn, Morne Morkel or Vernon Philander when they were injured. Hampshire supporters admire him as a whole hearted penetrative bowler who generates pace and movement. Crucially, he has a good fitness record. In the last two seasons, he has played county cricket for Middlesex (t20 in 2015), as well as Worcestershire (all forms in 2016). He has made 71 first-class appearances, taking 259 wickets at the fine average of 22.46.

The other new signing is the South African batsman **RILEE ROSSOUW** (aged 27), who, like Abbott, joins as a Kolpak. An examination of his record would appear to indicate that he is one of the best batsmen in the world outside the test arena. He is an attractive left-handed batsman who has scored prolifically in ODIs and t20 cricket for South Africa, and possesses a most impressive record in first-class cricket. He was being groomed for test cricket but, much to the chagrin of the South African selectors, he has decided to join Hampshire and thus render himself ineligible for international cricket.

RILEE ROSCOE ROUSSOW was born in Bloemfontein on 9 October 1989. He went to school at Grey College, the same school attended by such notables as Kepler Wessels, Hansie Cronje and Ryan McLaren, as well as a host of rugby union internationals. He progressed to the South African Under-19 side, for whom he played in three tests in South Africa in 2008/2009 (two of which were against India, who were captained by Virat Kohli). He also played in 12 ODIs in the same period. His final three were against England, where he became acquainted with Liam Dawson and Chris Wood, as well as Hamza Riazuddin and Adam Wheeler.

An elegant left-handed batsman, who drives punishingly and scores his runs quickly, he had made his first-class debut as an 18 year old in November 2007 for Free State against Easterns in the city of his birth, and made an instant impression by top scoring with 83 in his first innings. His rise in the first-class game was meteoric. He made his first three centuries in the following season, and then amassed 1261 runs (avge. 57.31) in the next. This aggregate included his highest score of 319 at better than a run a ball (291) for Easterns against Titans at Centurion Park in March 2010. It was the fastest triple century in the history of South African domestic cricket. He was still only 20 years old.

Representative honours soon followed. He was selected for the South African A squad tour of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka; during the latter he plundered 131 off 151 balls against Sri Lanka A at Pallekele. However, despite averaging over 40 in three of the four seasons which followed, as well as regular appearances for South Africa A, he was unable to break into the test side.

At the end of this period (2014), though, he started making regular appearances in ODIs. He was selected for a tri-series in Zimbabwe, which also included Australia. Few batsmen have ever endured a more wretched start. He was dismissed for four ducks in his first six appearances. He took three innings to get off the mark. Nevertheless, the South African selectors persisted with him and he showed his character to go on and reward them handsomely. In 36 ODIs he scored 1239 runs (avge. 38.71), including three centuries and seven fifties. His best score was 132 off 98 balls (9 fours and 8 sixes) against the West Indies at Centurion Park (how he must have fond memories of that ground) in January 2015.

In t20cricket, he played in 15 t20 internationals. He has also earned two contracts in the IPL with Royal Challengers Bangalore (in 2011 and 2014), although his opportunities were limited in galactico squads that have included Kohli, Yuvraj Singh, Chris Gayle and his countryman AB de Villiers.

He has played in 78 first-class matches, scoring 5837 runs (avge. 44.21), including 18 centuries and 24 fifties. In 130 List A matches, he has made 4668 runs (avge. 38.57), with nine centuries and 29 fifties.

Hampshire have clearly signed an exciting player of considerable ability, who is equally skilled in all three formats. He has yet to reach his peak. The prospect of watching him bat this summer is mouth- watering indeed.

