

NEWSLETTER No. 242 - JANUARY 2004

14 January 2004 – Meeting

Hampshire followers will warmly remember tonight's speaker, **KEITH STEVENSON** – affectionately known as **Oscar**. He was a complete enthusiast and whole-hearted trier, and unfailingly cheerful and uncomplaining when the gods appeared to have forsaken him. He was one of Hampshire's characters in his years with the County.

Born in Derby on 6 October 1950 he played for his native county in 47 matches between 1974 and 1977, taking 98 wickets. However, he was never sure of a place in a side renowned for its pace bowling traditions. Upon moving to Hampshire in 1978 he settled straight into the side and was a mainstay of the attack with his fast-medium right-arm bowling, for four years between 1978 and 1981. At the start of his career with the County he was privileged to open the bowling with Andy Roberts and at the end, with Malcolm Marshall, two of the greatest fast bowlers in the history of the game. He took fifty wickets in each of the seasons mentioned above, his best year being in 1979 when he dismissed 69 batsmen (avge. 22.71). Of medium height, he was blessed with a sideways on action, and was particularly dangerous when the shine was on the ball.

There is little doubt that he was overbowed in 1981. He often looked desperately tired in August of that year. The form of Kevin Emery effectively kept him out of the side for all but one match in 1982, and though he came back for seven matches in 1983 he was only a shadow of the man who had earlier borne the brunt of Hampshire's bowling attack in the transitional period between the departure of Roberts and the full blossoming of the incomparable Marshall. He did not appear at all in 1984 and towards the end of the season announced his retirement from the first-class game. It was somewhat ironic that he should leave the County at the same time as two of his rivals for a place in the side, Steve Malone and Emery.

Keith Stevenson was one of cricket's natural number eleven batsmen though when playing with Malone he was promoted one berth higher, as he usually possessed the precious ability to survive more than one straight ball.

He played in 99 matches for Hampshire taking 257 wickets (avge. 29.33). His best bowling performance was 7 for 22 against Oxford University in The Parks in 1979. He also claimed a further 79 wickets in limited overs matches for the County.

The Society is pleased to welcome him on his return to Hampshire this evening.

12 November 2003 – Report

Tim Tremlett, accompanied by son Chris, who was beginning his Australian rehabilitation from his recent hip operation later than expected, gave members his own potted history of Hampshire cricket during his working life with the County.

He began by describing his early life. His mother was a top-class swimmer who, but for the Second World War, would have been selected for the Olympic Games. His father, Maurice, was heavily influenced by Arthur Wellard in his approach.

Roy Marshall was in the Deanery side when he started playing club cricket and by watching him, he quickly appreciated the enormous gulf between first-class cricket. When he first broke into the Hampshire side he bowled only in-swing and he had to work very hard to master the ball which moved in the opposite direction. Tom Cartwright was a great adviser.

He then talked about the great cricketers he played with. He regarded Barry Richards as the best batsman he had ever seen, though he thought Gordon Greenidge was the better player on a poor wicket. He thought the latter hit the ball even harder than Robin Smith. Robin was a wonderful match winner.

When turning to the bowlers he recalled a 2nd XI game at Bristol in 1973 when Gloucestershire were 100 for 1 at lunch with batsman number seven at the wicket. The intervening batsmen were in hospital courtesy of the speed of Andy Roberts. He felt that Malcolm Marshall was the cleverest and best. He was very professional in his outlook; if he was likely to encounter a new batsman for the first time in a forthcoming Test series he would send for, and study, videos of them batting.

Of opposition batsmen and bowlers he regarded Viv Richards, Sachin Tendulkar, the Waugh brothers, Greg Chappell, Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne as the most exceptional.

He then gave his assessment of Hampshire captains he had served under. Richard Gilliat's strength was getting the most out of his bowlers. Bob Stephenson experienced a difficult season in his one season as captain but gave a number of youngsters an opportunity, to the County's ultimate benefit. Nick Pocock was good at instilling confidence in younger players. Mark Nicholas took some time to mature as a captain and batsman but when he did so, he achieved, of course, great success.

During the question and answer session Chris was asked about the professional relationship with his father. He responded saying that once he had established himself, it was not a problem. He also gave an insight on Rodney Marsh – a man who loves his cricket, who wants to win and is very disciplined – and life at the England Academy which had been a beneficial life experience, as well as a cricket one.

HCS PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Members voted Simon Katich as their Player of the Year for 2003. Tim Tremlett felt that, like Matthew Hayden before him, he would now go on to achieve greater things in Test cricket.

His prediction has since been borne out by Katich's consistent performances, with both bat and ball, against India in Australia.

3 December 2003 - Report

Alan Castell, Keith Wheatley and David "Butch" White captivated a large audience prior to the Society's Annual Buffet Supper at The Rose Bowl. They took members on a nostalgic trip down Memory Lane as they recalled their respective playing careers with Hampshire. Alan Castell emerged as a born after-dinner speaker, Keith Wheatley's address was a more measured affair and "Butch" White's comments were as trenchant and as forthright as his bowling.

There were common themes throughout. All showed a deep reverence for Arthur Holt. Indeed, Keith Wheatley had named his home Holt House. All felt that a fitting tribute to his memory for his monumental contribution to Hampshire cricket and his development of young cricketers over so many years, would be naming the nursery ground at The Rose Bowl after him. It was a proposal that struck a chord with many of those present. They also spoke affectionately about the unique approach and captaincy skills of Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, and recalled with near awe the batting of Roy Marshall and the unrelenting accuracy of Derek Shackleton.

"Butch" White recounted a little known story concerning the irascible Ingleby-Mackenzie. After Hampshire had won the County Championship in 1961 the country's cricket writers assembled expectantly at a press conference at the start of the following year. When asked if Hampshire would continue their philosophy of playing against a background of "wine, women and song" the County's captain quipped they would consider giving up the singing!

He also reminisced on his bowling partner, Derek Shackleton. He said that all the great batsmen of the day respected him enormously. They originally fancied they could hit him over the top but none ever succeeded. He was slightly quicker than he seemed from the pavilion and they would invariably hole out at mid-on and mid-off. He and the other speakers hoped that Hampshire would recognise his memory in some way at the Rose Bowl. Keith Wheatley recalled Roy Marshall's uppercuts for six over third man. It was a revolutionary stroke in those days and he played it with a bat weighing only 2lbs 2oz. He also hit the ball as hard as any man he had ever seen, a thought-provoking comment given the rasping strokeplay of Gordon Greenidge and Robin Smith in more recent times. He also listed his choices for the best Hampshire team in the past forty years. The selections were restricted to those qualified to play for England. They were Roy Marshall (who was asked if he would play for his adopted country in the early 60's but was adjudged ineligible by Lord's), Chris Smith, David Gower, Robin Smith, Trevor Jesty, Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, Peter Sainsbury, Adi Aymes, Derek Shackleton, Bob Cottam and "Butch" White.

The imaginative and irrepressible Alan Castell, who personified all the wiles and philosophy of a born leg-spin bowler, lamented the dearth of his art but was thrilled that Mushtaq Ahmed's bowling had contributed so significantly to Sussex's maiden County Championship tie the last summer.

It was a hugely enjoyable evening in the company of three men, who like their audience, were great lovers of Hampshire cricket.

At the end of the meeting Susanne Marlow lead members in thanking and applauding the Rosebowl staff for their wonderful service during the evening.

MICHAEL CLARKE

Hampshire appear to have pulled off a major coup in signing the young Australian Michael Clarke for 2004. Though his reputation is not yet matched by his figures, he is one of those players with an ACB contract for 2003-04. There also seems little doubt that his performances in the last two months have thrust him to the verge of the Australian Test team. Building on a successful introduction to limited overs international cricket in which he scored 208 runs before losing his wicket – a considerable achievement when batting in the middle-order - he was adjudged man of the match in the Final of the recent TVS series in India, when he scored 44 not out off 28 balls before taking 2 for 36 with his left-arm orthodox spin bowling.

Upon his return to Australia he then really set tongues wagging with a glittering 131 not out off 140 balls for Australia A against the Indian tourists at Hobart's Bellrive Oval. It was a performance which set Australia's cricket writers rivalling each other in their quest for superlatives. The innings was punctuated by sweetly timed drives through the covers and down the ground as he systematically took the Indian spin bowlers apart. He reached his century with a huge, pulled six over square leg, one of four occasions he cleared the boundary. Shrewd observers are saying he is definitely in the frame, along with Darren Lehmann and Martin Love, to replace Steve Waugh upon the latter's retirement a week or so ago. He has also been profiled in the January edition of *The Wisden Cricketer*. Also that magazine's review of the 6th edition of *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack Australia 2003-04* mentioned that he is referred to as "the coming man in Australian cricket".

MICHAEL JOHN CLARKE was born in Liverpool, New South Wales on 2 April 1981. He was identified as a precocious talent at an early age. He captained Australia's Under-19 side and made his debut for New South Wales at the age of 18 against the previous Indian tourists in 1999-2000. He also spent time at the Australian Academy in the latter year, when he made 143 in a high-scoring match against the New Zealand Cricket Academy at Christchurch. Among his peers there were Ashley Noffke, Phil Jacques and India's Zaheer Khan.

He made only steady progress in the next two seasons when he generally played in the New South Wales side when the Waugh brothers were on Test duty. He began to

fulfil the early expectations last winter when he scored four hundreds. He also made 50 for Australia A against England in Hobart.

These performances earned him an international debut against England at Adelaide and a place in the one-day squad to the West Indies where he impressed with innings of 75 not out in St. Lucia and 55 not out in the next match at Port-of-Spain. He carried on this notable start in the recent tournament in India when he stroked 70 against New Zealand in a tight finish at Pune.

By the end of 2003 he had played in 10 one-day internationals scoring 327 runs at the princely average of 65.40. Of medium build and a fluent, attractive right-hand batsman he also possesses a most impressive strike rate of 88.61 runs per 100 balls.

His left arm spin bowling is also a valuable second string to his bow. Though he has bowled little in first-class cricket, he has a very useful record in limited overs games. He has taken 8 wickets (avge. 24.75) in international matches, with a career best performance of 4 for 42 against India at Mambai.

He also played one match for his state in New Zealand in 2000/01, when he made his debut in limited overs cricket.

He has experience of English conditions, having played successfully for Ramsbottom in the Lancashire League.

A season with Hampshire is of obvious benefit to both parties. Michael Clarke will see it as a form of finishing school. His panache and style, when allied to the unique inspirational qualities of Shane Warne should bring much needed energy and vitality to Hampshire's cricket next season.

MICHAEL CLARKE IN FIRST-CLASS CRICKET

BATTING AND FIELDING

	M.	I.	N.O.	Runs	H.S.	Avge.	100	50	Ct.
1999/00	7	14	0	403	75	28.78	-	4	5
2000/01	5	8	1	179	106	25.57	1	-	4
2001/02	9	18	1	663	132	39.00	2	2	7
2002/03	11	18	1	813	134	47.82	4	3	11
2003/04	2	4	2	203	131*	101.50	1	-	2
(to 31.12.03)	34	62	5	2261	134	39.66	8	9	29

BOWLING

	Balls	Runs	Wkts.	Avge.	BB
1999/00	150	76	1	76.00	1.55
2001/02	108	51	2	25.50	2.25
2002/03	186	94	1	94.00	1.50
2003/04	30	16	0	-	-
	474	237	4	59.25	2.25

CENTURIES

106	New South Wales v. Victoria	Sydney	2000-01
111	New South Wales v. Victoria	Melbourne	2001-02
132	New South Wales v. South Australia	Adelaide	2001-02
134	New South Wales v. Queensland	Brisbane	2002-03
129	New South Wales v. South Australia	Adelaide	2002-03
116	New South Wales v. Western Australia	Newcastle	2002-03
120	New South Wales v. Queensland	Brisbane	2002-03
131*	Australia A v. India	Hobart	2003-04

MICHAEL CLARKE IN LIST A LIMITED OVERS MATCHES

BATTING AND FIELDING

M.	I.	N.O.	Runs	H.S.	Avge	100	50	Ct.
50	44	10	1438	101*	42.29	1	10	17

CENTURIES

101*	New South Wales v. Western Australia	Sydney	2001-02
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BOWLING

O.	M.	Runs	Wkts	Avge	Best
83	2	413	17	24.29	4-42