

NEWSLETTER 243 - FEBRUARY 2004

APRIL MEETING - CHANGE OF DATE

Due to Hampshire Cricket's commitments at The Rose Bowl, the **APRIL** meeting has had to be brought forward to **WEDNESDAY 31 MARCH**. As mentioned in the Society's membership card the meeting will start earlier than usual, at **6.30pm**. Members should meet in The Atrium. After a short talk, Nigel Gray, Hampshire's Groundsman, will take members on a tour of the grounds maintenance facilities. It will obviously present a unique opportunity to gain an insight of what is required to prepare wickets on a ground which is fast becoming an established venue for staging international cricket.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 10 MARCH 2004

Notice of the 28th Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held on **WEDNESDAY, 10 MARCH 2004** at **BASINGSTOKE GOLF CLUB** at 7.30pm.

Any resolutions and nominations for office and the Committee, duly proposed and seconded, should reach Brian Smith, Hon. Secretary at 9 Rawlings Grove, ABINGDON, OX14 1SH by 25 February 2004.

Please accept the above as formal notice.

Our speaker after the AGM will be Jeff Levick, Chairman of Hampshire Cricket Board. Jeff has worked prodigiously behind the scenes for many years coaching and managing Hampshire Colts' teams. He has known many of the current Hampshire squad since their schooldays. It is bound to be an interesting evening.

SOCIETY NEWS

Brian Smith has submitted his resignation to take effect from the AGM, after serving as the Society's Treasurer and then Secretary in the last two years. Brian took over both posts at a difficult time and his efficiency and effectiveness has been most valued by the Society in ensuring continuity of its affairs. The Society extends its heartfelt thanks and best wishes to Brian for the future as he pursues his many and varied interests.

The former Secretary's role has been divided for the last two years with our Chairperson, Susanne Marlow assuming responsibility for obtaining and booking speakers and Brian Smith acting as membership secretary. If any Society member has some free time - the task is much simplified with a personal computer – and would be interested in fulfilling this important role then Susanne, Brian or any member of the Committee would be pleased to discuss the matter further with them.

BASINGSTOKE GOLF CLUB

The March meeting will unfortunately be the last at Basingstoke Golf Club. The Committee are now seeking an alternative venue in the Basingstoke area. Members have already helpfully put forward a number of possible alternatives and these are being pursued.

The Society has learned that **Nick Twine** has been elected President of Basingstoke and North Hants Cricket Club. The Society congratulates Nick on his appointment to this prestigious post in one of the County's foremost cricket clubs.

14 January 2004 - Report

Though nightfall had long descended, the gait of the man striding across the carpark of Basingstoke Golf Club was instantly recognisable. It was the same businesslike walk of some twenty years ago when Keith Stevenson returned to his mark or made his way to and from his place on the boundary. He was now wearing a suit and when he stepped into the light the formerly fair wispy hair was now grey and set only at the temples.

Our speaker cherished his time with Hampshire. He joined the County as they had offered him a longer-term contract than his native Derbyshire. He revealed that he had very nearly transferred between the two Counties a year earlier. He viewed his first season with mixed feelings. He was warmly greeted by Barry Richards on his first morning in the car park at Northlands Road, and then opened the bowling with Andy Roberts. However, both had left Hampshire by mid-July. There were considerable compensations as the County won the John Player League that summer. He remembered the tremendous team spirit and recalled with great clarity the final match at Bournemouth when Hampshire defeated a Middlesex side containing nine current and future Test players to clinch the title by 26 runs.

Even then players, officials and spectators had to await the outcome of developments at Taunton where rivals Somerset lost in a nail-biting finish.

He spoke with great warmth and appreciation of Malcolm Marshall. He regarded him as the best possible mentor and teacher as well as one of the great gentlemen in the game.

He is great friends with Nigel Cowley, with whom he roomed on away trips, and Steve Malone.

After he left the County in 1984 he pursued a career in estate agency, and remained in the business for a further ten years after he returned to Derbyshire in 1988. He then successfully applied for the post of Derbyshire's Commercial manager.

At the start of the meeting Keith Stevenson recounted his early days in cricket. He started as scorer for his father's team, before playing alongside him as he progressed through club cricket, Derbyshire Colts and the County's 2nd XI, before making his debut at Old Trafford at the age of 23. He revealed that he had been employed by Rolls Royce in the years prior to his becoming established in the game.

He told his attentive audience of the celebrated match against Lancashire at Buxton which started on 31 May 1975. The Saturday brought sweltering heat and Lancashire revelled in the conditions as they ran up 477 for 5 (Clive Lloyd 167 not out, Frank Hayes 104) before declaring after 100 overs. The visitors then quickly captured three wickets for 29 runs before the close. The next day Derbyshire defeated Glamorgan in the JPL on the same ground. The players travelled from their homes to Buxton on the Monday. When our speaker left Derby early in the morning the weather was colder but still fine. He was therefore totally unprepared for the ground being covered under 3 inches of snow! No play was possible that day but his team-mates feared the worst on the Tuesday. At the time wickets were uncovered but bowlers' run-ups were protected. Derbyshire were duly despatched for only 42 and 87 and were defeated by a mammoth innings and 348 runs. The wicket was so dangerous that the late Ashley Harvey-Walker, callously murdered later in Johannesburg, handed Dickie Bird, umpiring at square-leg, his false teeth with the remark he would not be long in collecting them. He duly did so two balls later.

He also proudly reminisced about the fact that he once made a century, but the runs were those of Brian Bolus for whom he was acting as a runner.

He also gave his recollections of Derbyshire's overseas players during his days there. Laurence Rowe simply could not abide the English climate. Eddie Barlow was a very great leader; he reversed the fortunes of what had been a poor side without changing the personnel.

Keith Stevenson's address was followed by a lively question and answer session. He responded to questions on a whole range of issues with disarming frankness. In his vote of thanks Nick Twine aptly stated that the Society's year could not have got off to a better start.

11 February 2004 - Meeting

Tonight's speaker is indisputably *the* expert on Glamorgan cricket. **ANDREW HIGNELL** is English-born but was brought up in Cardiff and has supported Glamorgan since the early 1970's. He is the Honorary Statistician to Glamorgan and is scorer/statistician for BBC Radio Wales, with whom he shares the commentary box with John Bevan, Don Shepherd and Fred Raffle, who entertained Society members so delightfully at last November's meeting. He has written [The Cricket Grounds of Glamorgan](#) and [Glamorgan Cricketers 1888-87](#) for the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians; he is also a regular contributor to their quarterly journal, [The Cricket Statistician](#).

In the Helm history series of the Counties, published in the 1980's and 1990's, his The History of Glamorgan County Cricket Club was one of the most outstanding books in the collection.

He has also written prolifically in recent years for Tempus Publishing. His books include 100 Glamorgan Greats, Turnbull – A Sporting Hero, Glamorgan Grounds, The Homes of Welsh Cricket, 100 Greats of Gloucestershire County Cricket Club (with Adrian Thomas), 100 First-Class Umpires and Glamorgan: The Glory Years 1993-2002.

Andrew Hignell lives in Tiverton, Devon, where he is a Geography Master at Blundell's School.

BILLY TAYLOR

Billy Taylor seems to be one of those cricketers who has a destiny with history. In 1999, his debut season for Sussex, he was a member of the team that won the CGU National League Division 2 title. Coming into their one-day side halfway through the season he was a virtual ever-present for the remainder of his career with Hampshire's neighbours. He has been most effective bowling at the end of the innings.

In the following year he bowled the inaugural ball at the Rose Bowl complex when Sussex 2nd XI played on the Nursery Ground. It was an auspicious occasion for other reasons. He decimated Hampshire's second innings by taking 7 for 34 off 21.3 economical overs. This performance earned him his first mini-run in the Ksussex championship side.

Then, last summer he was a very important cog in the Sussex side that won their first, and well-deserved, County Championship. Coming into the side early in the season, in place of Jason Lewry, he began to attract notice with his accuracy. The economy which he displayed at the Rose Bowl three years earlier was now being transferred to the first-class arena. A thigh injury then halted his progress and kept him out of the side for over a month. Injuries to Sussex's pace bowlers brought about his return and he responded to the extra responsibility magnificently, none more so than in the crucial match against eventual runners-up, Lancashire, at Hove in mid August. He dismantled the top order in the latter's second innings, removing four batsmen including Hooper and Law, before Mushtaq Ahmed completed the demolition in his own inimitable manner.

Given Sussex's success it may seem a strange decision for him to return to his native County. However, there had been rumblings concerning his future at Sussex for most of the season and Hampshire offered him more security with a longer term contract.

BILLY VICTOR TAYLOR was born in Southampton on 11 January 1977. He attended Bitterne Park School and played for Hampshire schoolboys and colts sides before making his debut for Hampshire 2nd XI in 1997. After a successful season of Minor Counties cricket with Wiltshire in 1998, and for whom he first played two years earlier, he embarked on a watershed winter of club cricket in New Zealand. He not only took 98 wickets in club and representative cricket in Auckland's North

Harbour District Competition but also met with Greenfield, the Sussex coach, who invited him for pre-season trials at Hove. Kent also showed an interest in him at the time.

His career in first-class cricket has been one of steady progress and improvement and he should now be entering potentially the most productive phase of his career. Strongly built with a good action, his accuracy and outswing bowling would appear to be ideally suited to the Rose Bowl wickets, and any other which offer bowlers some assistance.

In 28 first-class matches he has taken 71 wickets (avge. 35.11) with best bowling figures of 5 for 90 against Warwickshire at Hove in 2002. In limited overs cricket he has secured 109 wickets at the creditable average of 23.29.

Those who have known him for some years will aver that his batting talent is not reflected in his figures of 183 runs (avge. 8.71). Indeed, in last year's pulsating Championship match with Middlesex at Hove he shared in a century last wicket partnership with Mark Davis.

He has been a very loyal servant of Winchester KS in the Southern League for whom he has played for many years whenever the opportunity has allowed.

An article in The Cricketer magazine last year revealed that he was training to be a tree surgeon.

His brother James also played for Wiltshire for a number of years and on the strength of his prolific goalscoring record in the Dr. Martens League for Bashley and Havant and Waterlooville, has played representative soccer for England.

If Billy Taylor continues his affinity with historic occasions then Hampshire supporters will have much cause for celebration.

BILLY TAYLOR IN FIRST-CLASS CRICKET

	M.	O.	M.	Runs	Wkts.	Avge.	5wI	Best
1999	1	25	4	108	2	54.00	-	1-54
2000	5	118	28	405	6	67.50	-	3-27
2001	4	72.4	20	258	8	32.25	-	2-5
2002	10	318.5	73	401	32	32.53	1	5-90
2003	8	44.1	69	681	23	29.60	-	4-42
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	28	778.4	194	2493	71	35.11	1	5-90

NEVILLE ROGERS

Richard Pemberton has correctly advised the editor that Neville Rogers played for Trojans, and not Deanery, when he left Hampshire. An article in The Hampshire Handbook for 1961 confirms that he captained the club from 1958.

His obituary in the November edition of the Newsletter has been duly amended on the Society's website (see hcs.cricketarchive.co.uk) Please note that it does not include the starter www.

COUNCIL OF CRICKET SOCIETIES

Brian Smith reports on the half yearly meeting held at Trent Bridge on Saturday 1 November 2003.

Susanne Marlow, Chairman, Brian Smith, Secretary, and John Yount attended this meeting.

Most of the Cricket Societies in the country were represented at this meeting. We were welcomed to Trent Bridge by Chris Tolley, the Director of Cricket at the Nottingham CCC Academy. He gave a brief report on the development of cricket academies, and emphasised that they were not all the same. As the academies gained experience a best practice would emerge. He was very positive about the up coming youngsters at the academies but he wished that more young people would join cricket societies. He was concerned that the modern cricketer had little or no sense of the history of the game. The 20/20 experiment had been a resounding success and he hoped that it would continue without too much alteration. He had doubts about the need for too much razzmatazz.

The Chairman, John Bridgeman, echoed the concerns of all county members about the cricket fixture list and particularly the lack of cricket at weekends. It there was no product to sell at weekends how could families and youngsters get to enjoy the game. He did not expect to get new members from 20/20 cricket! There was also concern about the swingeing increases in county membership fees by some counties. Comment was made about the constant plea for less cricket leading to higher quality. If this was the case the Gloucestershire representative wondered why he was not currently on tour with England! There was a school of thought that the 20/20 cricket could take the place of the 40 over National League.

Peter Griffiths from Cricket-Archive.com explained to the meeting the decision by Cric-info to remove Cricket Societies from their website. He explained the offer he was making to establish cricket society sites at Cricket-Archive.com and Hampshire Cricket Society was mentioned several times as we are the first to join. Well done kVic Isaacs!

After a pleasant lunch we were addressed by Wayne Noon the current Nottinghamshire CCC beneficiary and 2nd XI manager who gave an interesting and detailed insight into his cricket career and reflected on the ups and downs of competition for the one wicket keeping place in each team. He spoke well and with humour and frankness and has agreed to come to talk to us at some time in the future.