

NEWSLETTER No. 258 - NOVEMBER 2005

MEETINGS

9 November 2005 – Meeting

The Society is very pleased to welcome tonight's speaker Neil Mallender. The last time Hampshire supporters saw him on a cricket field was in the C & G Final at Lord's in September.

NEIL ALAN MALLENDER has spent a lifetime in cricket. Yorkshire born, at Kirk Sandall, on 13 August 1961 he became one of several cricketers from that County to make their mark elsewhere. He was only on the fringes of Yorkshire's radar screen as a schoolboy, partly because he spent some time in Yeovil. He was, of course, to play for Somerset later in his career.

He originally made his reputation with Northamptonshire, whom he joined in 1980. Capped in 1984, he stayed with them until 1986.

During the ensuing winter in New Zealand – he coached and played for Otago virtually throughout his career – our speaker decided to join Somerset, who, interestingly, pipped Yorkshire for his signature. The former County were still healing their wounds following the emotive departure of Viv Richards, Joel Garner and Ian Botham. He settled immediately and became a popular member of the side with his penetrative right-arm fast-medium bowling and dry humour in the dressing room. He always bowled very straight, and hit the seam which facilitated the ball's movement off the wicket, as well as bounce. He received his cap in 1987. There were times when, such was his workload, he seemed to be Somerset's bowling. He began to suffer injuries but a fitness regime instigated by bowling coach, Bob Cottam, took him to the fringe of, and then into, the England team.

He was put on standby during England's tour of New Zealand in 1991-92 when David Lawrence, Philip DeFreitas and Chris Lewis were all injured at some stage. He did not have to wait long for his promotion to the big stage. He experienced an astonishing Test debut against Pakistan in the following summer's fourth Test at Headingley. He took 3 for 72 and 5 for 50 as England, rather controversially, defeated their opponents for the first time in 10 years. The umpires, not for the first time in matches between the two countries, were the bone of contention. He could not be omitted from the following Test at The Oval, when on a far different pitch, he still bowled accurately and creditably to take 2 for 93 in 28.5 overs. However, on this occasion England were outplayed by the then novel reverse swing of Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram. He was never to play for England again.

A right-handed batsman, he scored enough runs to bring him on to the perimeter of the all-rounder category and, on one occasion during his annus mirabilis, scored 100 for Otago against Central Districts at Palmerston North.

He rejoined Northamptonshire for the last two years of his playing career. When he retired in 1996, he had played in 345 first-class matches, made 4709 runs (avge. 17.18), taken 937 wickets (avge. 26.31), and held 111 catches.

He has since enjoyed a distinguished career as an umpire. He was appointed to the list in 1999. He progressed to stand in his first one-day international in 2001 and stood in 22 of those matches, including the World Cup tournament in 2003-04 and was on the ICC Elite Panel in 2004.

As a youngster our speaker was equally at home playing cricket, soccer or rugby and was regarded as one of the game's best golfers in his playing days.

28 September 2005 – Report

Alan Mullally gave a diverting account of his life in cricket. He arrived shaven-headed; he had taken the drastic step for charity, with Shaun Udal and Nic Pothas. It is a pity that Hampshire supporters will not be able to see his two ex team-mates and their Autumn hairdos!

Our speaker's family emigrated from Southend to Australia in 1974. It seems that his Irish father, a rigger by trade, had simply tired of the English climate. They arrived in Sydney but decided almost immediately to settle across the other side of the continent in Perth. Some of the family – he has two brothers and two sisters – took the train, the others travelled by car, a journey which took two weeks. They were often troubled by the Australian wildlife when they took comfort breaks. It sounded quite an adventure.

Even as a young boy in Australia, he dreamed of playing for England. Eventually, one of his brothers, fulfilling a promise, was to come over to England to watch him make his Test debut at Edgbaston, against India.

He played only three club matches before his first class debut for Western Australia against Queensland in the Sheffield Shield Final. He finished on the winning side; his defeated opponents included Ian Botham and Allan Border.

He recalled some of the most memorable matches of his career including England's unlikely victory in the Boxing Day Test at Melbourne in 1998, and Hampshire's great win over the Australians in 2001.

Though he had no pretensions as a batsman, he fondly remembered his two half-centuries in first-class cricket, both in the same season. One was against Surrey whose team included Chris Lewis, Martin Bicknell and Saqlain Mushtaq. With a century beckoning, he was mortified to be bowled by the occasional spin of Darren Bicknell. The other was when he and Phil Simmons added 140 in double quick time against Middlesex. The normally parsimonious Angus Fraser was one of those bowlers who suffered during the onslaught.

He was due to fly out to Australia in December in support of his wife's sporting career. She was an Australian who played touch rugby for her country. She was now with the England party who were due to play in New Zealand this winter.

Now retired from the game, Alan Mullally was considering a number of business opportunities.

12 October 2005 – Report

Members enjoyed a delightful evening in the company of John Crawley. He began by giving an account of his formative years. He was the youngest of three sporting brothers, which was the catalyst of his competitive spirit as they played against each other as children. His earliest memory of the game was a hand-me-down, sawn off, Duncan Fearnley bat. He attended a state primary school. However, cricket was not part of their curriculum and so he learnt and played the game around Warrington Cricket Club until he was ten years old. The three boys enjoyed very supportive parents who travelled about 50,000 miles ferrying them to and from club and representative matches.

He gained a place at Manchester Grammar School where he took advantage of their great facilities. It was a school with a proud cricket tradition. In one year Mike Atherton, his brother Mark, and Gary Yates all graced the ranks. It was little surprise that they remained undefeated that season.

Our speaker was in the England ranks throughout his fledgling career, appearing for England Schools, England Young Cricketers and England Under-19s, for whom he played against Damien Martyn, Adam Gilchrist and Justin Langer in Australia. He also played club cricket for Midland-Guildford in Perth for 3 months. On his return he went to Cambridge University, where he thoroughly enjoyed the fun of playing without a great deal of pressure for 3 years.

He thoroughly enjoyed his first 6/7 years with Lancashire. He felt that in 200 the County were deprived of the County Championship by the weather.

He also enjoyed his England tours but found it more difficult when his son was born. It was evident throughout the evening that he greatly valued family life. His most memorable Test was when England successfully chased 307 on the last day of the series against New Zealand at Christchurch to clinch the rubber 2-0.

His decision to join Hampshire was an easy one. Though experiencing a couple of difficult initial years when the side was in transition, his time with the County was a highly pleasurable one.

He had spent the two previous winters with the sales and marketing unit at the Rose Bowl.

In the question and answer session he was inevitably asked about his 311 not out in the last match of the season against Nottinghamshire. He responded by saying that the emphasis had to be on winning the match and was not bothered about being declared so close to the total. He felt that his triple century at Trent Bridge in 2004 was a better crafted innings. He was more tired at the end of his season's exertions

during the Rose Bowl epic and thought he had therefore virtually slogged his way from 200 to 300. The initial part of his innings on the first day was hard work on a damp pitch and under heavy skies. He never felt comfortable until an hour after tea.

It was a wonderfully enjoyable evening. A class act by a class batsman, and individual.

HAMPSHIRE PLAYERS ON TOUR IN PAKISTAN (1)

This winter, Kevin Pietersen will join a select band of Hampshire cricketers to have toured Pakistan, both pre and post partition of India in 1947. His team-mate Shaun Udal will be making his second trip there, having toured the country with England A in 1995-96.

The first Hampshire cricketers to tour those areas of India that eventually became Pakistan were batsman A.J.L. HILL and fast bowler CHRISTOPHER HESELTINE, who were with Lord Hawke's side in 1892-93. The party made their way from Colombo in Ceylon in early November to Lahore and Peshawar in late February. In the very last match of their long south/north journey, Hill made 85 in a non first-class match in the latter city. When the tour members dispersed in March, Hill, Heseltine, Hawke, Albert Leatham, an amateur wicket-keeper from Yorkshire and Charles Wright (Nottinghamshire) stayed behind and set off for Nepal in search of tiger. The tour party had previously been escorted on a sight-seeing tour of the infamous Khyber Pass in Afghanistan by a troop of Bengal Lancers.

Apart from a tour by Oxford Authentics ten years later no English team visited the sub-continent until the first MCC team travelled there in 1926-27. Among their members were another Hampshire duo, GEORGE BROWN and STUART BOYES. On this occasion the tourists made their way from north to south. They opened with four matches in Karachi and played two in Rawalpindi and four in Lahore before crossing the future border into India. Boyes enjoyed some success in these matches, taking 6 for 37 against Rawalpindi and 5 for 28 against Northern Punjab in Lahore. Brown suffered the misfortune of a hand injury in one of the prior matches in Lahore. On his return, during the extended stay in Bombay, he scored runs immediately and remained in good form throughout the remaining three months of the tour. In his book Cricketer Militant : The Life of Jack Parsons, Gerald Howat described how the tour throughout was punctuated by lunches, dinners and other lavish entertainments, often repeated because each ethnic community felt it necessary to offer hospitality. Nearly every night was a late night and every day was spent travelling or playing cricket with an occasional "shoot".

It was a pattern to be repeated when LORD LIONEL TENNYSON captained his own side to India in 1937-38. Two other Hampshire players in wicket-keeper NEIL McCORKELL and hard-hitting batsman and leg-spin bowler TOMMY JAMESON, accompanied him. Tennyson became the only Hampshire player so far to make a hundred in Karachi when he plundered a memorable 118 against Sind.

The match was played on a matting wicket in fairly rustic conditions. The outfield was very rough. The players – both amateurs and professionals – changed together in

a tent. Tennyson's XI started their innings just before lunch on the second day. They struggled early on, collapsing to 48 for five. Tennyson and Bill Edrich (140 not out) then added 190 for the sixth wicket. Though missed three times, Tennyson went on to score 118 (two sixes, thirteen fours) in only 170 minutes. Tennyson and Edrich, twenty-six years younger, progressed into the nineties simultaneously. When they were both on 92, Edrich, sensing his captain's fatigue, asked if he would last out to reach his hundred. Tennyson smiled, and, ever the gambler, bet his partner that he would reach his hundred first. They shook hands. Tennyson went on to collect his winnings. It was his last first-class century. He wrote, "It was terribly hot, and never have I been so tired out as when I returned to the pavilion. It was a curious thing to remember that when we got our hundreds, the Indians sitting round, nearly 15,000, threw Chinese crackers on to the ground, which went off with loud explosions, to show their appreciation of our efforts".

Such were his exertions that McCorkell acted as his runner once he reached his century. He remained so fatigued at the start of the second innings that Worthington, a professional, took over as captain. However, the latter was struck over the left eye whilst fielding at short leg, whereupon Peebles became the visitors' third captain of the match.

In a foretaste of the terrible events of a month ago, the team then felt the effects of an earthquake in the first "Test" against India in Lahore. In his biography 'Sticky Wickets', Tennyson recalled

".....during the middle of (the match) we were all subject to a most unpleasant experience. I was fielding in the slips next to Langridge and Parks, when I had the most curious sensation. I saw some of the vast crowd rushing out on to the ground, and the pavilion clock at the same time fell to the ground with a bang, and all the buildings seemed to be shaking. I thought I had a touch of the sun, but it was nothing of the sort. It was indeed quite a severe earthquake. I don't quite know how many people were killed in the town of Lahore, but we all escaped unscathed."

The first Hampshire cricketer to play in the newly created state of Pakistan was DEREK SHACKLETON, on the MCC tour of that country, India and Ceylon in 1951-52. He finished with more wickets than any other bowler – 51. In oppressive heat on the Pakistan leg of the tour, and on generally flat, slow wickets, Shackleton personified stamina and accuracy. He enjoyed success in the second Unofficial Test, on coir matting at Karachi, when he took four for 50 and three for 87 (in 34 overs). His victims included the youthful Hanif Mohammed, and Imtiaz Ahmed (twice). In total, he bowled 133 overs in four matches in Pakistan

PETER SAINSBURY made his only official overseas tour when he was selected for the controversial MCC A visit to Pakistan in 1955-56. He played soundly without hitting the highlights. However, both Ron Roberts in *Playfair* and Wisden paid testament to his all-round capabilities. He was selected for two of the four representative matches in Lahore and Peshawar. In the first of those matches – a 6 day affair – he batted soundly (20 not out and 1 not out) and bowled accurately in a marathon spell (41-22-52-0) in Pakistan's only innings. Neither he, Tony Lock (who bowled a staggering 77 overs), nor Alan Moss (51.4) or Titmus (27) were able to dislodge Hanif as he ground his way to an eight and three quarter hour century in a

drawn match. He experienced a torrid time with the bat on a spin bowlers' wicket in the controversial second match (1 and 0). Only one man – Alimuddin – made fifty in the four innings. Though he used the conditions well to bowl very creditably (10.3 – 5 – 11 – 1 and 13 – 6 – 22 – 2) his team were beaten by 7 wickets. Sainsbury was, in fact, second change behind Fred Titmus, who opened the bowling with Moss, and Lock, and only came to the crease to give his predecessors respite.

The Peshawar match earned notoriety for the “Begh Incident”, which was to prove the first in a long run of flashpoints in matches involving England and Pakistani teams. There were four lbw decisions against the tourists in their first innings, all given by Begh, which prompted some critical comments. (Sainsbury was the subject of another in the second). On the evening of the third day, some of the MCC team, as a light-hearted prank, poured water over Begh. Their hosts were, though, outraged and what started as a joke quickly became a major diplomatic incident. Eventually, the President of the MCC, Lord Alexander, cabled the Pakistan cricket authorities and offered to cancel the rest of the tour, at the same time paying Pakistan compensation for any lost revenue. However, the tour continued though not without some continuing onfield acrimony.

However, Sainsbury was left somewhat deflated at the end of the tour. In an interview with Stephen Chalke some years later, he said that having made that tour with his fellow left-arm spin bowler, Tony Lock, he “could see the difference in class between us”. He returned trying to bowl like the charismatic Surrey player by pushing the ball through and “lost what I did naturally. It took me a couple of years to get it back”. Nevertheless, Stephen Chalke’s article revealed that his subject came desperately close to being selected as a replacement for the MCC tour of Australia in 1958-59.

DAVID “BUTCH” WHITE was in the MCC side for the first Test playing tour to Pakistan in 1961-62. It was a tour with an odd itinerary which started in Pakistan for the first Test, then went on to India for 5 Tests, then back to Pakistan for 2 more Tests, and finally on to Sri Lanka (then Ceylon). On his Test debut in the opening encounter at Lahore, the Hampshire fast bowler made effective use of the new ball as he, in a reprise of Shackleton’s performance a decade earlier, removed Hanif – despite his reputation never a great player of fast bowling – and Imtiaz, to leave Pakistan 24 for 2 on the first morning. He later removed tail-ender Mahmood Hussain. He finished with the highly creditable figures of 3 for 65 in 22 whole-hearted overs. His early intervention proved to be a crucial factor in England’s eventual five wicket victory. Injury then plagued him for the rest of the tour. He was either not selected or unavailable for selection for any of the Tests in India, where the wickets were generally tailored to spin bowling, and did not regain his place until the final Test of the tour at Karachi. He then broke down with a pulled muscle after bowling only 16 balls. He had, though, clean bowled Imtiaz with his first ball duck earlier. Playfair commented “Expected to be the spearhead of the attack and the fastest of the bowlers when the tour began, White failed to seize his chance, but the feeling was always there that had he himself and the people in charge made more effort to ensure that he was fit at all times he would have had amore successful tour”. Whilst these two Tests were the only ones in which he played – he enjoyed the consolation of finishing top of the tour averages.

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