

## NEWSLETTER No. 261 - FEBRUARY 2006

### MEETINGS

#### **Wednesday 8 February 2006 – Meeting**

The Society extends a very warm welcome to this evening's speaker, **STEPHEN GREEN**. He was curator of the MCC Museum and the librarian at Lord's for over thirty-five years before his retirement in September 2003. During that period he became the greatest authority on the history of cricket's most famous ground. Many authors also owed him a great debt of gratitude for his invaluable assistance in their research.

Mr. Green was the author of *Lord's: The Cathedral of Cricket* (pub. Tempus 2003), which is a sumptuous and beautifully illustrated history of the ground. He has also contributed a number of articles for *Playfair Cricket Monthly*, *The Cricketer Quarterly* and the *Journal of the Cricket Society*.

A native of the Isle of Wight and a lifelong Hampshire supporter, Mr. Green is making his second visit to the Society. His first appearance was at Basingstoke Sports Centre on 25 October 1979.

#### **Wednesday 7 December 2005 – Report**

David Morgan, Chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board, spoke to the Society's Annual Buffet Supper meeting at The Rose Bowl. He opened his address by stating that he had once travelled without any problems to the ground by public transport!

He talked about the corporate governance of both the English and world game, the convoluted events leading to the tour of Zimbabwe last winter, broadcasting rights, the Ashes series, the revamped County schedule in 2006 and other recent developments including the Chance To Shine initiative which was designed to develop cricket in state schools. Upon the conclusion of his address he faced a barrage of questions on topical issues from the floor.

#### **Wednesday 11 January 2006 – Meeting**

Kevan James hugely entertained members in his address at Test Valley Golf Club. He began by recalling his first county contract, with Middlesex, which was worth the princely sum of £800 per annum. Mike Brearley preferred older players but despite more sympathetic treatment from his successor, Mike Gatting, he found his progress compromised by the presence of Angus Fraser, Neil Williams and Norman Cowans. He therefore signed for Hampshire, to be joined by Raj Maru and Chris Goldie, now Chairman of Richmond Cricket Club.

He could not resist, of course, dwelling upon his great feats against India in 1996. It is now generally forgotten that he almost took a wicket with the fifth ball of his now famous sequence, Saurav Gangully surviving a very difficult chance to Paul Whitaker in the gully. The former Indian captain remembered the occasion when he met our speaker at a press conference at The Rose Bowl during the ICC Champions Trophy in 2004. He mentioned he did not really want to bowl, such was the benignness of the pitch. After dismissing Jadeja his captain, John Stephenson suggested a short-leg for Sachin Tendulkar. He was duly snaffled there. He mentioned that the crowd went suddenly quiet. He resolved to bowl straight to Dravid – lbw – and then had Marijrekar caught at slip driving.

After covering his last season with the County, when he astonishingly awoke one morning to find he had fallen out of love with the game, he moved onto his media career. He mentioned that local radio thrives on its good day-to-day relationship with its audience. He then gave a fascinating insight on the tensions between national and local radio.

Kevan James then fielded a lively question and answer session, laced with much good humoured banter with his attentive audience.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH 2006**

Notice of the **30<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting** of the Society to be held on **Wednesday 8 March** at **TEST VALLEY GOLF CLUB** at **7.30pm**.

Any resolutions and nominations for office and the Committee, duly proposed and seconded, should reach the Hon. Secretary at 1 Abbot Close, Basingstoke, RG22 6LA by 28 February 2006.

Please accept the above as formal notice.

### **OTHER NEWS FOR MARCH MEETING**

With Shaun Udal on the England tour of India, David Allen has kindly agreed to address the Society. David was programmed to interview Shaun, but will now be speaking himself. Members will recall an absorbing evening in his company last April.

If any member would like a meal for the March meeting would they please confirm with David Fish, Hon. Secretary on 01256 428645. Provision of meals will be dependent upon demand, so would members please contact David as soon as possible.

### **NEW HAMPSHIRE SIGNINGS**

Hampshire have signed Michael Carberry for next season.

At the age of only 25, he will be embarking on a career with his third County. On each occasion the move has been determined by lack of opportunity.

Born in Croydon on 29 September 1980, **MICHAEL ALEXANDER CARBERRY**, made his debut for Surrey in 2001. He started well scoring 311 runs (avge. 31.10) in 6 matches, which included an innings of 84 against Glamorgan at Sophia Gardens. In the following season, however, he found his way barred by others in Surrey's strong batting line-up and he played in only two matches. In one of these he made his maiden first-class century and highest score to date when he flogged the Cambridge University bowlers for an unbeaten 153 at Fenner's.

He therefore moved to Kent in 2003, and immediately scored a century on debut – 137 – again at Fenner's, making 109 of those before lunch on the first day. He played in the majority of Kent's matches that season, stroking 824 runs (avge. 35.82).

He started the following season in a rush, making centuries in the first two matches as Kent won both in run chases. In scoring 104 not out at Bristol he shared an unbeaten fourth wicket stand of 183 with Robert Key (119 not out). Wisden commented that both men made assured hundreds. In the next match Kent were set a target of 429 and romped home by 5 wickets. It was Kent's highest-ever fourth innings total. When their fourth wicket fell at 170 – they were at one stage 33 for 2 – victory still seemed a long way off. However, Carberry (112) and his fellow left-hander Matthew Walker (151 not out) then added 236 to guide Kent within sight of a famous victory. However, Carberry unluckily lost his place to overseas signing Michael Bevan later in the season, having scored 639 runs at the highly respectable average of 42.60. With Kent fielding two overseas players last season, he made no Championship appearance.

He therefore comes to Hampshire in search of more regular first-team cricket. Six feet tall, he has proved equally adept at opening the innings and batting in the middle-order. His two Championship hundreds have been made in the latter. He will face equally stiff competition at his new County but his record suggests that he is a talented batsman having scored 2044 runs at an average of 38.57. Strangely, perhaps, his record in one-day cricket is somewhat below his 4-day record but this may reflect the difficulties of lower middle-order batsmen having time to build an innings. It will be interesting to see how Hampshire intend to use him.

One noteworthy feature of his career to date is that he has never played against Hampshire in first-class cricket.

### **THE HAMPSHIRE LIBRARY**

Roy Edwin Marshall His Record Innings-By-Innings by Keith A.P. Sandiford (pub. ACS Publications)

This mini-biography is number 90 in the Association of Cricketers and Staticitians' Famous Cricketers Series. The only other two Hampshire cricketers to be featured hitherto have been Malcolm Marshall (no. 52) and E.G. Wynyard (no. 80).

The ACS commissioned the West Indian cricketer historian, Keith Sandiford, to write the work. The book is therefore strongest on Marshall's early career in the West Indies prior to joining Hampshire. Sandiford describes how he made his debut for Barbados, aged only 15 years 276 days at Port-of-Spain in January 1946 when Frank Worrell was too ill to play. Just over four years later he made a "truly sparkling" 191

against British Guiana in “one of the most attractive innings ever played” at Bridgetown. Such was the quality of that innings he completely overshadowed Clyde Walcott whilst they were at the wicket together, the latter contributing only 65 in a partnership of 175. His tours to England in 1950 and Australia and New Zealand in 1951-52 are also covered well. Marshall played, of course, his only four Tests of his career on that tour. Sandiford comments that he often seemed to lose concentration after batting fluently for about an hour. He was not alone but it seemed the predominantly Trinidad selection committee held it against him and when he was not selected for the Test team against India in 1952/53 upon the retirement of Allan Rae – the man whom he could reasonably have expected to replace – he decided to qualify for Hampshire. The author laments that Marshall was never given the opportunity to open the West Indies batting with Conrad Hunte and concludes that, after George Challoner, he was probably the greatest white West Indian batsman in the history of cricket in the Caribbean.

Two other interesting features of his early career were a successful tour with a Commonwealth XI to India in 1953/54 and the extent to which he bowled until his second year with Hampshire in 1956. Allied to his brilliant catching and fielding, it is clear that Marshall was a considerable all-round cricketer in his early years.

Though it is evident the author’s grasp of Hampshire cricket is more limited, Marshall’s enduring legacy is appropriately recognised. The reading of his seasons with the County resulted in an evocative trip down Memory Lane. Most of the Society’s members will have watched Hampshire during his years of splendid, heady strokeplay and will undoubtedly find it easy to recall and visualise the bespectacled Marshall putting County attacks to the sword in his own, inimitable, exciting manner.

### **DID ALEC KENNEDY THROW?**

The second **Wisden Collection**, edited by Jonathan Rice and published for the Christmas market, contains a wonderful miscellany of extracts of articles which originally appeared in the annual Almanack. This edition contains a chapter on those bowlers who have taken 2000 wickets. It therefore incorporates pieces on Jack Newman, Derek Shackleton and Alec Kennedy. The cameo on Kennedy is an extract from an article following his nomination as one of the Five Cricketers of the Year in 1933.

It states: Bowling with his hand very high, almost indeed directly above his head, Kennedy relied for his success on accuracy of length combined with an in-swing which, fortified by spin off the pitch, made him, on his day, a very difficult bowler against whom to prevail. It was this high delivery with a real or apparent flick which gave rise to the idea his action was open to question.

Very naturally he resented in most strenuous fashion the accusation but, unfortunately for him, there remained in the minds of the successive selection committees the germ of the suspicion. This probably has stood in the way of his being picked for a representative match in this country or for an England team going out to Australia.

This is the first occasion that the editor has seen any aspersions cast on the fairness of his action. It is interesting that no reference is made of it in the late Brian Bassano's book; Mann's Men – The M.C.C. Team in South Africa 1922-23 (pub. Ewell; J.W. McKenzie). This proved to be Kennedy's only Test series, in which he took 31 wickets (avge. 19.32). When England played their next series, at home against the same opponents in 1924, their opening attack comprised Arthur Gilligan and the great Maurice Tate who were both faster. Harold Larwood made his debut in the 1926 series. However, when England toured South Africa in 1927 – 28, Wally Hammond opened the bowling in all five Tests. His opening partners were George Geary, Wyatt (in 2 Tests) and Sam Staples. Neither Wyatt or Staples were remotely in Kennedy's class and Hammond was known to dislike long spells of bowling. It would seem, therefore, to add credence to Wisden's view. In ordinary circumstances, given his record in South Africa (he also toured with considerable success with Tennyson's team in 1924-25) and the non-availability of Tate and Larwood, Alec Kennedy should surely have been selected for that tour. There is no record that he turned down an invitation to do so.

Brian Bassano's book, though dry in narrative, as it is based on contemporary newspaper reports, is recommended reading for Hampshire followers as it is the only occasion that four of the County's players – Phil Mead, George Brown, Walter Livsey and Kennedy – were selected for an England tour.

### **JACK NEWMAN CENTENARY**

This year marks the centenary of Jack Newman's debut for Hampshire. He first played for the County at Edgbaston on 14 June 1906. He arrived to join his teammates at the breakfast table, after travelling virtually all night. Batting at 11, he made 4 before being bowled by Willy Quaife. As Warwickshire ran up a mammoth total of 493, Newman bowled 34 overs, taking 2 for 120. His first two victims were England wicketkeeper "Dick" Lilley and C.S. Baker.

He was retained for the next match against Kent at the Angel Ground, Tonbridge but suffered the misfortune (or was it a privilege?) of being savaged by the prodigal, hard-hitting Frank Woolley. The doyen of all left-handers (until at least the appearance of another Kent-born batsman, David Gower) stroked a sumptuous 116 in 90 minutes on his home ground. He did not have to exert himself too much by running between the wickets as 80 of his runs came in boundaries. It was Woolley's maiden century. For good measure he bowled out Hampshire with 6 for 46 in the second innings. Though Jack Newman went on to dismiss his opponent on 19 occasions – a tally exceeded only by Maurice Tate (27) – Hampshire decided not to play him again that season.

Jack Newman has claims to be one of the finest – if not the best – of all Hampshire-born cricketers to play for the County. Jimmy Gray, Trevor Jesty and Peter Sainsbury were undoubtedly better batsmen. However, none of these approached his final wicket-tally of 1946 wickets for the County, though Sainsbury finished with a slightly better average. Though the latter bowled nearly 1800 overs less than his predecessor, Newman took a wicket with his off-spin every 49.5 balls whilst Sainsbury needed to bowl another 19 balls for each of his dismissals.

Newman also still holds the distinction of returning one of the best ever all-round match figures for the County. In a game against Gloucestershire at Bournemouth Road in 1926 he scored 66 and 42 not out as well as taking 8 for 61 and 6 for 87. He also achieved the season's "double" on five occasions – another Hampshire record.

He is, of course, one of only three men to have claimed over 2000 wickets and yet never play Test cricket. His fellow unfortunates were also slow bowlers – George Dennett (slow left-arm) of Gloucestershire and, in more recent times, Don Shepherd (right-arm off-cutters) of Glamorgan.

Jack Newman was a highly strung character and was the first of all the great professionals in the first part of the last century to retire. After becoming an umpire, he emigrated to South Africa. Under the shadow of Table Mountain he was much cherished as a coach for the last 30 years of his life. He died in Cape Town on 21 December 1973, aged 89.

### **HAMBLETON'S 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

This year marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first authentic recorded mention of Hambledon cricket. The invaluable recent reprint of H.T. Waghorn's The Dawn of Cricket, taken from newspaper references of the day, contains the following:-

Aug. 28. This day will be played a match of cricket, in the Artillery Ground, between Faulkner, Joe Harris, John Frame, John Bell, and Durling, against 5 of the parish of Hambledon, in Hampshire, for £20 a side.

Aug. 30. This day will be played in the Artillery Ground, a match of cricket, between 11 of the Dartford Club, and 11 of the parish of Hambledon, it being the deciding match between the two elevens, for £50 a side, wickets to be pitched at 12 o'clock, match to be played out.

Sept. 6. This day will be played a match of cricket, between London and Dartford (who beat Hampshire 3 matches successively) for £50 a side.

The Hambledon epoch lasted exactly 50 years. The last recorded match at their traditional venues was one between Hampshire and England at Stoke Down from 25 – 28 August in 1806, and was played for the benefit of Andrew Freemantle. Fittingly, the County with Beldham and Lambert as given men, defeated England by nine wickets. The beneficiary top-scored with 49. Some of the players with bona fide Hambledon connections, including Freemantle and John Small junior, played for Hampshire and indeed, England, at Lord's until 1910 but this was the last important and notable match to be played on Hampshire soil for seventeen years.

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