

NEWSLETTER NO. 263 - APRIL 2006

COLIN INGLEBY-MACKENZIE

The passing of our Patron, Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, on 9 March came as a great shock both to the Hampshire public and the wider cricketing world. He was a very special man – a complete “one-off”. He was one of those rare people who seemed to breeze through life as if they did not have a care in the world. He possessed an engaging, charismatic personality and immense charm. Life was for living to the full. The mere recollection of his memory will bring an inevitable smile to the face.

He was a captain who was never afraid to risk losing in pursuit of victory. Possessor of the instincts of a born gambler, he was a master on keeping the opposition interested in a run chase, whilst maximising his own team’s chance of winning the match. His intrinsic warm heartedness, integrity and persuasive powers were valuable assets in negotiating declarations with opposing captains. There were very few who were not persuaded to make a game of it in the interest of their side and, above all, the spectators. Counties liked games against Hampshire in his era as they played cricket in the right spirit, allied to which Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie was one of the most loved men on the county circuit. He never lost sight of the fact that although winning was the prime objective, cricket was also a game to be enjoyed.

Some of his philosophical statements have passed into cricket legend. His assertions that the team’s success was founded on “wine, women and song” and that one of his few disciplinary rules was that his team “be in bed by breakfast” have stood the test of time. These catchphrases are still readily recalled, and not only in Hampshire. There was also the occasion when, whilst on an overseas tour, the Manager was concerned about his team’s nocturnal conviviality. He suggested, on the eve of one important match, that the players ought to be in bed by 11 o’clock. His irrepressible captain, with that permanent twinkle in his eye, responded with the quip “but the match starts at 11.30”. Umpires also became used to requests to put his transistor radio in their pocket so he could learn the racing results during the afternoon’s play.

He was a natural to lead ambassadorial teams abroad. In his career he captained teams to all parts of the globe, making friends and enhancing the game’s interest and image in the process.

It was predestined that he would one day become a highly influential President of MCC. His networking skills and force of personality were to culminate in women being able to become MCC members and gain access to the hallowed pavilion at Lord’s. Indeed, this achievement, and Hampshire’s winning of the first ever County Championship in 1961 will be his enduring legacy.

Of average height, he was a left-handed batsman who tended to score his runs at a hectic pace if given the room to free his arms to allow him to drive handsomely and pull and cut with relish. Typically, when he made the season’s fastest century- in only 61 minutes – in 1958, he had spent the previous day with his great friend Leo Harrison enjoying Royal Ascot, and only eventually crept into bed at 6.30 that morning!

Two matches in that unforgettable Championship season illustrated his approach to the game. In very wet conditions at Portsmouth in the match against Gloucestershire, the visitors were the only team to complete their innings by the start of the last day. It seemed as if only first innings bonus points were at stake. To the utter incredulity of Roy Marshall and Jimmy Gray, their Captain declared the Hampshire innings at 96 for no wicket - still 80 runs behind Gloucestershire. The latter then set Hampshire a target of 199 in 137 minutes – a rate of 88 runs per hour. Though wickets fell at regular intervals, Hampshire secured victory with two wickets and 2 minutes to spare. Henry Horton and the Captain (51) led the charge, before fast bowler Butch White with a robust 33 not out in only twenty minutes, brought home the spoils.

Later on, Hampshire badly needed a victory in the match against Essex at Cowes. Trevor Bailey, the Essex captain, was always one of those who resisted Ingleby-Mackenzie's overtures with the result that the matches between the two counties tended to be hard fought but boring affairs. Essex gained a first innings lead of 90, and probably influenced by the fact that Marshall had injured a hamstring, Bailey set Hampshire 240 to win in 215 minutes on a wicket that was breaking up. The County lost their first four wickets for only 35 runs with Bailey taking two of them. Undaunted, Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie took up the challenge to play the innings of his life. He made a career best 132 not out in only 140 minutes as Hampshire romped home by four wickets. He was ably assisted by Danny Livingstone, Alan Wassell, and, at the death, Marshall. The latter batted with the aid of a runner and was restricted in movement. Nevertheless, Hampshire's two most celebrated strokemakers majestically added a final 72 runs in just 44 minutes.

It was little wonder that Derek Shackleton later stated that the County could not have won the Championship without Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie.

MEETINGS

Wednesday 5 April 2006 - Meeting

The Society is delighted to welcome former Hampshire favourite, Mike Taylor, to this evening's meeting. Many will remember him for his membership of that great Hampshire side in the 1970's, when the County enjoyed the most successful period in their history. They won the County Championship in 1973, were cruelly deprived by rain of a reprise the following year, and were third in 1975, when they won the John Player League. They then won that competition again in 1978. Only a Lord's final eluded them.

Mike Taylor was a vital all-round cog in that side. Strongly built, with broad powerful shoulders, he was an accurate first-change right arm medium-pace bowler who compelled the batsman to play virtually every ball. He was an adaptable late middle-order batsman, happiest when his uncomplicated style enabled him to clatter quick runs, yet also be able to defend and support his colleagues when the occasion demanded. He also possessed a safe pair of hands in the field; he missed very little. He was a model professional, proud to play the game and who always gave his all. Always approachable, he smiled readily.

MICHAEL NORMAN SOMERSET TAYLOR was born in Amersham on 12 November 1942 and played for his native Buckinghamshire in 1961 and 1962 before making his Nottinghamshire debut in 1964. He went on to play in 230 matches for them until 1972 when, surprisingly, he was released. Hampshire snapped him up and he immediately became a lynchpin in the side. Mike Taylor's experience was invaluable throughout that period and beyond. In the Championship winning side of 1973 it was his nagging accuracy (in his formative years he studied Derek Shackleton whenever possible) that kept the pressure on opposing batsmen after Bob Herman and Tom Mottram had made the early breakthrough. He adapted his batting to suit the situation. In the three-day game he was technically correct and played very straight. In one-day cricket, it was often a quick 20 or 30 runs from his bat that gave Hampshire totals respectability. Some of his hitting, emanating from a strong and foursquare frame could be quite spectacular, particularly on the leg side. When he retired in 1980 he had played in 375 matches, scored 8031 runs (avge. 19.97), including three centuries, took 830 wickets (avge. 26.52) and held 213 catches. His Hampshire figures were 145 matches, 3646 runs (avge. 22.93), 2 centuries, 308 wickets (avge. 24.21) and 75 catches.

His highest score was 105 for Nottinghamshire against Lancashire at Trent Bridge in 1967, the year he won his first county cap. However, it must have been his best bowling performance that gave him the most satisfaction. On a difficult Basingstoke pitch, where the ball often kept low, he swept away seven Notts. batsmen for 23 in 1977. There was another occasion when his previous County must have wished they had not released him. In 1974, over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend, the Hampshire pace trio of Andy Roberts, Bob Herman and our speaker demolished Nottinghamshire for only 98, with the latter taking 5 for 29. However, Hampshire, with the exception of Barry Richards, did not find batting much easier. When Mike Taylor joined Richards they were precariously placed at 118 for 6. However, they saw out the day at 192 for 6 with Richards, batting sublimely, on 110 and Mike Taylor on 39. The next morning they took their stand to 202, before our speaker was dismissed for 68. It was the second highest individual score in the match. The brilliant South African finished unbeaten on 225 out of a total of 344. The opposition thought it was the best good-wicket (!) innings they saw all season. Gordon Greenidge, run out for 14, was the only other Hampshire batsman to reach double figures. Mike Taylor still wasn't finished; he then took 2 for 33 when Notts. batted again. Hampshire eventually romped home by an innings and 101 runs. Notts. combined innings total of 243 was only marginally better than Richards' epic.

1974 was Mike Taylor's best season with the ball for Hampshire. He took 72 wickets (avge. 17.48) – eight more than when the County won the Championship in the preceding year.

His best season as a bowler overall, however, was in 1968 when he took 99 wickets (avge. 21.00). He was deprived of the much-valued century of victims when his great friend, Bob White, bowled Glamorgan's Don Shepherd in the final innings of the season. This was the famous match in which Gary Sobers hit Malcolm Nash for 6 sixes in an over. He has always reserved a special place in his affections for the great West Indian all-rounder, whose attacking instincts accorded with his own philosophy.

His most productive season with the bat was in 1978 when he scored 770 runs (avge. 38.50).

He then gave Hampshire splendid service off the field. He had been appointed Assistant Secretary in 1979 and then became Marketing Manager before his retirement in 2002. He presided over a period when the County's commercial income increased out of all proportion to previous sums, and introduced the highly successful Executive Club. He thus enjoyed a working life of almost 40 years in the game. His twin brother, Derek, gave Somerset loyal service as wicket-keeper between 1970 and 1982.

Wednesday 8 March 2006 – Report

At the start of the meeting members stood for a minute's silence in memory of Phil Lockett.

David Allen provided Society members with another highly entertaining evening in his company as he lead a discussion on establishing Hampshire's 40 greatest players. This was part of a consultation exercise which will eventually lead to the selected 40 being celebrated in banners around the Rose Bowl. During the evening, David's discourse on players and events rang a real chord with his audience, particularly when he touched upon the Championship winning side of 1961 and that wonderful team lead by Richard Gilliat in the 1970s.

AGM NEWS

There were three important events at the Society's AGM. The first was that Les Needs will be standing down as Honorary Treasurer on 31 December 2006. Those who receive emails from Les informing them of membership details etc. will be aware just how efficiently and conscientiously he has filled that role. The Society is fortunate in that Brian Smith has kindly agreed to step in to succeed Les. Brian was previously honorary secretary on a temporary basis three years ago and so he will be no stranger to the Society's affairs.

John Young and Andy Ray were re-elected to the Committee for a further term. The Committee is also very pleased to welcome Tony Atkinson to their ranks; he fills a vacancy on the Committee, which will now be at full strength again.

Finally, members agreed subscription increases from £8 to £10, and from £5 to £7 to members of retirement age. The changes were necessary due to increased postage and printing costs of the Newsletter, allied to a drop in income from subscriptions.

PUNDITS FOR PAKISTAN AAQIB JAVED

Those that thought the telescoped nature of tours in the modern era would preclude further publication of the traditional tour book will be heartened by **Pundits from**

Pakistan by Rahul Bhattacharya (pub. Picador - price £8.99). He covers India's tour to Pakistan in 2003-04. It is a wonderful account of the 5 – week visit. The author's descriptive powers may not quite match those of Alan Ross in Australia 55, but it has a comparable evocative atmosphere as he reviews Pakistan's political history, which embraces the effect of the invasion of neighbouring Afghanistan, aspects of social and cultural life in that country, as well as the thrilling one-day internationals and Test series, and affectionate, but insightful portraits of many of the participants. He also interviews Pakistani cricketers past and present, including Aaqib Javed to whom he devotes 14 highly entertaining and informative pages. The former Hampshire pace bowler who, of course, played for the County in the Nat. West triumph of 1981, recalls how he started in the game, his unusual and early entry into the international side, highlights of his career, and his retirement, hastened by internal politics and match fixing, when aged only 28. However, his life since then is an uplifting tale, without rancour and bitterness. Bhattacharya describes how the "uncoached youngster" was instrumental in the establishment of one of six national coaching academies in his home town of Sheikhpura, and, how, as a youth coach, he oversaw "some of Pakistan's most consistent successes at the junior level". He has also become a much-respected coach of pace bowlers.

Aaqib comes across as an intelligent, articulate, conscientious and thoroughly likeable individual. Married, he started his own fish-farming business in 1997. Initially, the venture struggled but through diligent application – a facet which he attributes to his cricket career and outlook on life – it is now improving.

It is impossible to over-praise the book. It is an extremely well written, fascinating, and utterly compelling read. Coupled with Ramachandra Guha's **A Corner of a Foreign Field**, Indian authors are creating a rich cricketing literary heritage indeed.

REVIEW OF THE WINTER

This winter has been an emotional roller-coaster ride for Hampshire cricket supporters. The highlight was undoubtedly Shaun Udal's bowling performance at Mumbai in the final Test against India. He had received a baptism of fire on the Pakistan tour when Imzamam-ul-haq, Yousuf Mohammed and, perhaps more tellingly, Shahid Afridi never let him settle after his initial impressive outing in Multan. He was struck down by a virulent stomach disorder virtually upon landing in India in the New Year and, at one stage, had to receive hospital treatment. He therefore missed the first two Tests, and was obviously short of practice in the Indian first innings at Mumbai. However, as "Shaggy" has done so often for Hampshire, he took full advantage of a wearing fourth innings pitch. He will surely regard dismissing Sachin Tendulkar, caught off a defensive prod at short-leg, as the most prized and cherished wicket of his career. Hampshire followers will have recalled Andy Roberts and Malcolm Marshall decimating batting orders when playing in Tests for the West Indies whilst with the County – both were phenomenally successful on the Indian sub-continent – but one has to go back as far as 1895-96 for Hampshire bowlers returning a match-winning spell for England. On Lord Hawke's tour to South Africa, Colin Heseltine (5-38) at the Old Wanderers ground in Johannesburg and A.J.L. Hill (4 – 8, bowling lobs) at Newlands, Cape Town, were both instrumental in wrapping up the South African batting line-up to secure

overwhelming innings victories. However, Hawke's team were by no means a representative England side and the South African batting, though it included Hampshire's R.M. Poore, was very weak. Shaun Udal's feat therefore stands apart in the annals of the County's cricket history.

Kevin Pietersen batted divertingly in all six Tests. He always demanded attention and recorded a thrilling century at Rawalpindi. He will have learnt much over the winter.

The winter was also a sad one, with the death of three great Hampshire stalwarts. Gerry Hill, who lived virtually all his life in the New Forest, died in his beloved Lyndhurst on 31 January, aged 92. All of his 571 first-class appearances between 1932 and 1934 were for Hampshire. He was an off-spin bowler, who though once hit for 32 runs in an over by Glamorgan's Cyril Smart in 1939, took 617 wickets for the County. However, his name remains more positively in the Hampshire record book for his record fifth wicket partnership of 235 with David Walker against Sussex at Portsmouth in 1935. He was a man who thoroughly valued his time in the county game and his great love of cricket and his fellow cricketers was demonstrated in David Allen's long interview with him in the Hampshire Handbook for 2003.

Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie died some five weeks later (see elsewhere in this Newsletter) and, then, towards the end of March, it was announced that Bernard Harrison had died in Basingstoke. He was a fine all-round sportsman – he was also a professional footballer – whose reminiscences were captured by Kevin Smallbone in the aptly titled "Brushes with the Greats". He played under Ingleby-Mackenzie, as a replacement for the injured Roy Marshall, in the Championship winning side of 1961. An attractive right-hand batsman, he would surely have played more often in another era. He was possibly the finest batsman ever produced in North Hampshire club cricket. He remained a tower of strength for Basingstoke and North Hants for many years. Bernie Harrison was a supporter of the Society in its formative years, and was an expert on Hampshire Second XI cricket, for whom he was consigned to play so often. He played in 14 matches for the County between 1957 and 1962, making 110 against Oxford University at Portsmouth in that Championship summer.