

NEWSLETTER No. 268 – DECEMBER 2006

Wednesday 6 December 2006 – Meeting

Our speaker for the Society's 30th Anniversary Celebration Dinner needs little introduction. **SHAUN UDAL** has been a virtually omnipresent part of the Hampshire cricket scene since his debut in 1989.

Only ten men have taken more wickets in first-class cricket for the County and just six in all cricket. Only Jack Newman, Stuart Boyes and Peter Sainsbury have been more prolific among spin-bowlers. Newman is, of course, the only other off-spin bowler in that group.

Shaun Udal is, however, the only one of them to play Test cricket. The last year or so has been the most memorable of his eighteen year career. After triumphantly lifting the C & G Trophy at Lord's as the winning Hampshire captain, he was selected for the England tour of Pakistan. England decided to play two spin bowlers in the first two Tests and he was thus awarded his Test cap at Multan. At 36 years 239 days he became England's oldest Test debutant since John Childs in 1988. The Pakistanis are, of course, wonderful players of spin bowling and his baptism was therefore a fiery one as he had to counter the attacking instincts of Younis Khan, Mohammad Yousuf, Inzamam-ul-Haq and, most testing of all, the irrepressible Shahid Afridi. They never let him, or Ashley Giles, settle on a length. After the latter's departure through injury he played in the final Test in Lahore and was retained for the tour of India early this year.

He was laid low in hospital shortly after arrival and Monty Panesar and Ian Blackwell were selected as the spin pairing for the first Test at Nagpur. Blackwell gave way to Liam Plunkett at Mohali but our speaker then returned, in spectacular fashion, for the final Test in Mumbai. With the wicket becoming ever more receptive to spin he sent England on their way to a famous victory, and drawn series, when he enticed Sachin Tendulkar to edge to Ian Bell at short leg. It was a fine piece of bowling as his flighted off-break bit on the surface and then turned. It was the defining moment of the match and, indeed, Shaun Udal's career. The innings then folded in very short order, with our speaker finishing with figures of four for 14 in 9.2 overs.

Panesar, of course, gained precedence in the summer's series, but he gained some consolation by leading Hampshire to promotion in the Pro 40 Play-off match against Glamorgan just a few weeks ago.

Shaun Udal has given the County wonderful and loyal services and the Society is very proud to welcome one of Hampshire's finest sons to this special occasion tonight.

SHAUN UDAL CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 1987 Made 2nd XI debut.
- 1988 Joined Hampshire staff.
- 1989 Made debut v. Oxford University in The Parks.
- 1990 Made Championship debut v. Sussex at Arundel taking 4 for 144 in 43 overs in first innings.
- 1991 Received Nat. West Final winners medal.
- 1992 Returned career-best bowling figures of 8 for 50 against Sussex at Southampton. Awarded County cap.
- 1993 Took 74 wickets – a career best. In the winning Hampshire side v. Kent in the Benson and Hedges Cup Final. Elected HCS Player of the Year.
- 1994 International limited-overs debut for England v. South Africa; played 2 matches.
- 1994-95 On England tour of Australia (played in a further 8 limited-overs internationals)
- 1995-96 On England A tour to Pakistan.
- 1997 Scored 117 not out against Warwickshire at Southampton – only first-class century to date.
- 1998 Appointed Hampshire vice-captain. Captained Hampshire for the first-time in Axa League match (under floodlights) against Warwickshire at Edgbaston, and then ensuing Championship match there.
- 2001 Won Players' Player of the Season award.
- 2002 Benefit Year. Wins Players' Player award again and elected HCS Player of the Year. Member of winning Hampshire team against the Australians; he carried a depleted bowling attack in the second innings when his 4 – 149 in 47.1 overs (in stifling heat) contributed significantly to Hampshire's eventual triumph.
- 2004 Captained Hampshire in Shane Warne's absence.
- 2005 Captain of Hampshire's C & G Trophy winning side at Lord's. Season's best bowling average – 18.90 (44 wickets). Was rewarded with selection of England winter tour of Pakistan.
- 2005-06 In Pakistan and then India with England touring party. Made Test debut at the age of 36; played in 4 Tests (3 v. Pakistan and 1 v. India) and made return to England's limited-overs side.
- 2006 Captain of winning Hampshire side in Pro 40 Play-off Final as the County gain promotion to Division 1 of that competition.