

# THE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Shaun Udal

NEWSLETTER NO. 366 – NOVEMBER 2017

## MEETINGS

### Wednesday 22 November 2017 - Meeting

Our speaker this afternoon, Alan Butcher, has spent a lifetime in the game. Members will recall him as one of the most prolific of county batsmen over a period of 20 years. He then extended his cricket career as a coach. He played his first matches for Surrey as a left-arm medium-pace bowler and in only his third game, in July 1972, he left his mark on Surrey's match with Hampshire at Guildford. In the first innings, he took six for 48. Five of those wickets were ones to savour: Richards, Greenidge, Roy Marshall, Sainsbury and Jesty. The last was Bob Herman. Those figures were to remain the best of his career.

By 1975, he was opening the innings on occasions, and was awarded his county cap. He was chosen for a test trial in 1976 and scored one thousand runs in a season for the first time in 1979; he repeated the feat in every season thereafter, apart from 1986, until 1991. He was an enterprising left-handed batsman who possessed a full range of strokes. He was strong off the back foot and a fine player of fast bowling. His back foot play would undoubtedly have been influenced by his five years in Australia, where he was selected for South Australia Under-15s.

After his consistent performances in 1979, he was selected for the final test against India at The Oval. He scored 14 and 20, but, in the eyes of many, he was most unfortunate not to be picked again.

Whilst with Surrey, he played in three Lord's Cup Finals, in 1974, 1980 and 1982. In the first, against Leicestershire in the Benson and Hedges Cup, which Surrey won, he bowled economically. In the last he scored 86 not out as his team romped to a nine wicket victory against Warwickshire in the Nat West Bank Trophy competition. Surrey lost to Middlesex in the Gillette Cup (the forerunner to the NWT) in 1980.

He seemed an integral part of the Surrey scene and it came as a surprise when they chose not to offer him a new contract after his uncharacteristic indifferent season in 1986. Glamorgan offered him a guarantee of a first team place and so he moved there for the rest of his career. With Surrey, he had formed a successful opening partnership with Graeme Clinton. He now entered into another, with Hugh Morris. Coincidentally, both men, like our speaker, were left handers. He was appointed captain in 1989. His batting continued to improve. In 1989 and 1990, he was the first Englishman to reach the thousand run landmark. In the latter year, he recorded a season's best 2116 runs, which led to him being one of *Wisden's* Five Cricketers of the Year. In 1992, he incurred a serious calf injury that eventually led to his retirement from the game. He wasn't, though, quite finished. In 1998, with Surrey short of players due to injuries, he reappeared in one match. On the same day as his return, his son, Mark, made his maiden test century against South Africa. In 1991,

the pair had created a county record when they were on opposite sides in a Sunday League match between Surrey and Glamorgan at The Oval. Mark was making his Surrey debut.

Alan Butcher was, of course, one of a cricketing dynasty. His brother, Ian, enjoyed a career as an all-rounder with Leicestershire and Gloucestershire between 1980-1990 and another, Martin, played for Surrey in one match in 1982. His other son, Gary, played for Glamorgan between 1994 and 1998. Moreover, one of his daughters, Bryony, has played for Essex and Devon Women's sides.

After he left Glamorgan, he became coach at Essex and Surrey. More notably, perhaps, he coached Zimbabwe between 2010-2013, and oversaw their re-entry to test cricket in August 2011, after a six year self-imposed exile following the departure of many of that very talented team in the first years of the Millenium. He wrote about his experiences in Zimbabwe in a highly regarded book *The Good Murungu: A Cricket Tale of the Unexpected* (pub. 2016).

**ALAN ROY BUTCHER** was born in Croydon on 7 January 1954. He made 22667 runs (avge. 36.32) in first-class cricket, including 46 centuries - the highest of which was 216 not out against Cambridge University at Fenner's in 1980. He also scored a further 8807 runs (7 centuries) in List A matches. Latterly, he bowled occasional slow left-arm spin and finished his first-class career with 141 wickets (avge.38.53), and a further 75 wickets in List A matches. His respective figures for catches held were 185 (85).

The Society is pleased to welcome such a distinguished and highly respected cricketer to our meeting this afternoon.

### **Wednesday 18 October 2017 – Report**

It was sad that so few members were able to attend and hear Simon Young's address. He took as his theme the power of sport, and cricket in particular, to transform communities and lives, to contribute to social inclusion and to provide hope and opportunity. He gave many examples of how all these issues were being achieved in Hampshire. St. Cross and Langley Park Cricket Clubs were working with communities and Portsmouth Cricket Club were giving opportunities to two young Afghan men, aiding their integration into Society. There were "Memory Days" at the Ageas Bowl for people with neurological conditions and their carers so that they could watch cricket, and handle bats and balls, which produced unexpected results. After a while, one man with dementia spread his fingers across the seam; another took up a bat and spoke about the similarities between cricket and golf. Muscle memory had come into play. People became less withdrawn and started to communicate with each other. Visitors from Essex and Somerset had also participated during Hampshire's home matches with those Counties. Through those days, families had conversations that they may never have had at home. It was truly inspirational work. If any member of the Society would like further information on this work, please contact Simon at [info.1864@gmail.com](mailto:info.1864@gmail.com) or telephone 07547003352.

## **SOCIETY NEWS**

### **HCS PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

Society members have voted **KYLE ABBOTT** as their Player of the Year for 2017 by a substantial margin.

### **OBITUARY - KEN BLOWE**

Society members will be sad to learn that Ken Blowe has passed away. Ken was a marvellous stalwart of the Society, serving as Committee member, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer. Until recently, he was a regular presence at meetings; he was always unfailingly cheerful and possessed a fund of stories. Ken will also be known to Hampshire supporters generally as he was one of the team in the club shop at the County Ground and the Ageas Bowl for many years.

### **OBITUARY – TONY BAKER**

Many members will probably also be aware that Tony Baker has died after a long illness, aged 77. He was Hampshire's Mr. Cricket. He was an outstanding all-rounder for Old Tauntonians in Southern League cricket during the 1960s and 70s, and once took ten wickets in an innings (10-26) as OTs defeated Netley Central in a Cup Final in Southampton's Parks. He also played for Hampshire 2<sup>nd</sup> XI. He served in various administrative roles for the Southern League, OTs, and Southampton Touring Club (for whom he played on Sundays). After serving as Hampshire's honorary (!) treasurer for eight years, he became Chief Executive of Hampshire in 1986. He held that position for 15 years. It was during that period that he managed Hampshire's relocation from the County Ground to the Ageas Bowl.

He addressed the Society at its Annual Buffet Supper on 12 December 1990. The Society had much for which to thank him. Through his good offices, his accountancy firm, Brooking, Knowles and Lawrence, sponsored the Society for some years. Also, whilst at Northlands Road, he kindly arranged for the printing of the Society's Newsletter.

### **MICHAEL CARBERRY**

Michael Carberry's departure to Leicestershire on loan at the end of August, with the aim to a longer term move, was so low key that many Hampshire supporters did not know he had left. There was the normal bland corporate statement thanking him for his services and expressing best wishes in the future. His departure was allegedly about a dispute regarding the terms of the renewal of his contract at the end of the season. It was a sad parting of the ways for a popular man, who had given so much to the club over a 12-year period, and to whom the club had been so supportive through two life-threatening illnesses, to leave.

Statistically, he has left a substantial legacy. The majority of his career for the club was played out in Division One of the Championship. His performances in the Division, increasingly regarded as an acid test of true quality, will form a benchmark for his successors. He is one of only four men to score a triple century for Hampshire. He scored more centuries (20) in Division One than any other Hampshire player. His average in those matches (42.52) has been exceeded only by

John Crawley, and only Jimmy Adams, who has played in 23 more matches, is ahead of his runs total (7740). He also scored a one thousand runs in a Division One season on four occasions, more than any other Hampshire batsman. In 2009, he scored four centuries in successive matches, and two years earlier, registered a hundred in each innings against Worcestershire at Kidderminster.

His reliability was appreciated by HCS members. They voted him their Player of the Year four times, a record for the award since it was instituted in 1982.

It was not only the runs he scored that appealed. It was the way that he made them. He cut an imposing figure at the crease. Six feet tall, broad shouldered and shaven headed, he resembled a left-handed Viv Richards in build and stature. He invariably built an innings, but once set he drove powerfully off the front foot, and cut and hooked with relish. Perhaps his most memorable shot was the pull, as – Greenidge like – he swivelled on his back leg to despatch the ball through the on-side.

His figures and performances become even more impressive when it is considered that he did not play for Hampshire until he was 25 years old. He had batted consistently for Surrey and Kent beforehand, but found his way barred by test players at the former and an overseas signing at the latter. His sheer weight of runs was rewarded in six test appearances, against Bangladesh (1) and Australia (5), all abroad. He batted gamely on the ill-fated tour Down Under in 2013/14 when Mitchell Johnson was irresistible. He was third in the England averages and only Kevin Pietersen scored more runs. Moreover, outside of the tests, he made scores of 78, 153, 4 and 50 – hardly a failure. He never played for England again. Perhaps his age (33) counted against him.

As mentioned above, he has also suffered two life-threatening illnesses. Towards the end of 2010, after being selected for the Lions Tour of the West Indies, he was diagnosed with blood clots on his lungs. He did not play again until July 2011. In only his third match after his return, he made 300 not out in 510 minutes against Yorkshire at the Rose Bowl (as it was then called), in an epic third wicket partnership of 523 in 475 minutes with Neil McKenzie (237), a record stand for that wicket in the history of the County Championship. Wisden described it as “an astonishing feat of endurance”.

Half way through the 2016 season, he was diagnosed with cancer. Facing yet another challenge with great fortitude, to the surprise of many, he was back on the field at the start of last season. However, after scoring a century against Cardiff UCCE and 99 against Middlesex, he struggled, before succumbing to injury. When he went to Leicestershire at the end of the season he was obviously out of sorts, perhaps not surprisingly given the events of the previous few months. He has signed a two year contract with his new county and will be captain in 2018. He will undoubtedly receive excellent support from the effervescent Paul Nixon, recently appointed as coach.

No appreciation of Michael Carberry would be complete without mention of his batting in both forms of limited overs cricket. Time and again, he took on some of the best bowlers in the world by advancing down the wicket to use his immense power to lift them straight over the boundary boards. If they pitched short, he

hooked thrillingly. He had no need to improvise; in fact, he looked ill at ease when he did. The force of his strokes was enough to defeat whatever field was set for him. His extraordinary innings of 68 off just 36 balls (with five sixes) on a slow, sluggish pitch at Hove was the main contributory factor of Hampshire reaching the CB Final at Lord's in 2012. He made three Lord's Finals appearances and was in both sides when Hampshire were t20 champions in 2010 and 2012.

In all matches for Hampshire, Michael Carberry scored 16862 runs, took 21 wickets with his right-arm off-break bowling and held 137 catches. His first-class aggregate of 10277 runs (avge. 42.64) is bettered only by Jimmy Adams in the four-day era. No batsman currently approaches his 28 centuries for the club in four-day cricket. One suspects that tally will remain a record for some years to come. He also made six centuries in white ball cricket and with Michael Lumb, Adams and Vince is one of four men to pass the hundred mark in all formats.

### **WILL SMITH**

Another player to leave Hampshire is Will Smith who has returned to Durham for 2018.

He has left a host of good memories during his four year stay with Hampshire. He was a firm favourite with the County supporters for his loyalty and sheer enthusiasm. He was the apotheosis of the team player. He brought energy to the side in the field, even on days of soporific heat when all around him were flagging. His unstinting loyalty was illustrated last season. With his place in the first team blocked by two overseas signings, he captained the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI and, to wide acclaim, led his young charges to the Southern Division title. He also scored runs and centuries along the way. He clearly had much to offer. He was given only one first team opportunity against South Africa A, despite the inconsistency of the top order batting throughout the season. Ironically, with absences during September, when he might have earned a deserved recall, he himself was injured.

In his first season with Hampshire, in 2014, he skipped to 1187 runs (avge 51.60). His efforts were recognised by his colleagues when they nominated him as their Player of the Year. He scored two centuries. The first was 151 not out against Essex at the Ageas Bowl, during which he put on 387 for the third wicket with James Vince (240). His other hundred exemplified all his qualities. He always sold his wicket dearly. In the penultimate match of the season against Kent at home, Hampshire faced a large deficit to save the match. Smith opened, and wickets fell around him at regular intervals throughout the innings. When the ninth wicket fell, Hampshire were only 77 runs in front with overs to spare. However, in company with James Tomlinson, he batted for a further 12 overs before Kent called it a day. He was unbeaten on 142 out of a total of 248 for nine. The five points gained from the draw eventually enabled Hampshire to be promoted as champions of Division 2.

Given his lack of opportunity last season, it is worth recording his efforts in 2016. He was the only man to play in all championship matches, and captained the side when James Vince was on test duty. He also made his career best score of 210 against Lancashire at the Ageas Bowl, batting for nine and a half hours. Hampshire had been thrashed by Lancashire by an innings at Old Trafford three months earlier. He ensured there was no repetition.

In white ball cricket, he made important contributions with his canny right arm slow bowling. He was an integral part of the side that reached t20 finals day in both 2014 and 2015.

He will be a great asset to Durham as they attempt to rebuild following their grotesque treatment after the 2016 season, which still incenses neutral cricket followers all over the country. Hampshire supporters are sure to be reviewing his progress and rejoice when he, and Durham, have succeeded. Hampshire players are bound to miss his racing tips. His equine knowledge is encyclopaedic. He has been a member of television racing teams for some years. When he eventually retires as a player he will have more than one potential career ahead of him.

In all matches for Hampshire, Will Smith scored 3913 runs, took 52 wickets and held 56 catches. In first-class cricket, he made 2982 runs (avge. 37.74).

## **HAMPSHIRE NEWS**

It seems that **REECE TOPLEY** is still in the minds of the England selectors. With six others, he will be in this year's ECB Pace Programme in South Africa, Southern Spain and Loughborough. It will be an opportunity for Topley to regain full fitness. In two years with Hampshire, he has figured in only three championship matches taking two wickets for 178 runs. In his matches last season it was clear that he was devoid of confidence and was very tentative when he bowled. There was little body action as he delivered the ball. He bowled as if he expected to get injured. Just as he was beginning to look more assertive, he broke down again. Physically and psychologically he has much ground to make up.

**BRAD TAYLOR** has been a largely forgotten figure in 2017 as he suffered freakish injuries for much of the season. However, the young off-spin bowler, who played with distinction for England Under 19s has not been lost sight of by the ECB hierarchy. He has been selected with Andrew Salter of Glamorgan – another off spinner – for “overseas placement” in Wellington, New Zealand.

**LIAM DAWSON, RILEE ROSSOUW and KYLE ABBOTT** will be playing in the Bangladesh Premier League. As regards Abbott, besides being the Society's Player of the Year, the Hampshire players have voted likewise. He was also included in the Professional Cricketers' Association Team of the Year for 2017 and finished third in the PCA's Most Valuable Player rankings.

**JIMMY ADAMS, FIDEL EDWARDS, CHRIS WOOD and BRAD TAYLOR** have signed one year contracts.

**GARETH BERG** was in the MCC squad for the Hong Kong Sixes tournament.

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