

THE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Shaun Udal James Tomlinson

NEWSLETTER No. 370 – MARCH 2018 (1)

Wednesday 7 March 2018 – Meeting

The Society extends a warm welcome to representatives of the Southern Vipers Womens' Cricket team to this evening's meeting. The orange clad Vipers have made a considerable mark in the Kia Super League, winning the inaugural competition in 2016 and then being runners-up last season. Local cricket followers have been fortunate to watch two of the greatest women's cricketers in the modern game in Charlotte Edwards and the New Zealander Suzie Bates.

Partly through the influence of The Vipers, and aided by thriving sections at Cove and Hursley Park Cricket Clubs in particular, women's cricket in the County has made remarkable progress in recent years. St. Cross in Winchester also now have a burgeoning junior section. Hampshire Women's team has leapt from the fourth to the first division of the County Championship in six years. 2018 will be the first time that Hampshire Women have ever played in the Division One.

SOCIETY NEWS

DAY AT THE CRICKET

Those members who are on the internet will already have received notice that the Society's Day at the Cricket has been organised for Saturday 9th June, which is the first day of Hampshire's Championship match against Surrey. More details will be posted on the Society's website, and given in the Newsletter, in due course.

OBITUARY

RICHARD MALLINSON

Members will be sad to learn that Richard Mallinson passed away peacefully at home on 15 January. Richard was a great supporter of the Society. His sage advice and comments were a feature in Committee. He was also always willing to give the vote of thanks at the Society's meetings. In a letter from his wife, Mrs. Mallinson wrote "he loved playing, talking, reading, watching, and discussing everything about cricket all his life, and always enjoyed the social side of the Cricket Society's meetings". Richard will be much missed. A Thanksgiving Service in his memory was scheduled to be held at All Hallows' Church, Whitchurch, on 1 March.

HAMPSHIRE'S NEW SIGNINGS

Hampshire have signed **HASHIM AMLA** for the first three months of the season, **SAM NORTHEAST** from Kent on a four year contract and have awarded one year contracts to **CHRISTOPHER SOLE** and **CALVIN DICKINSON**.

HASHIM AMLA. The signing of one of the world's foremost batsmen for a decade, was announced just as this Newsletter was being finalised. He replaces George Bailey as Hampshire's overseas signing. Aged 34, and right-handed, his calmness and serenity at the crease are a byword. He is equally adept in all of the game's formats; he will be available for the early Championship matches, and the Royal London Cup, but is scheduled to return home before the t20 matches commence. Hampshire will be his fifth County. He has previously played for Essex (2009), Nottingham (2010), Surrey (2013) and Derbyshire (2015).

Those who saw it will never forget his 150 in the ODI for South Africa against England at the Ageas Bowl in 2012. He started sketchily and never really hit his straps until he reached 70. Thereafter, he batted commandingly, unfurling a range of strokes that were both orthodox and inventive. That innings remains his highest ODI score. In the same year, he made 311 not out in the Oval test, which was the first triple century in test cricket for South Africa, and remains a record for his country. His performances in his last few tests may indicate that his career at the top level is nearing the end, but he still remains a formidable opponent. Coupled with the signing of Sam Northeast, Hampshire's batting has been strengthened immeasurably. If he is able to help Rilee Rossouw to produce his best, then the batting will be a sight to relish this summer.

At the time of writing, he has scored 16716 runs (avge. 50.04), including 50 centuries. Over half of those runs (8786 -avge. 49.08), and his tally of centuries (28) have been made in his 113 test matches. He has also made 29 hundreds (26 in ODIs).

SAM NORTHEAST has been one of the most consistent batsmen in Division 2 of the Championship in the last three seasons, scoring a total of 3623 runs at an average of 56.50 and reaching the 1000 run landmark on each occasion. Hampshire supporters will be very much aware that success in Division 2 does not necessarily follow in Division One, but his signature was much sought after. Eight counties were reputed to be interested. He is therefore highly regarded in the game. Moreover, he has a good record at the Ageas Bowl having scored two centuries there: 140 when opening the batting in 2012 (when he and Roy Key put on 252 for the first wicket) and 128 (batting at five) in 2014. It is assumed he will bat at four or five in the order, where he has generally appeared for Kent in the last three seasons.

SAM ALEXANDER NORTHEAST (pronounced Northest) was born in Ashford on 16 October 1989. A right hand batsman, he was educated at Harrow and made his debut as a 17-year-old for Kent in 2007. He received his county cap in 2012 and was captain of the county in 2016 and 2017. His best season to date was in the former year when he scored 1402 runs at the princely average of 82.47. He also made his highest score in that year: 191 against Derbyshire at Canterbury. His record would indicate that he is an adaptable performer, able to suit his game according to the needs of the team. He has scored centuries in all three formats. In first-class cricket he has registered 8528 runs (avge, 39.66), including 19 centuries and held 69 catches.

CHRISTOPHER BRADLEY SOLE is a tall right-arm fast-medium bowler. Born in Edinburgh on 24 February 1994, he was educated at Merchistan Castle School. He is a member of a famous sporting family. His father, David, won 44 rugby union caps for Scotland, captaining the side on 25 occasions. A prop forward, who would be on any short list for the greatest ever Scotland XV, he led his country to the Grand Slam in 1990. He also represented the British Lions in Australia.

Cricket is also in the family genes. His uncle, Christopher Trembath played four matches for Gloucestershire from 1982-84, and his brother, Tom, made his debut in a List A match for Northamptonshire in 2017.

He made his debut for Scotland in 2016 and has since played in all three formats for them. This winter, he has played for Scotland in Papua New Guinea and Dubai.

He first played for Hampshire on their pre season tour of the West Indies in 2017, and made his 2nd XI debut in 2017. He was being considered for a place in the county's white ball squad last season before injuring his hand. On his return to the field of play in the latter part of the season, he performed impressively with both bat and ball. A number of observers commented that he bowled with genuine pace.

HAMPSHIRE PLAYERS BORN IN SCOTLAND

If Chris Sole plays for Hampshire in 2018, he will be the sixth Scot to do so and the first in 81 years. The two most famous of his predecessors were EM Sprot, who still holds the record for Hampshire's fastest century and also captained the County between 1903-1914, and Alec Kennedy, one of the club's "immortals".

The other three made rare appearances: FG Willoughby (8 matches in 1885), (Sir) AG Hotham (1 match in 1901), and GL Jones (9 matches in 1937). Jones was born in Lockerbie; the other four men first saw the light of day in Edinburgh.

It should be mentioned that Brad Wheal has also played for Scotland in List A and t20 matches. Though born in South Africa, he has qualified by virtue of his Scots mother.

The polymath HV Hesketh Prichard (born in India) attended Fettes School in Edinburgh.

CALVIN MILES DICKINSON will be more familiar to Hampshire supporters. A right-hand batsman, he made his mark last year by scoring 99 on his Hampshire debut against South Africa A, before becoming a regular in the latter stages of the County's t20 campaign, when he kept wicket, after Lewis McManus' injury. He was well suited to the format; his fearless and aggressive strokemaking invariably enabled the County to get off to a quick start. He was especially dominant at Canterbury when he stormed to 51 off only 24 balls as Hampshire successfully chased 168 to gain a notable six wicket victory.

He was born in Durban on 3 November 1996, but his parents moved to England when he was a schoolboy. He went to St.Edward's School, Oxford, where he demonstrated he was a fine all-round sportsman, playing rugby and hockey with equal facility. He appeared for Worcestershire 2nd XI in 2015 and first came to Hampshire's attention in the following year when he hit 97 for Essex 2nd XI against the County's second team at Coggeshall. Earlier in 2016, he had made his debut in first-class cricket for Oxford MCCU, whilst at Oxford Brookes University.

He played for the County in all their six matches in the recent 50-over tournament in the West Indies, but his performances were low key. The wicket-keeping duties were shared between McManus and, towards the end, Tom Alsop.

He plays his club cricket for Lymington in the Southern Premier League.

FAREWELL TO GEORGE BAILEY

George Bailey, last year's overseas player, will not be returning to Hampshire to fulfil the second year of his contract because, according to reports, concerns about a back injury, and his wife expecting their second child. He was a man who provoked mixed reactions from Hampshire supporters. He headed the club's first-class averages in 2017, and scored two outstanding centuries: 127 against Lancashire at Old Trafford, who had Jimmy Anderson in the side, and 161 on a flat wicket at The Oval. He always scored his runs quickly, and often proved to be an imaginative captain. However, he never made the volume of runs expected of an overseas signing. He often flattered to deceive, frequently losing his wicket to injudicious shots. His final match against Warwickshire at Edgbaston saw him at his best, and his worst. He made 55 out of 116 in the first innings, when the only other man to reach double figures was Sean Ervine (16). In the second, when Hampshire were looking to bat out the day to secure their Division One status he was dismissed leg before, reverse sweeping, to the second ball he received.

HAMPSHIRE IN DIVISION ONE

Since the introduction of a two Divisional County Championship in 2000, Hampshire have spent twelve seasons in Division One: 2000, 2002, 2005-2011, 2015-2017. In the context of the County's history, it represents a success, especially between 2005 – 2008, when Hampshire finished 2nd, 3rd (twice), and 5th. And yet, for much of the time since the latter year, it has been an annual battle against relegation.

What are the reasons? Far too often, it has been the batting that has struggled to come to terms with life in the division. Only six batsmen have scored 1000 runs in those 12 seasons: Michael Carberry (4), Jimmy Adams (3), John Crawley (2) and Michael Brown, Neil McKenzie and Sean Ervine (one each). Only Carberry and Ervine have reached the landmark from 2015 onwards. The complete list in order of aggregate is scheduled overleaf:-

Runs	Batsman	Year
1737	JP Crawley	2006
1351	JHK Adams	2010
1280	JHK Adams	2009
1274	JP Crawley	2005
1251	MA Carberry	2009
1221	MA Carberry	2010
1162	JHK Adams	2006
1129	MA Carberry	2015
1120	ND McKenzie	2011
1078	MJ Brown	2007
1067	MA Carberry	2007
1050	SM Ervine	2016

The aggregates of the leading batsmen, and more particularly, averages are instructive:

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avge	100	50
JHK Adams	132	233	13	8308	262*	37.76	14	48
MA Carberry	109	197	15	7740	300*	42.52	20	38
SM Ervine	134	215	24	6717	237*	35.16	12	33
JP Crawley	72	127	13	5311	311*	46.58	12	26
NC Pothas	88	141	23	4933	139	41.80	8	31
JM Vince	74	124	6	3642	180	30.86	7	14
AD Mascarenhas	100	153	18	3619	131	26.80	5	12
LA Dawson	76	125	11	3540	169	31.05	5	16

Only Crawley, Carberry and Nic Pothas have therefore averaged over 40. Pothas' figures confirm just what a competitive and consistent cricketer he was. For some strange reason, *The Cricketer* magazine excluded him from their Hampshire All-time XI, and yet he would be the first choice for many. James Vince's average will raise eyebrows and gives credence to those who wonder why he was selected for England. Yet has there been a more watchable batsman in county cricket in the last few years? It must be hoped that his undoubted class will tell eventually. The forthcoming tour of New Zealand may well determine his career.

As for the bowlers, only five have taken 50 wickets in a season in Division One: the incomparable Shane Warne (three times), and Shaun Udal, James Tomlinson, Imran Tahir and Kyle Abbott (once each).

Wickets	Bowler	Season
70	SK Warne	2000
67	JA Tomlinson	2008
60	KJ Abbott	2017
58	SK Warne	2006
52	Imran Tahir	2009
50	SD Udal	2002
50	SK Warne	2007

The most prolific wicket-takers are listed below. It will be noted that it includes two of our Patrons!

	Runs	Wkts	Avge	5wl	10wM
AD Mascarenhas	6340	228	27.80	8	-
SK Warne	5831	225	25.91	15	2
JA Tomlinson	8114	216	37.56	7	1
CT Tremlett	5250	172	30.52	6	-
SD Udal	4448	151	29.45	7	-

The only player to appear in both batting and bowling aggregates is Dimitri Mascarenhas, thereby emphasising his place in the pantheon of outstanding Hampshire all-rounders.

Figures have been taken from the County Championship Averages in the respective editions of Playfair Cricket Annual.

DIMITRI MASCARENHAS

Dimitri Mascarenhas will appear at the Ageas Bowl again this summer - as the new assistant coach for Essex. Now aged 40, he has worked as a bowling coach with New Zealand and Melbourne Renegades in Australia's Big Bash League since leaving Hampshire in 2013.

LETTER FROM SIMON SWEETMAN, HCS MEMBER AND AUTHOR OF BOOK ON HV HESKETH PRICHARD

"A recent Newsletter referred to one of Hampshire's most remarkable players, HV Hesketh Prichard: fast bowler, explorer, novelist, travel writer and the man who taught the British Army in the First World War about sniping. For those wanting to know more, can I mention my book about his life, *Amazing Stories*, which is still available through the ACS (Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians) website, www.acscricket.com "

Editor's Note: Books by HCS members are advertised on the Society's website.

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