

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Shaun Udal James Tomlinson

NEWSLETTER No. 373 – October 2018 (1)

MEETINGS

Wednesday 14 November 2018-Start Time

Please note that this meeting at Test Valley Golf Club (speaker: Malcolm Nash) starts at 2pm, and not 3pm as indicated on the Programme Card.

Wednesday 6 March 2019-Speaker

The speaker at this meeting will be **CHARLOTTE EDWARDS**, the former multiple award winner and captain of England's Women's Team. She is, of course, England's most famous woman cricketer of the new Millenium. It is guaranteed to be an enthralling evening. The meeting is at Test Valley Golf Club, starting at 8pm.

Wednesday 3 October 2018 – Meeting

The Society is delighted to welcome Joe Weatherley to this evening's meeting, to which he will be accompanied by our newest Patron, James Tomlinson.

Though aged only 21, Joe Weatherley has already had an interesting career, experiencing all the ups and downs of a young man making his way in the cricketing world. **JOE JAMES WEATHERLEY** was born in Winchester on 19 January 1997. He is therefore one of a line of Wintonian born cricketers to join Hampshire in recent years. Three of his predecessors are James Tomlinson, Jimmy Adams as well as Brad Taylor.

He was educated at King Edward VI School in Southampton. In his formative years, other sports vied for his attention, notably tennis. He captained England Under 19's in Australia in 2015; among his team mates were Taylor, Mason Crane, Hampshire's recent signing Aneurin Donald, Max Holden of Middlesex and Lancashire's Haseeb Hameed.

He scored 83 on his Hampshire debut against Cardiff MCCU at the start of the 2016 season and made his first Championship appearance in an ill-fated fixture in which Hampshire were overwhelmed by Middlesex at Old Merchant Taylors' School a few weeks later.

Unable to find a place in the side thereafter, he went on loan to Kent in the following season. He gained invaluable experience in five matches, in which he invariably made useful scores. Interestingly, he played as a substitute in his final match at Trent Bridge when Sam Billings received an England call. He usually batted in the

middle order for Kent, before Hampshire gave him an extended opportunity as an opener in three testing fixtures at the end of the season.

During last winter, with many senior players absent, he grasped his opportunity with both bat and ball in the Caribbean Regional Super 50 Tournament. He made three half-centuries, two of which were against eventual winners Barbados, and his spin bowling accounted for four batsmen against Trinidad and Tobago.

Tall and right-handed he has become a familiar figure to Hampshire supporters this summer. He scored a maiden century (105 not out) against Kent in the Royal London Cup and played in the final at Lord's. He compiled his maiden first-class century: 126 not out against Lancashire at Old Trafford. He had previously batted particularly impressively against Champions-elect Surrey in the second innings at the Ageas Bowl. After a mainly strokeless first hour to see off the new ball, he was accelerating nicely before being run out for 50. Like all other batsmen up and down the country, he struggled in September, but there are surely more runs to follow in the years ahead.

Wednesday 28 March 2018 – Report

Adrian Aymes provided a marvellous end to the Society's season. His attentive audience hung on to his every word as he delivered an address which was shrewd, insightful, thought provoking and stimulating.

His early life was nomadic. He was born in Southampton but his family lived in West Africa and London before returning to his home city. He played both cricket and football in his early years. His early career in the game was inextricably linked with Surrey. They showed interest, though did not ask Hampshire's permission, and he played for their 2nd XI in one match in June 1985. Hampshire immediately handed him a second team debut against Middlesex at Portsmouth, in which he made an undefeated half century. He became a contracted player in 1986, and was promoted to the first team for a match against his previous suitor at The Oval in the following year when Bob Parks was injured. He gave immediate notice of his first team credentials by top scoring with 58 out of a total of 201 (*Editor's Note: he added 92 for the 8th wicket with Tim Tremlett (42) and was eventually dismissed by Trevor Jesty*). It was then back to the 2nd XI until August 1990. Again, Surrey had shown an interest as he was not playing first team cricket and, once more, he was given an opportunity against them. He scored 48 in the second innings, against Waqar Younis and Martin Bicknell. He then became a first team regular until an injury enforced retirement in 2002.

He regarded the enigmatic Carl Hooper as the best batsman he saw, followed by Martin Crowe, Viv Richards, who always gave bowlers a chance, and Gordon Greenidge. Jack Russell was his wicket-keeping idol. He talked about Malcolm Marshall and Shane Warne, masters of their respective craft.

He then shared his thoughts on mental ability, fitness, and strokeplay development. He returned to football at the end of his Hampshire career, and enjoyed another moment in the spotlight during Havant and Waterlooville's FA Cup run in 2007/08, when he was club general manager and fitness coach. He later became caretaker manager towards the end of the season.

JOHN MANNERS – THE WORLD’S LONGEST LIVED CRICKETER

On 3 September, former Hampshire batsman, John Manners, became the world's longest lived cricketer in the history of the game at the age of 103 years 343 days - or, to be more precise - a lifespan of 37,964 days. (*see below*).

He is a most extraordinary man in many ways. Born in Exeter on 25 September 1914, he made his Hampshire debut in 1936, scoring 81 in his first innings against Gloucestershire at Portsmouth. Tall, and right-handed, he played in four matches that summer but, because of service commitments and WW2, he did not play for Hampshire again until August 1947, a gap of 10 years 336 days. Remarkably, he made up for lost time with a powerfully struck 121 against Kent at Canterbury. This was his only appearance for the County during the summer. He completed his Hampshire career with two further matches in 1948. That innings at Canterbury remained his highest score for Hampshire.

He was, though, a prolific batsman for the Combined Services, for whom he played from 1947 until 1953. He scored three more centuries for them, including 123 against the New Zealanders at the Garrison Ground, Gillingham, in 1949. His best score was 147 against Gloucestershire at the Wagon Works Ground, Gloucester, in 1948. His other century was 103 at Worcester in 1952. It is also worth noting that he scored 75 against the South Africans at Portsmouth in 1951, when he shared a partnership of 143 with Brian Close (135 not out). Besides Close, he played with a notable roll call of future England cricketers during his Service career: Peter May, Alan Oakman, Brian Close, Fred Titmus, Alan Moss, Jim Parks, Ray Illingworth, John Mortimore, Keith Andrew, Roy Swetman, John Mortimore, and Doug Padgett. Though he was a regular Naval Officer, the others were, of course, doing National Service. He left first-class cricket, having played 21 matches, and scoring 1162 runs (avge. 31.40).

However, it is his off field activities for which he has become so renowned in recent years. He drove to a Players' Reunion at the Ageas Bowl from his home at Hungerford at the age of 98. He still makes an annual visit to Australia to see his daughter at Christmas. And he continues to walk to his local shop for his daily newspaper. He did so on the morning that he achieved his record, before watching part of the test match from the Ageas Bowl on television

He is also clearly a man of some style. In 1945 he was awarded the DSC after his ship which he was commanding sunk a German U Boat off the Farne Islands. After the submarine disappeared from view, bottles of brandy were floating on the water. He instructed his men to gather them in; he then boxed a dozen and sent them to Sir Winston Churchill!

In the last few days, he has become the first cricketer to celebrate his 104th birthday.

(The man who previously held the record was James Hutchinson of Derbyshire (1896-2000). He was 103 years 343 days old when he died, which readers will see is the same age as in the first paragraph. However, 1900 was not a Leap Year and therefore John Manners has seen 29 February once more than did Hutchinson. He therefore lived 37,963 days. The editor thanks the amazing Keith Walmsley for this esoteric, but crucial, information).

A VIEW ON THE CURRENT STATE OF CRICKET

September will be a month of mixed feelings for me as a cricket lover. On the plus side, four enthralling days spent watching the test match at the Ageas Bowl followed by two exciting days at the end of which Hampshire finally made it home against Somerset, events that could lead any cricket follower to believe that all is right in the cricket world. Test match cricket had shown itself to be the most exacting form of the game and Hampshire look as though they can survive more comfortably in the top division than most people thought possible towards the end of June.

On the down side, there are only two rounds of the County Championship remaining, including that sad final match at the Ageas Bowl when (possibly to give us a belated sense of inclusivity), we are invited onto the outfield to 'inspect' the pitch! Then we have short days and dark nights and if we want to follow England in their test matches, we will have to listen not to Test Match Special, but to Talksport and interminable advertisements for gambling (not the fault of the EWCB).

Further reflection on English cricket could make one angry about the ineptitude of the England and Wales Cricket Board in organising our beautiful game. At a recent Society meeting, our speaker, a former county chief executive, said that he thought members of county cricket clubs were the worse treated of all sports supporters. In my opinion, the EWCB's sole commitment is to making more money and the slide started when they took the Sky shilling.

Let us look at the charge sheet. Scheduling! I declare my interest, I do not like or watch T20 cricket which means that I did not see any cricket at the Ageas Bowl from June 24th until August 19th, 55 days in the height of summer! If we consider the need to encourage young people to be interested and participate in cricket, why did they have only 17.5 hours of cricket to watch between Sunday July 1st and Friday August 17th, the bulk of the school holidays? Wouldn't at least a couple of four day games with associated cricket activities such as coaching, meeting and talking to the players, be a better idea in inspiring future cricketers?

There were no four-day games before and during this year's test series resulting in test players turning up 'cold' for the series and in case of injury or loss of form, no in-form replacements.

Playing four-day cricket in April is often a test of endurance for the spectator and late September could be the same, although lately we have had Indian summers. The administrators complain of player burn-out (although thirty five hours work between July 1st and August 19th does not seem too arduous to me). As Devil's Advocate, I would propose reducing county championship games from four days to three days, start at 10.30am, and increase the overs from 96 to 112 per day, effectively the equivalent of a three and a half day match. Whilst I love the four day game, it is time-consuming even for a retiree, and the recent game against Somerset, which lasted only two days, was exciting and held everybody's interest for its' full duration. After it finished, I had time to tidy my allotment for winter.

A plus point for my suggestion is that it would restore the integrity of the championship. Currently a team in the second division plays five teams both home and away and four teams only once, either home or away. A team could win the title

by playing the weaker five teams twice and the four stronger teams only once, as they only play fourteen games. We could revert to two divisions of nine teams with sixteen three-day matches. Some might say that this is increasing the player's workload, but cricketers are rarely on the field for the whole of a match.

As championship cricket would only be played on forty-eight days compared to the fifty-six days under the present system, it would be an opportunity to restore the integrity of the T20 competition. Sides currently play six teams twice, home and away, but two teams only once, a total of fourteen games. We could increase the number of games to sixteen, which should please the counties as far as extra revenue is concerned, and forget about an extra, needless regional competition. If the powers that be want to 'jazz up' the competition, they could increase the number of overseas players to three or four per county. We do not need a 100-ball competition; who would turn up to see even less cricket than in a T20 match?

As for the Royal London Cup, it is cruel of the administrators to expect us to sit outside until 9.45pm in late May, I do not see more spectators attending day/night matches as opposed to the normal day games.

As for the obligatory one pink ball game each year, words fail me. These have been the most boring, tedious and turgid games in the past two seasons. I will not be attending another pink ball game! If we must have one day/night game per season, why can't we use a white ball? They have been used for years, are tried and tested and we could use a different ball from each end in order to minimise the effect of the ball going soft.

I am concerned about the transfers of players between counties, particularly those in mid-season. The majority involve young talented players from teams in the second division to those in the first division, thereby making the former weaker and less able to compete if they are promoted to the first division.

I would like to finish on further irritations.

What gives Sky the right to overwhelm me with such loud music on televised matches that I cannot think, let alone hear myself speak?

When will there be live cricket on terrestrial television again?

When our cricketers go away with the EWCB, why do they return with long-term injuries, e.g. Mason Crane and Reece Topley?

How can Lords justify increasing their ticket prices to £110 per day and at the same time, reduce the pleasure of meeting friends, enjoying the atmosphere and having lunch on the grass at the Nursery End, in favour of making yet even more money from increased retail outlets?

Why is the England test captain, a classical batsman, picked to play T20 cricket when he could play for Yorkshire in the championship and turn up nicely tuned to play a long innings in a test match?

The remedy for the ECB could be a very large dose of common sense, some of which they could get from the lifeblood of the sport, the everyday spectator! Am I preparing a job application? Well, I am retired and might have some time to spare. There, rant over, roll on next season!

Sticky Wicket

HAMPSHIRE WOMEN

50-OVER COUNTY CHAMPIONS

In their inaugural season Hampshire were crowned County Champions in the First Division in the 50-over Competition. They won six of their seven matches; their only defeat coming against Yorkshire at Harrogate. They recorded victories thus:-

Nottinghamshire	Havant Park	4 wickets
Warwickshire	May's Bounty	93 runs
Somerset	King's School, Bruton	5 wickets
Kent	Andover CC	3 wickets
Lancashire	Heywood	7 wickets
Middlesex	Andover CC	66 runs

The batting was founded upon the New Zealander, Suzie Bates, who scored 358 runs (avge 89.50), including two centuries: 148 v Warwickshire and 103 not out v Lancashire.

The next highest run scorer was Portsmouth Grammar School's Charlie Dean (163 runs – avge 23.28), who made such an impression with Society members when she attended our meeting on 7 March of this year. Charlie opened the batting. Charlotte Edwards (151 runs – avge 50.33) invariably guided the Hampshire batting through the latter stages of their innings.

The most productive bowler was 24 year old Fritha Morris, formerly of Berkshire Women, with 15 wickets (avge 11.93). She was well supported by Katie George (11 wickets), who made her England debut in March – the first woman Hampshire Woman to do so – and the omnipresent Bates (10 wkts).

HAMPSHIRE WOMEN IN T20 CRICKET

Hampshire women also enjoyed success in T20 cricket. They were promoted from Division 2 as Champions. They won seven of their eight matches. Three teams – Hampshire, Cricket Wales and Cricket Scotland all finished on 28 points but Hampshire won the division on Net Run Rate.

An interesting feature of the fixture list was that the matches were “double headers”, played on only four days. The team was a de facto development squad, comprised of young players with no overseas presence.

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