

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Shaun Udal James Tomlinson

NEWSLETTER No. 374 – October 2018 (2)

ANNUAL DINNER

An application form for the Society's Annual Dinner, to be held at The Ageas Bowl on Wednesday 5 December (starting at 7pm), is enclosed with this Newsletter. Would members please complete and return the form, with cheque, to Susanne Marlow by Friday 16 November. The speaker will be John Abrahams, formerly of Lancashire, who after his playing days has enjoyed a distinguished coaching career.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at Test Valley Golf Club, on Wednesday 14 November, starting at 2pm. The speaker will be Malcolm Nash, formerly of Glamorgan. A bar meal will be available to members, subject to prior booking. Members wishing to eat beforehand should contact Susanne Marlow as soon as possible so that she can apprise the Golf Club of likely numbers. Meals will be available from mid-day.

MEETING

Thursday 18 October 2018 – Meeting

This evening's speaker is Dave Allen, who the Society is delighted to welcome again. He needs little introduction to followers of Hampshire cricket. He is a Hampshire Vice-President and, until recently, was their Archivist and editor of the Hampshire Handbook. He commentates for BBC Radio Solent and Southampton Hospital Radio. In recent years, he has written three important books, two of which are definitive works on Hampshire CCC: *150 Not Out: Hampshire County Cricket 1863-2013*, a year-by-year summary of each season, and *Hampshire Cricketers*, which contains biographies of the 720 or so men to play for the County. The other work was *Forever Changes: Living With English County Cricket*, which documents the constant change in the game's format, structure, laws etc. since he watched his first County Championship match in his home city of Portsmouth in 1959. When Dave is not talking or writing about cricket, he is a musician (indeed he is *the* authority on music in the city) and painter. Dave's talks are always wonderfully discursive and interesting and so an entertaining evening is assured.

The meeting will be preceded by the Society's AGM.

FAREWELL TO JIMMY ADAMS AND SEAN ERVINE

Members will be aware that the above two great servants of Hampshire cricket have now played their last matches for the County. It is not often that two players of such stature have left at the same time.

Jimmy Adams

Hampshire followers were able to see Jimmy Adams on the field of play until the final match of last season. In a long interview in *The Cricket Paper* on 7 September, he commented "A lot of people retire on the thought that the mind's willing but the body isn't able. If anything for me, it's the reverse. I've been very fortunate physically, with injuries, but the mind is just wandering a bit. I know where I am with it now. I'm at peace. A few weeks ago I took Giles (White) aside for a beer, talked him through it and I told him I was done". The statement reflected all the virtues we have come to associate with him; an honest man and one of great integrity. At the time of writing, he has still to decide on his future.

The immensity of his achievements for Hampshire cannot be understated. He shares in two record partnerships for the County (see below). He scored 1000 runs in a season on five occasions, a Hampshire record for the four-day era. He also tops the list for the longest innings by a Hampshire player.

His versatility is exemplified by the fact that he also scored two centuries in t20 cricket. He twice scored half centuries in a Lord's final, winning a Man of the Match award when he captained Hampshire to their success in 2012. He also remains Hampshire's only post-War captain to be born in the County.

His ability to play the long innings set him as a man apart. When historians examine his record in the years to come, when the currency is likely to be short term, aggressive cricket, his feats are likely to seem improbable to them. The fruits of his concentration, stamina and shot selection are recalled below:-

168* v Yorkshire at Headingley 2006

He guided Hampshire to a five wicket victory as they successfully chased 404. He batted for 7 hours and 25 minutes on a slow pitch.

262* v Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge 2006

In the first innings of the match, he made his career best score, batting for nine hours and 52 minutes and sharing a second wicket stand of 276 with John Crawley (148).

196 v Yorkshire at Scarborough 2006

In Hampshire's first innings, he batted for seven hours and eight minutes, during which he shared a then County record stand of 278 for the fourth wicket with James Vince (180). It was Vince's (aged 19) maiden century.

194 v Lancashire at Liverpool 2010

In the match following that at Scarborough, he played Hampshire's longest ever innings. Coming in late on the second day with his side 238 runs in arrears, he was last out just before tea on the fourth. He batted for 10 hours and 35 minutes and

faced 508 balls. The next highest score was Sean Ervine's 48. Though he and Danny Briggs (15*) resisted for over two and a half hours in a last wicket partnership of 88, it was not enough to prevent Lancashire winning by three wickets as they chased down 171 with two balls to spare. Lancashire's coach, Peter Moores, described the match as "one of the best I've ever been involved with".

207 v Somerset at Taunton 2011

After Liam Dawson was dismissed in the first over, Adams and Michael Carberry (182) established a new County record second wicket partnership of 373. He batted for 8 hours and 40 minutes. Hampshire went on to win the match by an innings.

219 v Worcestershire at The Ageas Bowl 2013

He batted through the Hampshire first innings before declaring at 500 for nine. The duration of his innings was the same as that at Taunton two years earlier. He scored more than the Worcestershire first innings (206). Hampshire eventually won by an innings and 42 runs.

218 v Northamptonshire at The Ageas Bowl 2013

He was at the crease for 9 hours and 35 minutes in becoming only the second Hampshire batsman to score two double centuries in a season (the other was Philip Mead in 1921 and 1922). Hampshire batted only once as the match petered out into a high score bore draw on a bland wicket.

231 v Leicestershire at The Ageas Bowl 2014

The fifth and final double century of his career was his fastest by far, occupying 6 hours and 13 minutes (289 balls). After a first wicket partnership of 253 in 233 minutes with Michael Carberry (110), Hampshire raced to 497 for eight at nearly five runs an over before he declared. The County completed an innings victory on the fourth day. Jimmy Adams is the only Hampshire captain to score four double centuries whilst leading the side.

166 v Warwickshire at The Ageas Bowl 2017

On a bowler friendly pitch, Hampshire slumped to 31 for three on the first morning. He was then joined by Sean Ervine. The pair batted cautiously for the remainder of the day; by the time they were parted just before lunch on the second, they had added 367, a County record for the fourth wicket. Ervine went on to 203, his third double century for Hampshire. Adams had batted for eight hours and 22 minutes.

A full biography of Jimmy Adams appeared in Newsletter No. 346 (September 2015), which can be viewed on the Society's website. .

Sean Ervine

Similarly, a full biography of Sean Ervine appeared in Newsletter No. 356 (October 2016).

He will be remembered as a clean striker of the ball, with a penchant for hitting sixes, who was a fine shepherd of the tail in the Championship, and a notable "finisher" in white ball cricket. Many will also recall his startling first season in 2005, when he

scored centuries in both the semi-final and final of the C & G Trophy. His quite brilliant 105 in the latter match, for which he won the Man of the Match Award, was the first century by a Hampshire player in a Lord's Final. (He was joined by Rilee Rossouw last summer). His four appearances in a Lord's final are a Hampshire record. His highest score in first-class cricket of 237 not out against Somerset in 2010 exemplified all the best in his cricket as he shared stands of 130 for the ninth wicket with James Tomlinson (42) and 53 for the last wicket with David Griffiths (5). Arguably, though, his best innings was 94 not out against Durham at Basingstoke in 2008 when he steered Hampshire to victory as they successfully chased a victory target of 240, by far the highest total in the match, with two wickets in hand.

He joined Hampshire as an all-rounder. He enjoyed a productive first season with his right-arm medium pace bowling, taking 42 wickets, including a career best for Hampshire of five for 60 against Glamorgan. However, a serious knee injury incurred soon after his notable C & G Final success, reduced his effectiveness thereafter. He became a useful partnership breaker but was rarely used in his last few seasons.

That knee injury also reduced his mobility in the field and his speed between the wickets. During his two last matches in England for Derbyshire last summer, he was run out twice. In an interview in *The Cricket Paper*, he commented that he knew it was time to leave.

Both Jimmy Adams and Sean Ervine were also integral to so many of Hampshire's successes in all competitions during their careers. They have set high standards for their successors to follow.

REECE TOPLEY

There was an inevitability about Reece Topley's departure from Hampshire. He joined the County with an injury plagued career record which, unfortunately, continued in his three years with the County. He gave glimpses of his undoubted prowess with his pacey left-arm bowling, but just as he seemed to be hitting his straps, he broke down again on each occasion. Still only 24 years old, he was sidelined since July after suffering another stress fracture in his back, which he incurred playing for England Lions. Only available for white ball cricket in 2018, he played his part in Hampshire's path to the Royal London Cup success, taking seven wickets in six matches. He appeared in only two Championship matches for the County. His first match somehow set the tone of what was to follow as he suffered a hand injury whilst batting, which kept him out for several weeks. He played 21 matches in all formats taking 25 wickets.

OTHER DEPARTURES

Three other players, **Calvin Dickinson**, **Asher Hart** and **Chris Sole** have been released by Hampshire.

Dickinson, aged 21, was an aggressive batsman, and wicketkeeper, who scored 99 (out of a total of 185) against South Africa A, and was a regular in the t20 side in

2017. In the former match, he shared an eighth wicket partnership of 129 with Hart. He was injured for much of last summer.

Hart, who joined Hampshire from Durham in 2017, played in two first-class matches for the County (like Dickinson, he had previously made his debut against Cardiff MCCU). He also played in five List A matches for the County in the West Indian Regional Tournament in February of this year. Like Dickinson, he is still only 21 years old.

During his time with Hampshire, Sole played for Scotland in their famous ODI victory against England at Edinburgh in May of this year, but did not play a first team game for the County. His brother, Tom, has recently been offered a contract by Northamptonshire.

NEW SIGNINGS

Members will be aware that Hampshire have signed **ANEURIN DONALD** (ex Glamorgan), **KEITH BARKER** (ex Warwickshire), and **JAMES FULLER**, (born in South Africa and ex-Otago, Gloucestershire and Middlesex). Batsmen Ollie Soames and Harry Came have also been offered their first professional contracts. Biographies will appear in the next Newsletter.

WHY AM I ALWAYS LATE FOR DINNER?

I cannot remember the last time I left the Ageas Bowl at 6.00pm (or 5.30pm in September) with the requisite allocation of ninety-six overs having been completed on time. My wife is an avid lover of cricket and an excellent cook but justifiably complains about the time the time I return home after a day's cricket. It should take me no more than forty minutes from leaving my seat to arriving home, which fits in well with her preference to eat dinner no later than 6.45pm.

On one rain-affected day this season, play did not finish until 7.20pm and I ate my dinner on my own. Even in September, play never finished before 6.15pm. Consequently, I decided to look more closely at a day's play to see how much time was wasted.

The fielding team has an average of three minutes and forty-five seconds between the start of one over and the beginning of the next if it is to complete the day's allocation on time.

In the match against Lancashire, the average time for Hampshire's bowlers to complete their overs was :-

Kyle Abbott	three and a half to four minutes
Fidel Edwards	three and three quarters to four and a half minutes
Gareth Berg	three to three and a half minutes
Ian Holland	two and a half to two and three quarters minutes
Liam Dawson	two to two and a half minutes

In a previous match, I timed Dale Steyn at an average of between three and three quarters to four minutes for his overs.

If the allocated ninety-six overs were spread equally over our five bowlers, they should be completed in five hours, leaving one hour for the changeover between overs and any other interruptions, i.e. just under forty seconds per over.

In the Lancashire match, the changeovers usually took between fifty seconds and one minute, but when Hampshire were struggling to take wickets against their lower order batsmen, there was one delay of one and a half minutes between overs whilst Fidel Edwards and James Vince set the field for a spell of short, leg side bowling.

I have not mentioned time lost by batsmen changing gloves, drinks breaks, the fall of wickets, ball polishing, putting on protective equipment!

Why don't we have an official break every hour when the batsmen can change gloves and the fielders can take drinks? It would take the pressure off the umpires who appear only too willing to indulge any interruption and reluctant to challenge the players.

Do the twelfth men have to come on to the field of play if a wicket falls, for instance, at 11.05am, with drinks for the not out batsman and the fielders? Why aren't the fielders in position to resume play as soon as a new batsman arrives at the crease? If we are going to have up to twenty wickets falling in a day in September, and two minutes are allowed between the fall of wickets, couldn't the next batsman already be positioned just outside the field of play? This already happens in t20 matches.

When the ball has been hit in the arc between extra cover and midwicket and no run has been taken, does the ball have to be thrown to the wicketkeeper and on to the slips for a spell of ball polishing. Has this become a ritual?

Why can't all protective equipment be placed at the boundary edge so that when required, the fielding players can access it without a delay and there is then no need for the twelfth man to enter the field of play?

Tom Bailey of Lancashire was bowling from the Northern End when he decided to change his boots. He did not move an inch but waited at the bowling crease until a new pair was brought to him. The whole process took another two minutes!

In white ball cricket, there are penalties for tardiness if a team does not bowl their allocation of overs in the stipulated time. As a result, they rarely fail to do so.

To put my arguments into context, I calculate that if the fielding team managed to save four seconds between each ball bowled, twenty-four seconds would be saved per over, thirty-eight minutes in a day's play. And I would be home on time for dinner and my wife's preference would be met!

Sticky Wicket

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