

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Shaun Udal James Tomlinson

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MEETINGS

Wednesday 14 November 2018 – Meeting

The Society extends a very warm welcome to Malcolm Nash to this afternoon's meeting. It is particularly apposite that he should come to this part of Hampshire as he returned his career best bowling figures just a few miles up the road at May's Bounty, Basingstoke, in July 1975. In reply to Glamorgan's 207, he single-handedly hustled out Hampshire for 132. His performance was a tour de force. Opening the bowling, he was unchanged with the exception of one over, presumably to change ends, and took nine for 56 in 22.5 overs. The other batsman (Andy Murtagh) was run out. He required the assistance of his fielders only twice. Five batsmen fell leg before, and two were bowled. In the second innings, as Hampshire chased a victory target of 303, Barry Richards (56) and Gordon Greenidge (76) put on 105 for the first wicket on the final morning before our speaker extinguished any hopes of a recovery and ensured that his monumental first innings effort was not wasted. He bowled Richards, before dismantling the middle order, to finish with five for 81 as his team won by 66 runs. His first innings figures were a ground record and his match figures of 14 for 137 were only bettered by Hampshire's Arthur Jaques (14 – 105 v Derbyshire) in 1914.

It had been a high-class exhibition of left-arm swing bowling. He always bowled faster than appeared from the boundary's edge. With the new ball, due to his ability to move the ball late both ways, he was one of the most effective opening bowlers in county cricket. The scorecards for the era are littered with examples of his dismissing opening batsmen and other top-order batsmen for low scores. The fact that he was the victim of a famous over at Swansea in 1968, when the greatest all-round cricketer in the history of the game was in a hurry to declare, has tended to cloud his true worth. On that occasion, he was experimenting with left-arm spin. It was a short-lived venture. Malcolm Nash was a formidable opponent, exemplified by his career total of 993 wickets at an average of 25.87. He took 50 wickets or more in a season on twelve occasions; his best season was in 1975, when his feat at Basingstoke eventually swelled his season's tally to 85.

He was also partially responsible for depriving Hampshire of a second successive County Championship in 1974. He took nine wickets in their match at Swansea towards the end of the season when Glamorgan batted through the last day to record an unlikely victory. Though rain dogged them through the last few weeks of the season, the events, or non-events, at Bournemouth in the last match of the season against Yorkshire, would have been academic had Hampshire won at Swansea.

Malcolm Nash always gave the impression that he enjoyed his cricket immensely. His vivid bowling spells were sometimes matched by his left-handed batting. He was nearly always on the look-out to attack flamboyantly, though a few backs to the wall efforts to save matches will no doubt have provided him with just as much satisfaction as a thrilling innings. He hit two first-class centuries, both made in adverse situations at indecent speed. In 1976, at The Oval, he came to the wicket with the Glamorgan score standing at 65 for six in reply to Surrey's 338. He proceeded to plunder a century off 61 balls in 76 minutes, all before lunch. He eventually reached 130, his highest first-class score. Two years later, he delivered a similar reprise against Leicestershire at Swansea. With the Glamorgan innings on 78 for seven, he then merrily made his way to 124 not out, hitting five sixes. His first-class career tally amounted to 7,129 runs (avg 17.73). Besides his two centuries, he reached his half-century 25 times.

Hampshire were given a sharp reminder of his batting prowess in a Benson and Hedges Cup tie at Swansea in 1976. He struck 103 not out off 61 balls (including "seven tremendous" sixes according to the Hampshire Handbook) after Glamorgan had been 85 for six. He then took two for 40 in his eleven overs. His side won by three runs in the last over.

MALCOLM ANDREW NASH was born in Abergavenny, Monmouthside on 9 May 1945. Educated at Wells Cathedral School, he made his first-class debut in 1966. Two years later, before the Sobers episode, he played an important part in Glamorgan's victory of the Australians at Swansea by taking five for 28 in the first innings. He took the wickets of Ian Redpath and Bob Cowper, before demolishing the tail.

In the following season, Glamorgan were County Champions, remaining undefeated throughout the season. Our speaker demonstrated there was no psychological hangover from the Sobers over by heading their bowling averages, with 80 wickets at an average of 19.50. Deservedly, he was awarded his county cap during the season.

Another career highlight was being a member of the first Glamorgan side to reach a Lord's Cup Final (Gillette Cup) in 1977. He dismissed Mike Brearley with the first ball of their opponent's, Middlesex, innings but his side were eventually defeated by five wickets.

He captained Glamorgan in 1980 and 1981, during a period of off-field difficulties, before retiring in 1983. He then became a cricket coach in California. He also worked in Kansas before returning to Wales in 2013. His autobiography *Not Only, But Also – My Life in Cricket* was published earlier this year.

Wednesday 3 October 2018 – Report

A large audience enjoyed a stimulating and informative evening in the company of Joe Weatherley and our Patron, James Tomlinson. Joe introduced proceedings with a succinct summary of Hampshire's season. He said that the winter in Barbados set the tone for the successful Royal London Cup campaign (RLC). The young team improved as the 50-overs Competition progressed. They got on a roll in the summer and continued to improve. The t20 season, in the wake of the RLC felt a bit of a hangover. The Championship was played in bowler friendly conditions but he acknowledged that the side needed to progress to compete with Surrey and that the batting needed to improve. The rest of the evening was devoted to questions from the floor which covered all the events of the summer and the issues that arose. On the issue of batsmen struggling in the four day game, Joe Weatherley commented that even the senior players could not remember the Dukes ball swinging so much, and for so long during an innings. It prompted a mindset that batsmen could be dismissed at any moment, hence the decision to play aggressively. On the issue of all the number of overseas fast bowlers on the staff, James Tomlinson commented that in all of Hampshire's age groups, there were only four home grown bowlers who appeared to possess the physical attributes to succeed in county cricket and that it was inevitable that the Club would need to continue to look elsewhere.

There were many questions on the "100". Our Patron struggled to identify any benefit other than Academy players will have more opportunities if Hampshire players were selected for the franchise teams. The structure and scheduling of the game received attention also. Our Patron felt that the ideal programme would be to play a four – day match in the long downtime between t20 matches; there was also too much emphasis on promotion/relegation. Among other issues that

were discussed were culture, the role of Twyford School in the development pathway and benefits of the Academy side in playing in the Southern Premier League. Members mention they would welcome streaming of home matches.

MISCELLANEOUS

Just how unlucky was **James Vince** not to be selected for any of the England squads this winter? He was voted/nominated in three Teams of the Year by various organisations/publications: PCA; The Cricket Paper; and the BBC.

Neighbours **Berkshire** won the Minor Counties Championship for the third year in succession when they defeated Lincolnshire by an innings and 32 runs at Banbury. They also completed a season's "double" as they had been successful in the Minor Counties t20 competition weeks earlier, having beaten Devon by 50 runs at Wormsley.

Congratulations to **St. Cross Symondians** on winning their first Southern Premier League title this summer. Jimmy Adams who, in five matches scored 585 runs at the staggering average of 146.50, and Harry Came (764 runs), who has a Hampshire contract in 2019, were the most prolific run-makers. It was though a mighty team effort with every member of the side contributing with both bat and ball through the summer.

Liphook and Ripsley, who play in Division One of the Southern League, became the first Hampshire side for 25 years to reach the final of the National Village Cup (sponsored by The Cricketer) at Lord's. However, they lost to Folkton and Flixten from North Yorkshire by 72 runs. Nevertheless, it was a noble effort by the Hampshire side. The Competition is a season long marathon and any side that reaches the final thoroughly deserves their place.

One of the most uplifting features towards the end of the season was the sympathetic coverage of **Robin Smith's** return to the Ageas Bowl for the Captains' dinner. His personal problems since he left the game are well documented and it was marvellous to learn that he has changed his life around. Only now is his contribution to the England test team being properly acknowledged. He has written his autobiography which is due for publication next year.

Liam Dawson played for England in the second ODI against Sri Lanka at Dumballa. In a rain interrupted fixture which was limited to 16 overs

per side, he took one for 16 in four overs. It appears he would have played in further matches in the series but a side strain meant he had to fly home early. He was replaced by Kent's Joe Denly.

Craig White has left Hampshire at the end of his contract. He had been on the Hampshire coaching staff since 2012.

Innes Marlow has kindly submitted the poem below to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War.

THE BOWLER

Our friendships were built around cricket, I opened the bowling with Tom keeping wicket.

His Dad was the spinner, Joe opening bat, Alfie at cover, and then there was Pat.

First change at the top or crouched at first slip, cheekily giving the batsmen some lip as I'd bowl down the hill and dig it in short.

Some would try hooking and get themselves caught, but if it hit pads, the whole gang would shout, Tom with a glove up convinced that they're out! Young summers were precious, then in rolled the storm.

The posters went up and in we were drawn.

I went to Belgium with my cousin and Alf, Tom was in France with his Dad to the south.

The other two followed their fathers before, they took to the seas and sailed to their war.

Before we all left, when Tom got the train, we'd laughed about how we'd play cricket again.

Back in the nets by springtime no doubt and we joked about Germans and getting them out.

As he left, Tom waved like he did on the pitch, as if claiming a catch or deciding on which fielder should move to pressure the bat, as I'd come down the hill and we'd all shout *howzat?*

But the club was no more when we all went to war, no one counting the overs or keeping the score.

No nets in the spring, summer didn't return.

No centuries were made, balls didn't turn.

For years our pavilion was a quieter place, I didn't shine the ball or steam in at pace.

I was busy, trying to be brave with my men, holding a dream to get back again to that strip of green where I was the king, with a ball in my hand I could do anything.

My slower delivery no batsman could match, Tom could move sharply and snaffle the catch, or I'd drop it in short and give it some bite, and Paddy would take it low to his right.

Those memories took me away from the war, gently carried me back to the summers before.

But news hit the trenches and focussed our minds, the list of the missing had hundreds of lines, and slowly but surely the details emerged as my mates and their fates sadly converged.

Joe's cruiser went first, lost off the coast.

I remember the trench where I opened that post.

Tom's still in Vimy, out there on the ridge, his Father's in Arras, buried close to the bridge.

Alfie's in Ypres, his name's on the wall of the gate in the town that honours them all.

And when Paddy's ship sunk to never be found, he and a thousand shipmates were drowned.

All my friends lost from our little town, no runs on the board but five wickets down.

Sixty years on I can still see their faces, proud as they left us in boots, caps and braces, marching away from the safety of cricket, from our club that's now just an overgrown wicket.

Through sixty lost summers I've remembered each name, but the world has moved on and so has the game.

I'm now on a stick, even summers feel cold, but those boys are still laughing, they never grew old.

And though I survived and returned to the green, I'd changed after all that I'd suffered and seen.

When I came back to life after my war, with no one to field, I didn't bowl anymore.

HAMPSHIRE NEWCOMERS

Hampshire have signed three new players to date from other counties for 2019 (it will not be surprising if there are not more). They are an eclectic mix.

Hampshire signed **ANEURIN (NYE) HENRY THOMAS DONALD** on loan from Glamorgan for the last few weeks of the season with a view to a permanent move thereafter. His first appearance was a 2nd XI match against Sussex at Fulking, in which he scored a rapid 60 against a flagging side softened up by centuries from Ian Holland and Felix Organ. His only other prolonged appearance on the field of play for the County

was as a substitute wicketkeeper in the Championship against Yorkshire at Headingley, when he replaced Tom Alsop who had sustained a hand injury.

Born in Swansea on 20 December 1996, he is the great nephew of Bernard Hedges, that fine Glamorgan batsman of the 1950s and 60s. He made his Glamorgan 2nd XI debut as a fifteen year old in 2012. Six foot two inches tall, and right handed, he made an immediate impression in his inaugural first-class match two years later, by scoring 59 at virtually a run a ball, out of 152, in his second innings against Hampshire at Cardiff. That was the game, of course, in which Hampshire clinched promotion for Division 2 as Champions. It was this knock that almost certainly prompted Hampshire's interest last summer. 2015 was a year of steady, if unspectacular, progress. He really attracted the headlines in the following summer with an astonishing innings of 234 against Derbyshire at Colwyn Bay. He reached his double century off only 123 balls to equal Ravi Shastri's world record for Bombay thirty years earlier. He struck fifteen sixes on the way, only one short of another world's best (by Graham Napier of Essex), and according to *Wisden*, hit five cars parked in the ground and a passing bus. This innings remains his only Championship century; his other first-class hundred was 105 v Cardiff MCCU at the start of that summer.

However, the following two seasons were ones of substantially diminishing returns and, in 2018, he scored only 67 runs in four matches. He joins Hampshire having scored 2056 runs (avge. 30.68) in 39 matches, including thirteen half centuries. He has also held 31 catches. As far as the editor is aware that wicketkeeping appearance at Headingley referred to above was a "one-off". Almost uniquely these days, he has never bowled.

KEITH HUBERT DOUGLAS BARKER joins Hampshire from Warwickshire with a proven track record. Born in Manchester on 21 October 1986, he is six feet three inches tall and a left-handed all-rounder. Like Donald, cricket flows in his veins. His father, also named Keith, played for British Guiana and Natal. He originally came to this country as an overseas professional for Enfield in the Lancashire League. Keith junior's godfather is Clive Lloyd, hence his second Christian name.

He first played for Warwickshire in 2009 (after being spotted by David Lloyd) and was a regular from 2011. He has attained 50 wickets in a season with his fast medium bowling on three occasions (most – 62 in

2016) and last summer achieved his best average (16.63, having taken 41 wickets). He has taken 359 wickets to date, his best bowling figures being six for 40 against Somerset at Taunton in 2012. His batting average (28.43) exceeds his bowling average (25.40) which places him in the genuine all-rounder category, though his main role will undoubtedly be supporting the opening bowlers. He has an excellent fitness record. He has scored 3554 runs; the highest of his six centuries is 125 against Surrey at Guildford in 2013.

He joins Hampshire with Championship winning experience having been a member of the Warwickshire side that topped the table in 2012.

Prior to playing county cricket, he played professional football as a centre forward for Blackburn Rovers and Rochdale. He also enjoyed spells in Belgium and Ireland and for Northwich Victoria. It will be interesting to see him play in the pre-match kickabouts!

JAMES KERR FULLER has a nomadic pedigree: South African born, played his early cricket in New Zealand and has county cricket experience with Gloucestershire and Middlesex. Born in Cape Town on 24 January 1990, he played for Otago from March 2010 until 2013. By virtue of possessing a UK passport, he joined Gloucestershire in 2011 and remained with them until 2015. Though offered another contract, he moved to Middlesex. He has now joined Hampshire on a two-year contract.

Another tall man at six feet three inches, he is a lower middle order right handed batsman and a right-arm fast-medium bowler. His performances to date would place him in the journeyman category: 49 matches, 1101 runs (avge. 19.66), 141 wickets (avge. 33.06), 20 catches. However, he toured the UAE and Sri Lanka with the England Lions in 2016/17. His highest score is 93 at Taunton, and his best bowling figures are six for 24 (10-79 match) for Otago against Wellington at Dunedin in 2012/13. His career best analysis in the Championship is six for 47 against Surrey at The Oval in 2014. He also took a hat-trick at Cheltenham in 2013. In last season's Vitality Blast he claimed six for 28 against Hampshire at the Ageas Bowl. It will be interesting to see in which format he plays most next season and who he will dislodge from last summer's squad.