

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Shaun Udal James Tomlinson

NEWSLETTER No. 376 – December 2018

The Society is delighted to welcome **JOHN ABRAHAMS** to this evening's Annual Dinner. Visitors to the Society from Lancashire have been few and far between and so we are grateful that he has been able to travel down from the north of England, especially at this time of year.

Many will have watched our speaker on television during Lancashire's successful one-day era when his fluent left handed batting and brilliant fielding often caught the eye. He was born in Cape Town on 21 July 1952. He came from a cricketing family. His father, Cec, was an all-rounder who played in South Africa with Basil D'Oliveira. Cec came to this country in 1961 to play for Milnrow in the Central Lancashire League. He was joined by his family a year later and went on to enjoy a successful career with Radcliffe. He was an indispensable part of the Lancashire cricket scene for all his time in England until his death in 2007.

John was educated at Heywood Grammar School and made his debut for Lancashire in 1973. His career was a "slow burn". Despite making his maiden century in the Roses match in 1977, he was arguably best known as a one-day player in his early years - Lancashire rarely seemed to be off our television screens - and it was not until 1982 that he reached the landmark 1000 runs in a season in first-class cricket for the first time. He then repeated the feat in three of the next four seasons (narrowly missing the target in the other). He was capped in 1982 and replaced Clive Lloyd as captain of the County in 1984. Despite being a popular skipper, he was replaced at the end of the following year. It was in 1984 that he famously won the Man of the Match award for his captaincy in the Benson and Hedges Cup Final against Warwickshire at Lord's, despite failing to trouble the scorers. He played in three Cup Finals; the other two matches were lost (in 1976 and 1986).

He scored 10059 runs (ave. 29.76) in first-class cricket, including 14 centuries, took 56 wickets with his off-break bowling and held 162 catches. His highest score was 201 not out against Warwickshire at Nuneaton in 2004. After leaving Lancashire in 1988, he played Minor Counties Cricket for Shropshire from 1989-91.

Always an enthusiastic and vibrant cricketer, he has since established a formidable reputation as a coach and manager, particularly of the England Under-19 side.

HAMPSHIRE SIGNINGS (2)

HARRY ROBERT CHARLES CAME has come through the Hampshire system, having played for under age sides since 2011, the Academy and the 2nd XI. Born on 27th August 1998, he is the son of Peter Came, who played a number of matches for Hampshire 2nd XI in the 1980s, and grandson of the former Middlesex and England captain and test selector Walter Robins. He received his education at Bradfield College, alma mater to Mark Nicholas and Will Kendall, both former Hampshire captains.

Interestingly, he played all but one of his 2nd XI matches last season for Kent, for whom he made a series of centuries in mid-season. He looked to be heading there, but chose Hampshire instead. He also enjoyed a prolific season with the bat for St. Cross Symondians, as they claimed the Southern League Premiership title. He had previously been nominated as the League's Young Player of the Year in 2017. He is a right-hand batsman and has signed a two-year contract.

REVISED PROGRAMME: JANUARY-APRIL 2019

There have been changes to speakers since the Programme Card was distributed to members. These changes have been published on the Society's Website. However, in the event of members not being aware, they are now listed below:-

Wednesday 9 January 2019 - The Ageas Bowl-8pm
Michael Stimpson-Biographer of George Brown

Wednesday 6 February 2019 - Test Valley Golf Club-2pm
Hayley Green and John Shepherd of the ECB's Anti-Corruption Unit
(Farokh Engineer is no longer able to attend)

Wednesday 6 March 2019 - Test Valley Golf Club-8pm
Charlotte Edwards-legendary England Women's Captain

Wednesday 27 March 2019 - The Ageas Bowl-8pm
Chris Lewis-England, Nottinghamshire, Surrey and Leicestershire