

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Shaun Udal James Tomlinson

NEWSLETTER No. 378 – February 2019

MEETING ON 27 MARCH 2019 – CHANGE OF START TIME

The date of the recently arranged Hampshire Members Annual General Meeting now coincides with that of the Society's last meeting of our winter season. It has therefore been decided to defer the start time of Chris Lewis' address to the Society from 8pm to **8.30pm**.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED

There are still two vacancies on the Society's Committee. If any member is interested, would they please contact our Chairman, Susanne Marlow, or any existing Committee member. Serving on the Committee is not an onerous task. There are only two meetings a year, and there is the attractive bonus of having an opportunity to host at least one of the programmed speakers, in the event of them requiring a meal beforehand.

Wednesday 6 February 2019 – Meeting

Joining the Society for this afternoon's meeting are **HAYLEY GREEN, the ECB's Anti Corruption Manager** and **JOHN SHEPHERD, who has specific responsibilities in that field for Hampshire**. Hayley has previously served in the Police, including a spell with the Serious Fraud Office. They are assured of a warm welcome on what is sure to prove an interesting and absorbing afternoon.

Thursday 18 October 2018 – Report

Dave Allen gave members a fascinating discourse on the contents of his recent book ***Hampshire County Cricketers***. The book comprises biographies of every man to play first-team cricket between 1864 to 2017. The dichotomy between the amateur and professional cricketer was clearly illustrated. In the early years of the 20th century Hampshire were almost totally reliant on amateur cricketers. Their availability was very variable, so much so that between 1900 and 1905, no fewer than 27 men made their first-class debuts. There were some cricketers for which dates of birth and death remain unknown. The impetus for the book stemmed from The Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians, who were seeking all Counties to undertake similar ventures. Dave's book, however, is far from a dry reproduction of facts and figures. Wherever possible, he looked for stories about the men concerned and he shared some of them with his attentive audience. He is aiming to produce a second version next year, as a hardback limited edition of 130 copies, to reflect the number of seasons Hampshire have played as a first-class county.

At the start of the meeting, Dave mentioned the newly formed Hampshire Cricket Heritage Trust Ltd, of which Terry Crump is Chairman. Dave described his role as being an “unofficial Hampshire cricket historian”. Modesty indeed. Has any man known as much about Hampshire cricket and its cricketers as he?

Wednesday 14 November 2018 – Report

Before a large audience at TVGC, Malcolm Nash entertained members with a comprehensive account of his career. He started playing cricket in the street in Abergavenney and by going down to the local cricket club. He gained entry to Wells Cathedral School by virtue of his sporting rather than academic powers. He played hockey in the winter and cricket for Abergavenney CC in the summer. Worcestershire heard of his ability and he joined them on a tour to the South Coast, in which he performed well. Naturally, he was asked if he was interested in joining that County. However, Wilf Wooller had attracted his attention. He joined the Glamorgan indoor nets at Neath and was offered a summer contract in 1966. Remarkably, he had no thoughts of playing county cricket six months beforehand. He played in one game that summer – against Cambridge University at Cardiff Arms Park. His game progressed under the guidance of Phil Clift (coach) and Ossie Wheatley (captain), though he was obliged to undertake character building tasks such as putting up nets prior to practice and buying cigarettes for the players. In 1967, he made his championship debut, with Jeff Jones, at Harrogate, where it snowed. He had Boycott dropped early on but did not take any wickets or score any runs. Nevertheless, he was in the side for half of the season.

1968 was a career, and indeed, life defining year. When he took seven for 15 in 12 overs in the second innings against Somerset at Swansea, when the tide was coming in, he felt he had arrived. Glamorgan defeated the Australians before a passionate crowd at the same ground. He would never forget the singing that reverberated around the arena. In that era, the Australians were chivalrous opponents. There was no sledging and suchlike and, indeed, they were sporting and gracious throughout. And, of course, there was the Sobers over. Roger Davis had caught the fifth ball but had stepped over the line. In 1967 and 1969, Sobers would have been out, but not under the rules pertaining in the intervening year.

In 1969, Glamorgan were undefeated County Champions. They came close to losing in the first match against Yorkshire but he and Don Shepherd held out for the last 40 minutes. At one stage, Gloucestershire lead the table by over 50 points before Glamorgan beat them twice. He mentioned that strange match against Hampshire at Bournemouth when they (Hampshire) left the ground early believing play had been abandoned. However, Glamorgan stayed, having checked the situation with the umpires who had said that play would recommence if the weather cleared. Glamorgan had, in fact, changed into civvies before the umpires said that play would resume, the rain having stopped. They duly took the field in whites over their normal attire; the umpires said play and Tony Cordle bowled one ball, deliberately wide of the stumps. Glamorgan were originally awarded ten points, but the decision was rescinded after Hampshire appealed. Glamorgan were glad; they did not wish to win the Championship in controversial circumstances.

He fondly recalled matches against Hampshire. They always provided good days and evenings. Barry Richards and Gordon Greenidge were the best opening

batsmen to whom he bowled. Andy Roberts and Malcolm Marshall struck fear, though he claimed he used to run down the wicket to them to negate their speed. Brave man!

He began his talk by stating that the era in which he played was a great one. By the end of the afternoon, there were very few who would have disagreed with his assessments.

00

Wednesday 5 December 2018 – Report

Our Chairman welcomed our Patron James Tomlinson to the meeting, and reported that she had received best wishes from John Woodcock.

John Abrahams then charmed his audience with an understated talk and self-deprecating address, laced with humour, on his playing and coaching career. He signed for Lancashire in March 1972 whilst still studying for his A levels. Like many men who went on to enjoy long careers, he failed to get off the mark on his first-class debut some 17 months later. His career spanned two generations of Lancashire greats. When he started, he played with David Lloyd, Barry Wood, Harry Pilling, Clive Lloyd, Faokh Engineer, David Hughes, Jack Simmons and Peter Lever. He recalled the bravery of Pilling who once suffered a broken jaw from an Andy Roberts' delivery. He put a bandage round the injury and later went out to bat. Our speaker also recalled a vivid spell by Wayne Daniel, who having been wound up beforehand, inflicted injuries, as well as taking wickets, on Lancashire's top order. He was greeted by a Daniel bouncer, which flew off his gloves over the wicket-keeper to the boundary. However, such were his exertions, the Bajan fast bowler pulled up with a leg injury as he ran in to bowl the next ball, and took no further part in the match.

By the time he left the game, a new generation of Lancashire players were on the scene including Graham Fowler, Mike Atherton and Mike Watkinson. He mentioned that when he skippered Lancashire to their Benson and Hedges Cup Final success in 1984, the match coincided with his birthday.

He finished his talk with photographs of the various England Under-19 sides he managed. He was understandably proud that the first side he presided over won the Under-19 World Cup in his native South Africa. His side of 2009/10 included no fewer than five players who went on to play for England: Joe Root, James Vince, Jos Butler, Ben Stokes and Danny Briggs. Michael Bates was the wicket-keeper.

Members then enjoyed a fine meal with much animated conversation, aided by John Abrahams making a round of the tables. It was a splendid evening.

COACH? MANAGER? DIRECTOR?

0By Dave Allen

The first mention I have found of a coach at Hampshire comes from the *Guide* (Handbook) of 1887, when Hampshire were a second-class county. It mentioned the need for "another bowler who could coach at headquarters" but it seems that instead they engaged Tom Soar to bowl, and work as the groundsman. Early in the next century, another groundsman Jesse Hopkins moved from Warwickshire, and even

played in three county matches pre-war. Then in 1925, he supervised the nursery 'boys' until a new coach Robert Relf, formerly of Sussex, arrived late in the season and stayed for five years. Among Relf's charges were 'Sam' Potheary and Len Creese.

There was no regular coach during the 1930s although in 1935 another ex-Sussex player EH (Ted) Bowley coached pre-season. Then in 1939 finances were sufficiently strong to engage Sam Staples of Nottinghamshire & England as Coach – in 1932 he had taken 10-21 in a match at Southampton. Sadly of course the war intervened, and while he returned in 1946, he was not a well man. In 1949, he left Hampshire and spent the season umpiring, but he died in the following June. Meanwhile, Hampshire appointed their batsman Arthur Holt as coach – he would be highly influential in developing the players that won the county's two Championships, through his famous 'Holt's Colts' sides, and although he retired in 1966 he continued to work with the under-19 colts' sides for some years.

When Arthur retired, Leo Harrison and briefly Mike Barnard took it on, but Mike was badly injured in a road crash in 1969, and after a couple of years of temporary deputies, another former player Geoff Keith was appointed in 1971. In those days, the coach worked mostly with the 2nd XI and youngsters, and Geoff Keith was popular with his players, but became ill and died aged just 38, in December 1975. For one season, Barry Reed helped with the 2nd XI; he would go on to make a significant contribution to the coaching of the colts' sides, then Peter Sainsbury retired at the end of the 1976 season, became coach and remained in place during the successful limited-overs years, retiring in 1991.

From 1990, Tim Tremlett was coaching alongside him, and he took charge from 1992, assisted briefly by Richard Hayward. When Tim moved 'upstairs', Malcolm Marshall took on the role, with some help from Desmond Haynes, while Tony Middleton also joined the coaching staff in 1996. When Malcolm became ill, another former overseas player, Shaun Graf, came for one season, before South African Jimmy Cook (2000) was appointed. He did not have an easy time and was replaced by Paul Terry in 2003. Paul was joined by another former Hampshire batsman Giles White who eventually replaced him mid-season in 2008. Meanwhile, Tim Tremlett moved from Director of Cricket to Cricket Secretary in 2011, and Craig White joined the coaches in 2012, by which time, Jon Ayling and Iain Brunschweiler had also coached at the county.

Giles White had an excellent record in white ball cricket, before moving to the post of Director of Cricket in 2015, when Dale Benkenstein came in as First Team Coach. Dale stayed for just two seasons, then, Craig White took over until the end of the 2018 season. In addition to the two Whites and Tremlett, the 2018, *Hampshire Handbook* listed: Batting Coach: Tony Middleton; Head of Player Development: Charlie Freeston; Player Development Manager: James Tomlinson; and Bobby Parks as coaching the wicketkeepers, although he has now retired, and Michael Bates was working with the club last year. At one of the recent reunions, a former player from Arthur Holt's era, expressed surprise at the number of coaches, and wondered whether there might be a vacancy for a third-man coach? Probably not, but we do know that there is a vacancy for a First Team Manager, "to create an

environment in which winning trophies and developing international cricketers becomes inevitable.

Editor's Note: Dave wrote the above article prior to the announcement that Hampshire's new First Team Manager will be the South African, **ADRIAN BIRRELL**. Born in Grahamstown, Cape Province, on 8 December 1960, he played 45 matches in first-class cricket for various Eastern Province sides between 1984-1997. He scored 1460 runs (avge. 21.15, with a highest score of 105 for EP v Western Province at Newlands in January 1989) and took 75 wickets (avge. 30.16. BB 8-134 for Easterns v Eastern Province B at Port Elizabeth in January 1997). His playing career was divided into two distinct parts. He started as a top-order batsman before enjoying some success as a leg spin bowler in his last two full seasons. His experience as a coach has included spells with the England Under-19 side, Ireland, where he was head coach, and Assistant National Coach for South Africa. Prior to being recruited by Hampshire, he was coaching Paarl Rocks in South Africa's Mzansi Super League T20 competition.

EATING AND DRINKING AT CRICKET MATCHES

Mini pork pie, scotch egg, chicken fillets in a Thai sauce followed by another mini pork pie. These were the snacks consumed by the two men sitting next to me on the first day of the recent test match at the Ageas Bowl and it was still only 12.30pm! At lunchtime, just thirty minutes later, they decided to go to the Hilton Hotel for lunch. They returned, unable to find a table, so decided to settle for a pulled pork roll.

On day two, a couple took their seats at the start of play and minutes later, the man left his seat and returned with a pint of lager for each of them. Another few minutes passed, he left his seat again and returned with two large cheeseburgers. Around midday, he went out again and returned with two more pints of lager. At lunchtime, they left their seats and I noticed them eating fish and chips on the concourse.

This behaviour and that of many others at the test match led me to thinking about the consumption of food and drink at such events, so I consulted "The Psychology of Eating and Drinking" by Alexandra W. Logue.

Here are a few of her salient points on the subject -

'Taste and smell are the two senses most involved in eating and drinking'. There are always so many food outlets at these international events that one could not fail to smell food throughout the day.

'People are eating more, people are expending less energy or people are doing both of these things'. Well, we do sit for at least six hours at a day's cricket.

'Sweet, salty and high fat foods are widely and cheaply available and the combination of the availability and our preference for these foods, results in our consuming them to excess'. There were a plethora of fast food outlets on the concourse and not a salad bar to be seen.

'People generally eat more when they are with other people'. This point hit home with me. I only take a sandwich and possibly a small piece of cake or a sausage roll when I attend a game by myself, but when my wife decides to join me, we take pasta salad, falafels, couscous salad, etc. so end up taking more than double what I would

take. When I mentioned this to a female friend, she referred to it as “picnic psychology” saying that a woman would not see a mere sandwich as a picnic. My wife is a maternal person, the children have left home, but there remains a need to mother somebody!

‘People tend to drink more when they are with other people and are more likely to perceive the effects of alcohol as positive, reporting feelings of euphoria’. Just look at the unfettered pleasure on the faces of those people who enjoy making up a snake of empty plastic glasses.

‘Drinking is likely to increase if the people you are with are heavy drinkers. People may drink amounts similar to what they see other people drinking’. I know that it’s hard to resist a drink. When my wife and I attended test matches at Lords, we used to struggle, particularly on a hot day, not to open the chilled bottle of white wine before midday. It was finished by lunchtime, when we opened a bottle of red wine to drink with our lunch. We were usually snoozing by 3.00pm.

I presume that the food available is the easiest to produce, the most profitable to sell and that which we cannot resist; nevertheless it is not the food we should be eating. It is not surprising that a fast food company heavily sponsors the Big Bash competition. Research exploring the eating habits of Australians attending sporting events, found that 75% of spectators eat food that they consider unhealthy, as there are few or no wholesome options available to them. More than a quarter (27%) would be inclined to attend more sporting events and spend more money at each event if healthier, fresher foods were on offer.

It is not only spectators who experience difficulties in obtaining wholesome food. In a test match in Brisbane between Australia and India, vegetarian food was not provided for lunch so two Indian players, Ishant Sharma and Suresh Raina complained and went outside the stadium to buy their own. On their return, they were told that food and beverages could not be brought into the stadium so they had to consume their food outside the stadium. I cannot imagine the consequences if they had taken their time and the game had been unable to restart on time,

It is surely a contradictory message that we are celebrating healthy athletes performing to the best of their ability on the one hand, whilst the spectators are being bombarded by junk food on the other. Simon Kelner wrote in The Independent on August 23rd 2013, “I went to an all day beer and junk food festival at The Oval yesterday. Coincidentally, a cricket game between England and Australia was taking place at the same time”.

NB. In the first October newsletter, I wrote of my disappointment that Talksport had secured the rights to cover England’s winter test matches in Sri Lanka and my dread of interminable gambling advertisements. I hold my hands up to say that I was wrong; their coverage is first class and not a gambling advertisement to be heard. How nice it is to be so pleasantly surprised.

Sticky Wicket