

# HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: John Woodcock Shaun Udal James Tomlinson

## NEWSLETTER NO. 380 – March 2019 (2)

### DAY AT THE CRICKET

Information about the Society's Day At The Cricket on Saturday 13 July will be circulated during week commencing 20 May.

### NEW HON. SECRETARY

The Society is pleased to announce that John Hooper has kindly volunteered to act as its Hon. Secretary, with immediate effect. The Society is deeply indebted to John, who is already tackling his role with relish.

### MEETINGS

#### Wednesday 27 March 2019 – Meeting

The Society extends the warmest of welcomes to this evening's speaker, **Chris Lewis**. Whether batting, bowling or fielding, he performed with flair which appealed to onlookers. He was one of the finest all-rounders of his generation. It has often been said that he never quite fulfilled his potential, but his achievements were substantial and would have been envied by lesser mortals. He played in 32 tests and 53 ODIs. He was selected for seven successive England tours between 1989/90 to 1994/95, travelling twice to the West Indies and Australia, as well as to New Zealand, India and Sri Lanka. He remains one of the few England players to appear in a World Cup Final. On the domestic scene, he was a member of the Leicestershire side that won the County Championship in 1998, acting as stand-in captain on occasions, and was a member of the Surrey team that won the Sunday League in 1996 and the Benson and Hedges Cup Final a year later.

**CLAIRMONTE CHRISTOPHER LEWIS** was born in Georgetown, Guyana, on 14 February 1986, but went to school in Willesden, North London. After playing for England Under-19s, he made his debut for Leicestershire in 1987. He enjoyed most success with the ball initially, which led to his being chosen for the England tour to the West Indies little more than two years later. He made his test debut against New Zealand at Edgbaston in 1990. The Birmingham ground was to become a prominent part in his story. He twice took five wickets in an innings in test matches there: six for 111 against the West Indies in 1991 and five for 72 against India five years later. He also scored 220 not out for Nottinghamshire in 1994.

It was during his one Test match century that he touched the heights. In a losing cause at Madras in February 1993, he played a splendidly vivid, lone hand, of 117 (140 balls, 170 minutes; fifteen 4's and two sixes), making his runs out of 153 whilst he was at the wicket. *Wisden Cricket Monthly* referred to the innings against the three Indian spin bowlers – Kumble, Raju and Chauhan - as being "a joy, a feast of

uninhibited footwork and strokeplay". He reached his century with a straight six off Raju.

His best series was arguably against New Zealand in January 1992. He scored 70 in the first test at Christchurch and took three wickets as England won by an innings (Robin Smith made 96 in that match) before taking five for 31, as well as striking 33 and 23, at Christchurch. In his 32 tests between 1990-1996, he scored 1105 runs and claimed 93 wickets.

He appeared for three Counties during his career: Leicestershire (twice), Nottinghamshire and Surrey. When he left the first-class game in 2000 (he returned to play two white ball matches for Surrey in 2008), he had taken 543 wickets (avge. 29.88), including 40 wickets or more in a season eight times, his most productive tally being 56 in 1990. His best figures in the Championship were 6 for 55 against Glamorgan at Cardiff in 1990.

He scored 7,406 runs (avge. 37.52). The best of his nine centuries was 247 for Nottinghamshire against Durham at Chester-le-Street in 1993. The fact that his career batting average was demonstrably better than his bowling average demonstrates his authenticity as an accomplished all-rounder.

An athletic fielder, he held 25 catches in tests and 154 in 189 first-class matches.

His travails in recent years have been well documented and will no doubt form part of his address this evening. His autobiography: *Crazy: My Road to Redemption*, published in 2017, and was very well received by reviewers. His recent life is also dramatized in a play *The Long Walk Back* by Dougie Blaxland. The latter (who is James Graham-Brown, the former Kent cricketer) also penned the much acclaimed play on Colin Milburn: *When The Eye Has Gone*.

### **MORE DIARY DATES TO VIEW THE LONG WALK BACK**

The play *The Long Walk Back* will be appearing in two North Hampshire theatres in the next two/three weeks:-

Wednesday 3 April – Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre, Bordon at 7.30pm

Wednesday 10 April – The Haymarket Theatre, Wote Street, Basingstoke at 7.30pm

Those living in South West Hampshire may find it more convenient to view the play at Dorchester Arts Centre on Sunday 14 April at 7pm.

Chris Lewis will be appearing at all three venues in a post-show Q & A session.

## **HAMPSHIRE'S NEW OVERSEAS SIGNING**

Hampshire have signed the Sri Lankan opening batsman, **FRANK DIMUTH MADUSHANKA KARUNARATNE**. He was to be available for Hampshire in Championship cricket and the Royal London Cup until July. Left-handed, he was included as an opening batsman in the ICC Team of the Year in 2018 and had demonstrated a penchant for playing long innings in his six year Test career. However, such was his success as stand-in Sri Lankan captain on their recent tour of South Africa, when he led his country to a two-nil series win, he is now being considered as skipper for their World Cup campaign, despite his limited experience in ODIs. He has only played in seventeen such matches, with little success, to date. Prior to the South African series, he was not in the one-day squad; hence, Hampshire signing him with considerable certainty that he would not be playing in the World Cup. However, that series was a historically significant one in that it was the first time that the Proteas had lost a home series to other than England and Australia. He had clearly demonstrated his captaincy credentials. He is now remaining in Sri Lanka for the domestic 50-over competition in April, prior to the start of the World Cup in May. It seems unlikely, therefore, that he will be available for Hampshire, though, at the time of writing, the Club are still trying to clarify the matter with the Sri Lanka Board.

If he is unable to play for the County, he will be the second Sri Lankan to have found himself in that position, the other being Asantha Mendis in 2010.

Interestingly, Karunaratne went to the same school (St. Joseph's College, Colombo) as Chaminda Vaas, who played for the County in 2003.

## **CB LLEWELLYN'S RECORD REMAINS INTACT**

In the recent three Test series against Pakistan, South African quick bowler, Duanne Olivier, took 24 wickets. He therefore just failed to surpass Charles Llewellyn's record feat of taking 25 wickets for South Africa in 1902/03.

Against one of the strongest-ever Australian batting sides, Hampshire's left-arm spin bowler took six for 92 and three for 124 in the first Test at the Old Wanderers ground, followed by five for 43 and five for 73 at the same venue, and then six for 97 and 0-19 at Cape Town. Australia won the series two-nil. Among his victims were Joe Darling (four times), Sid Gregory (three times), Victor Trumper, Monty Noble (twice each), and Clem Hill and Warwick Armstrong (once each). Just for good measure, Llewellyn, a genuine all-rounder, also scored 90 in the first innings of the opening test.

Having recently qualified for Hampshire, Llewellyn did so well in the opening weeks of the season that he was one of fourteen players chosen in England's squad for the first ever test at Edgbaston, against Australia, in the preceding summer. He was eventually omitted. After England had made 376 for nine declared (Johnnie Tyldesley 138), George Hirst (3-17) and Wilfred Rhodes (7-17) bowled out Australia for 36 before rain caused the match to be abandoned.

On the first morning of the series against Pakistan, Dale Steyn, who, of course, played for Hampshire in 2018, moved past Shaun Pollock's record South African of 421 test wickets.

## REPORTS OF MEETINGS

### Wednesday 9 January 2019

At the start of the meeting, members stood in silence in memory of Mike Barnard, who had passed away shortly before Christmas.

Michael Stimpson then gave an authoritative account of the life of George Brown, that legendary Hampshire all-rounder of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Brown came from the village of Temple Cowley, which was then outside Oxford. It is now part of an extensive car works complex. The Brown family lived in the same road as that of the Bowells and Rogers; the Arnolds lived in an adjacent road. Those families, from a tiny village of some 300 people, formed a Hampshire dynasty between 1902 until 1955. The families of "Lofty" Herman and Alan Castell lived some 2/3 years. The latter extended the Oxford connection from 1961-71. George Brown's house overlooked Cowley Marsh Cricket Ground; it comprised 11 squares, each with its own pavilion. It was no wonder that his interest in cricket was stimulated from an early age.

George was a bricklayer, then a groundsman at the local Asylum who possessed a very good cricket team. He never played for Oxfordshire. He joined the Hampshire ground staff for a year, then served a second to fulfil his residential qualification. He was awarded his first annual contract in 1909. Having never bowled before joining Hampshire, he then opened the attack on his first-class debut at The Oval. It was a sobering experience for the 19-year old as Surrey ran up the little matter of 645/4, the most runs scored in a day's play. His second match was at Lord's. A few weeks later, he played against the Australians.

WW1 robbed him of his best years. Nevertheless, because of his ability to play fast bowling, he was selected to play for England against Australia, at Headingly, as a wicketkeeper/batsman. He had only ever kept wicket eight times previously. He came to the wicket with the score at 67 for five. Jack Hobbs was in hospital and Lionel Tennyson had injured a hand. He scored 57 and then 46. He retained his place for the remaining two tests and scored 84 at The Oval. In 1922, he played that great innings at Edgbaston after Hampshire had been bowled out for 15 in their first innings. He made only one other score of over 50 in the season. He went to South Africa as a batsman/wicketkeeper in 1922/23, but struggled on the matting wickets. He returned to county cricket as a batsman/bowler. However, England selected him again as a wicketkeeper for the final test at The Oval in 1926. Ironically, he had to withdraw because of a broken thumb. The only time he kept wicket regularly for Hampshire was in 1930 and 1931, after Walter Livsey had retired. He remains the only authentic four dimensional cricketer in the history of the game.

The evening was a fund of stories, enhanced by members of George Brown's family who gave fascinating first hand insights of his character.

### **Wednesday 6 February 2019**

Hayley Green and John Shepherd provided an absorbing afternoon on the work of the ECB's Anti-Corruption Unit. After giving a brief resume of her university studies (Psychology and Criminology), and her career in the Police force, Hayley described the structure of the ECB Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU), of which she is manager. There are six ACU Managers who sit under the Integrity banner, which comprises Safeguarding, Anti-doping, Discipline and Financial Irregularities. The ACU Managers are organised on a regional basis with John having responsibilities for Hampshire, Sussex and Middlesex.

Money has changed hands in the cricket world from its inception in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but following the Hansie Cronje Scandal, the ICC formed their own ACU in 2000. Following the revelations concerning Lou Vincent, Danish Daneria and Mervyn Westfield, the ECB's ACU was established in 2010/11. Since then, the ACU has become better placed to undertake prevention and educative work, which was seen as key, and to investigate any allegations effectively. The ACU also works with other sports.

There were a number of basic rules which apply to all those involved in the management of cricket (players, officials, coaches, ground staff, agents, ECB staff, PCA, Committee members) in first-class cricket in both the men and women's game. They all those mentioned receive a briefing. There is a blanket ban on gambling; no player can bet on a match anywhere in the world. There must also be no misuse of insider information and no match or spot fixing. All participants must report if they are approached on such matters. If any individual is sanctioned, they will receive life-time ban from all activities, including watching at grounds, or a custodial sentence. The ACU's relationship with all those concerned is very good.

Hayley also touched upon drugs. Players are subject to two hair tests a year. They will not receive a ban for a first offence.

John was in the Metropolitan Police, and his remit is to major on televised white ball matches. There are regulations on security of players and officials. They are kept away from the general public before and during matches. They also have to hand in their mobile phones. The purpose is to make it difficult for potential miscreants to ingratiate themselves with the players.

There are particular problems with the Indian sub continent, where gambling is illegal. Agents for Indian bookmakers commentate on mobiles from the ground. Bookmakers therefore know what is happening prior to those in India watching on television, with the result that they can vary the odds in their favour. The value of bets on televised games can touch as much as £30m. Anyone found commentating will be removed from the ground.

There was much else besides in a fascinating and wide ranging presentation, and then discussion, on an important facet of the game. Those present enjoyed it immensely and felt privileged to have received such an informative briefing.

### **Wednesday 6 March 2019**

Charlotte Edwards entertained members with an address laced with humour. She told of her emergence from the tiny village of Pidley, near St. Ives. Her father was a potato farmer and one of a cricket mad family. Her mother made the teas for the local club. She was discovered whilst playing for her primary school in a tournament at Chelmsford. Selection for the Huntingdonshire age group followed and, at the age of 12, she was invited for England Under-19 trials. Despite a duck in the first trial match, she was selected she was invited back again in the next two years. Her further commitment to the game was stimulated by watching England win the Women's World Cup in 1993. She was eventually chosen, at the age of 16, for the England test side against New Zealand at Guildford in 1996; scores of 34 and 31 virtually cemented her place at the outset. The downside was that she had to pay £50 to the England Women's Cricket Association for the privilege. In later life, she ensured that her successors did not have to do likewise. A year later, she toured India which was an enormous step for a young girl still living in a very rural community in East Anglia. She subsisted on a diet of tomato ketchup, peanut butter and strawberry jam on nam bread; remarkably she gained a stone in weight.

The main highlights of her career were not on the field of play. Her ambition was to appear on the tv programme A Question of Sport, which she did three times. She also appeared on Ready, Steady Cook, on which she beat Mike Gatting. She has met the Queen, receiving her MBE at Buckingham Palace and CBE at Windsor Castle. Singing the National Anthem in the latter location was the most memorable moment of her life.

Charlotte then described her time in Hampshire. She was immensely proud of what she has achieved. At the start of the meeting, she displayed the County Championship Trophy which Hampshire won in 2018. In the Q & A session, she talked about the future of the women's game and mentioned female role models. Girls now coming into the game have a number of female cricketers from which to choose. There were none when she started. Her idol was the German tennis star, Steffi Graf.

### **ANOTHER DIARY DATE**

**During her address, Charlotte Edwards revealed that Hampshire Women will play their first fixture at the Ageas Bowl on 5 May.**

### **EDITORIAL**

**The editor gives profound thanks to Dave Allen and "Sticky Wicket" for their much valued support in contributing to the Newsletter since the start of this year.**