

# **HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY**

**Patrons: John Woodcock Shaun Udal James Tomlinson**

**NEWSLETTER No. 392 – June 2020**

**The Society hopes that all its Members have stayed healthy and safe during the past few months.**

## **COVID TESTS**

And so, some cricket will be played after all this summer. Three tests have been arranged against the West Indies, the first starting at The Ageas Bowl on 8 July. The other two matches will take place at Old Trafford. In order to meet the requirements associated with Covid-19, the venues have been selected on the basis that there is a hotel on each, which means that the tests can be played in an eco-secure bubble where players will not have to leave the perimeter of the ground. Hampshire have therefore been rewarded at last for their decision to build a ground that fully meets the requirements of the ECB to qualify for staging test matches.

Hampshire followers will therefore be able to watch the match from home, though not at the ground. The matches will be broadcast on Sky with highlights being shown on BBC2. It will be the first time that there has been coverage of test cricket on the BBC for over 20 years.

The remainder of the season's format has still to be determined. The Pakistan tourists were due to arrive over last weekend, despite ten of their number having tested positive for Covid-19. The actual timetable for the test series and the one-day series has still to be announced.

The ECB announced on 29 June that county cricket will resume on 1 August. The ECB will be meeting in the next fortnight to determine the programme. It is widely rumoured that there will be a truncated County Championship, with teams split into three zones and a Final to determine the winners of the competition. One report states that Hampshire's group will include Middlesex, Surrey, Kent, Essex and Sussex. Those with long memories will remember that this format was originally recommended in the MacLaurin Report in 1997. A sign of the future perhaps? There is, apparently, still a wish to stage a t20 competition which is likely to take place in September.

### THE WEST INDIES AT THE AGEAS BOWL

England's encounter against the West Indies will be the fourth test to be staged at The Ageas Bowl. Sri Lanka were England's inaugural opponents in 2011, when the match was drawn, followed by India in 2014 and 2018. England won both matches, by 226 runs and 60 runs respectively.

The West Indies have appeared in six ODIs at the ground, as follows:-

2004 v New Zealand	Abandoned without a ball being bowled.
2004 v Pakistan	Won by 7 wickets
2012 v England	Lost by 114 runs
2017 v England	Lost by 9 wickets
2019 v South Africa	No result; only 7.3 overs were bowled
2019 v England	Lost by 8 wickets

Of the test squad selected, only Shai Hope, Jason Holder, Alzarri Joseph and Kemar Roach have previously played for the West Indies in international cricket on the ground.

Two men, Roach and Kraigg Brathwaite have appeared in Championship cricket. Opening bowler Roach played for Worcestershire as long ago as 2011 (1-55 and 2-41), and opening batsman Brathwaite for Nottinghamshire in 2018 (scoring 5 and 48).

However, the man in whom Hampshire followers may perhaps have most interest, is **Raymon Anton Reifer**, whose father Elvis played for the County as their overseas player in 1984, when Malcolm Marshall was on West Indies tour duty. Like his father, he bats and bowls left-handed. He is 29 years old who, despite being born in Barbados, has played all his regional cricket first for the Combined Campuses and Colleges and then Guyana. He has a good record in first-class cricket as a middle-order batsman and opening bowler. He has played one test for the West Indies in New Zealand in December 2017 and appeared in two ODIs against Bangladesh in Dublin last summer. Elvis Reifer sadly passed away 26 August 2011, just as his son was beginning his career.

### THE PITCH PUBLISHING ZOOM SESSIONS

Members will have received details of the Zoom sessions arranged by Pitch Publishing for the benefit of Cricket Societies, and to publicise their books being released during the summer. At the time of writing, there have been four speakers, who have been interviewed on their work by Mark Church, who is a sports commentator for BBC London. It is a format that has worked well. The "audience" has varied between 140 and 165 people.

The first was **IAN GOULD** whose autobiography is entitled *Gunner: My Life in Cricket*. His nickname emanates from him being on Arsenal's books at one stage.

As a young man, he lived the dream: a budding career in both football and cricket. He was on the Lord's ground staff with Ian Botham and the pair obviously enjoyed themselves. He realised he was too small for football and devoted himself to cricket, first with Middlesex and then Sussex. He was critical of the hierarchical nature of the Middlesex changing room where the senior pros lauded it over the new recruits. Sussex, under the benign John Barclay, was far more to his liking. His era was notable for the number of very fast bowlers. He kept to Vincent van de Bijl, whom he rated the best, Wayne Daniel, Imran Khan and Garth le Roux. Among his opponents were Richard Hadlee, Clive Rice, Malcolm Marshall and Sylvester Clarke. He also talked about his England career, coaching and umpiring. His preparation for the latter was thorough. He would go into the nets before the start of matches to observe the techniques of both batsmen and bowlers. He gave an informed insight on the infamous ball tampering incident in the South Africa - Australia test at Cape Town, when he was the third umpire. He was full of praise for the on field umpires regarding the sensitive manner in which they dealt with the matter. It was evident that he possessed exceptional man management skills. He seemed to have very good relations, based on mutual respect, with all the world's leading players.

Next up was **COLIN SHINDLER**, author of *Barbed Wire and Cucumber Sandwiches* – an authoritative commentary on the events surrounding the cancellation of the South African tour to England in 1970. The scenario was similar to Brexit, with protagonists on both sides holding exceptionally strong views. Peter Hain, derided by his critics because of his long hair, John Arlott, the Revd David Sheppard and Mike Brearley were among those against the tour. The pro-lobby included the Conservative Party, MCC, and the County Clubs and, originally, the players. John Arlott eventually persuaded the players to change tack – a difficult task as he was aware, as President of the PCA, that many earned their living by coaching in South Africa during the winter. There was an eventual stand-off between the two parties. The Labour government was wanting the MCC to call off the tour; the MCC had no intention of doing so. In the end, the fears and costs of maintaining public order in what was inevitably going to be a hostile setting, prompted the government to call off the tour. The second, and much shorter part of the book is a description of the matches between England and the Rest of the World. The strength of the latter side is shown by Mike Procter, who was to score six centuries in a row in the following year, batting at eight or nine. Shrewdly led by Ray Illingworth, England gave a marvellous account of themselves, despite losing the series 4 – 1.

The series was accorded Test status, though such recognition was later withdrawn. The main "casualty" was Glamorgan's Alan Jones who played his sole match for England in the first game of the series.

Since the book was published, Alan Jones was awarded his numbered England cap in June of this year. The 83-year-old Jones thoroughly deserved the honour. Previously, no man had scored so many runs (36,049) in county cricket without playing for England.

The third book was *The Unforgiven : Mercenaries or Missionaries* by an Australian journalist, **ASHLEY GRAY**. It is the tale of the two rebel West Indian tours to South Africa in 1982/83 and 1983/84. After an introduction, there are chapters on each of the 20 West Indians involved. Five - Lawrence Rowe, Alvin Kallicharran, Collis King, Colin Croft and Bernard Julien had enjoyed long test careers but had fallen behind in the pecking order of a very strong West Indian side that dominated world cricket in the 1980s. Most of the others – Herbert Chang, Faoud Bacchus, Richard Austin, Alvin Greenidge , David Murray, Derick Parry, Albert Padmore, Everton Mattis and Sylvester Clarke had made infrequent test appearances. Ezra Moseley (at that stage), Emmerson Trotman, Hartley Alleyne, Franklyn Stephenson, Monte Lynch, and the little known Ray Wynter had not played international cricket. Ali Bacher wanted to demonstrate that South Africa could host a tour of black cricketers. They were offered large sums of money, some ten times more than the average salary at home. Some, such as Chang and Mattis came from poor backgrounds. For those outside of the test team, and not involved in county cricket, they would only be able to play five or six first-class matches a year. The financial incentive would therefore have been attractive.

However, the players had quickly sensed from feedback from home that their lives would become very different when they returned. Mattis tried to withdraw from the second tour, but was contractually bound.

In South Africa, they lived a privileged lifestyle. They were given “honorary white” status, and lived life in a bubble. However, the bubble burst when Croft was ejected from a white area on a train on the second tour. They drew large crowds and extensive media coverage and though, effectively a West Indian second team, they beat the South Africans over the two “test” series and in the ODIs. Like their “seniors”, their success was based on a four pronged pace attack. The pace of Clarke unnerved the batsmen and hastened the retirement of South Africa’s golden generation at the turn of the 70’s. The main spinner in the party, Parry, was therefore sidelined, as he had been in the test side.

The ramifications for the players on their return home were profound. They all received life bans from any involvement in any game. It was an outcome they never expected. Compared with members of a Sri Lankan side, who were banned for 25 years, and an England team (three years), their punishment could not have been more severe. Such was the hostility, particularly in Jamaica, that many went to live in

the US. In particular, the lives of Austin, Mattis and Murray spiralled out of control. They became alcoholics and drug addicts. Austin preferred to live outside, in the gutter. Mattis was hounded by the Jamaican police, and fled to the US with negative consequences. He was shot and stabbed, nearly losing a leg, and spent time in the criminal justice system. It took him years to rebuild his life and find peace, thanks to a supportive second wife and religion. Bernard Julien became a reclusive figure in Trinidad, clearly suffering from mental health problems. Chang and Austin died early. Marriages collapsed. In general, many were shunted to the periphery of society. They were irredeemably tarnished. Moseley, Clarke, Lynch, Kallicharran (who now lives in the US), Alleyne and Stephenson were able to continue to earn a living in county cricket. Clarke, in particular, returned to South Africa each winter to devastate opposing batting line-ups but also died early.

When the ban was lifted in 1989, it was too late for the majority. Their lives had become too fractured. Only Moseley was to gain selection for the test side and famously broke Graham Gooch's hand in Trinidad. But he only played four tests. Greenidge and Trotman were eventually given coaching jobs. Rowe has lived in Florida for over thirty years as a successful business man. But the rift with Jamaica has never been fully healed. Bacchus has also lived in Florida for some time, and seems to be a contented figure, as does Padmore, who resides in New Jersey. Parry never moved from the island of Nevis. King was finally brought back into the Barbados fold in 2011. Lynch has maintained his links with Surrey.

The one man who truly prospered without any "excess baggage" was Wynter. Significantly, he did not enjoy the same high profile of the others, and was not dependent on the game for a living. He became a highly successful builder in New York. He has tried hard to help those former team-mates who had fallen on hard times.

The book is also an invaluable commentary on the modern history of the islands and the social mores of the population, which are revealing. There also appeared to be some hypocrisy on the players' treatment. Most were pilloried in public by their fellow cricketers. But some allegedly wished them well in private.

Many genuinely felt it would improve the aspirations of the black population by going to South Africa. Others were looking to secure their futures financially. It was only in the final stages of the second tour, that some of the fringe players merely went through the motions.

Mercenaries or Missionaries? Perhaps the wrong question. History may regard them as victims, manipulated by the South African cricket authorities and then forsaken by the politicians in their homeland.

The fourth book was *Cricketing Caesar: A Biography of Mike Brearley* by **MARK PEEL**. The author began by comparing the quiet, cerebral character of his subject off the field to his ruthless captaincy. He was also often regarded as an establishment figure, but possessed a radical anti-establishment inclination. .

He was hugely influenced by his father, Horace, who played a few matches for Yorkshire. He was not only coached by Horace, but followed him to the City of London School. However, he then chose to study different subjects from that of his father. He was a schoolboy prodigy who furthered his reputation at Cambridge University. However, following an unhappy MCC tour of South Africa, immediately after completing his Cambridge studies, he took a five-year break from the game. He did, though, continue to play part-time, and captained an MCC Under-25 side to Pakistan in 1966-67, where he ran up scores of 312 and 223. Lord's noted. He returned to Middlesex in 1970 (for whom he originally made his debut in 1961), and was made captain the following season. It was a difficult baptism. Ian Gould had referred on an earlier evening to the hierarchical dressing room. He was resented by the old guard but as they retired, they were replaced by a talented group. By 1976, Middlesex were County Champions. Under his captaincy, they won the Championship four times and the Gillette Cup twice.

He had made his test debut at Lord's in the above year, against the West Indies, but was dropped after two matches. He was, however, made vice-captain on the tour to India, under Tony Greig, the following winter. Mark Peel went into some detail on his captaincy of England. He was respected by the players. Boycott, Botham and Willis listened to him in a way they didn't with other captains and followed his instructions. Though he never bridged the gap as a batsman between county and test cricket his on field presence as a captain made a difference, especially in that memorable 1981 Ashes series.

This was the first of the talks to be recorded, and to be made available to Cricket Societies.

#### **Next Pitch Publishing Evenings:**

**10<sup>th</sup> July- A Corner of Every Foreign Field: Cricket's Journey from English Games To Global Sport, author Tim Brooks**

**24<sup>th</sup> July- If Not Me, Who? The Story of Tony Greig: the Reluctant Rebel, author Andrew Murtagh. Many members will recall the author as the most enthusiastic of cricketers during his Hampshire playing days in the 1970's.**

## SIR EVERTON WEEKES

Everton Weekes, the great post-War West Indian batsman died on 1 July, aged 95. He was the last surviving member of the fabled three W's.

He died exactly 70 years after he played one of the most memorable innings at Southampton's County Ground. The editor was still in his pram on the day, but he has spoken to so many people who watched the day's play that he sometimes feels as if he was there. People went misty-eyed recalling it. They all remembered the boundary rope being repeatedly pulled in over the outfield to accommodate what became a huge crowd. Wisden commented that 10,000 people were inside the ground. Those who recollect Hampshire's one-day semi-finals, or that unforgettable match against Northamptonshire in 1973, when the crowds were just over half of that number, will have some idea of the magnitude of that sized audience. Most would have been sitting on the grass. There were no advertising hoardings in those days.

Weekes had flogged bowling attacks all over the country before arriving at Southampton. He had already recorded 232 against Surrey, 304 not out at Fenner's (David Sheppard scored 227 for the Light Blues), and 279 against Nottinghamshire. He arrived at the County Ground after a pair of 63s in the second test at Lord's when the West Indies won their first test in England. The West Indian batsmen had captured the imagination as few tourists had ever done.

He was clearly in excellent form. The day was sunny, the pitch blameless, and the Hampshire bowling, apart from Derek Shackleton and Gerry Hill, was fairly innocuous. And Everton Weekes did almost as he pleased. Small in stature, stockily built, but light on his feet, he pulled and drove mightily and cut savagely at times, and at others, delicately. He reached 100 in 95 minutes. With one ball of the day's play remaining, to be bowled by Reg Dare, he was unbeaten on 246. He drove it ferociously, but too straight. It cannoned into the stumps at the bowler's end and stopped dead. He had batted four hours and hit 35 fours. He shared a third wicket stand of 139 with Roy Marshall (135). In his book *Test Outcast*, Marshall claimed he was dismissed only because he became bored, as Weekes kept hogging the strike. He was bowled playing a "disgusting shot" against Shackleton. Weekes went on remorselessly, putting on 155 for the fourth wicket with Clyde Walcott (58) and an unbeaten 121 for the fifth with Bob Christiani (45 not out). Walcott had batted with a runner due to a pulled thigh muscle. The West Indies had run up 539 for four on an unforgettable day's cricket. Weekes' 246 not out remains the highest score by a tourist against Hampshire.

Rain washed out play on the second day, a Monday. On the final day, Hampshire scored 268 for seven, with Neville Rogers making a fine 106 (three sixes and 12 fours) in 165 minutes. He and Neil McCorkell (55) put on 135 for the first wicket.

They were dismissed immediately upon Sonny Ramadhin being introduced into the attack. His entry had been deferred because of a soft wicket. Thereafter, the diminutive right-arm mystery bowler continued to pose problems for all the batsmen, taking four for 46 in 30 overs.

Weekes had still not completed his feasting on County bowling attacks. A fortnight later, he made 200 not out at Leicester. His side made an eye watering 682 for two declared in six and a half hours. The West Indies had batted for a further 25 minutes on the second morning. At the beginning of his innings, Weekes reached his hundred in 65 minutes, in what was to remain the fastest century of the season. Marshall – “his straight drives were superb” - made 188 in three and a half hours. Weekes and Worrell (241 not out) thrashed 340 in 170 minutes.

Everton Weekes scored two further centuries on the tour - 129 in the third test at Trent Bridge - and 147 against Glamorgan at Swansea. His final aggregate was 2,310 runs at an average of 79.65.

He returned to the County Ground on the West Indies' next tour in 1957. The scoring was in direct contrast to the events of seven years earlier. Notwithstanding the inclusion of the three W's, Garry Sobers and “Collie” Smith, the West Indies were bowled out by Shackleton, Malcolm Heath and Jimmy Gray for 110 (Sobers top scored with 37 not out). Weekes batted at eight in the first innings, scoring 12, but coming in earlier in the second, he made 62. In that innings, Frank Worrell, on his only appearance in first-class cricket in Hampshire, batted at eight and made an unbeaten 56 not out. Hampshire became the first County to bowl the West Indies out twice on the tour, but the match was drawn, rain washing away the prospect of a good finish. For the West Indies, Tom Dewdney took a hat-trick at the end of Hampshire's first innings and Bruce Paireaudeau, later to play for New Zealand, made a “somewhat fortunate” 163. Shackleton finished with match figures of ten for 134.

No mention of Everton Weekes' innings in 1950 would be complete without a comment on **ROY MARSHALL**. His century in that match changed his life and the course of the County's history. He joined Hampshire in 1953. Prior to his arrival, their batting was a largely stolid affair. He completely changed all that. The tempo of his run scoring made life easier for his team-mates. He was acknowledged as county cricket's most watchable batsman for years afterwards. His vivid strokeplay was allied to a rare consistency in that era of uncovered wickets. Some bowlers admitted to having sleepless nights before bowling to him. Some spectators would leave the ground when he was dismissed. His maturity brought a County Championship in its wake in 1961. His achievements (35,725 runs and 68 centuries) were even more noteworthy in that he wore spectacles. He rarely batted in a cap.