

# **HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY**

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

**NEWSLETTER No. 396 – November 2020**

## **SOCIETY NEWS**

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

The Committee would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all those members who have renewed their subscriptions for this winter. The response has been very positive and demonstrates that members are committed to maintaining the Society during these difficult times.

There are still a few members who have yet to renew their subscriptions (£10). If they wish to do so, please return the pro forma sent earlier to our Hon. Treasurer, John Grapes at Iona, Pooks Green, Marchwood, Southampton, SO40 4WP. Payment can be made by cheque or by BACS. Should you wish to pay by BACS, the Society's bank account is:-

NatWest Bank – Fleet Branch  
Hampshire Cricket Society  
Sort Code 60-10-13  
Account Number 36430846

If the latter is the preferred option, please advise John by email (Email address: [Treasurer@HantsCricSoc.org.uk](mailto:Treasurer@HantsCricSoc.org.uk)) of the amount paid, together with any changes to your personal information. Also please include your name as the reference when making the transfer.

## **PITCH PUBLISHING ZOOM SESSIONS**

The Zoom sessions organised by Pitch Publishing for the benefit of members of Cricket Societies all over the country have provided much of interest. Andy Ray, our Webmaster, has been informing members of those events. Reviews of the early sessions were included in the Newsletters. Details of the later sessions were filmed and can be found on the Pitch Publishing website ([www.pitchpublishing.co.uk](http://www.pitchpublishing.co.uk)). Click onto News, where the books concerned are listed, and then click onto the book itself. There is then a link where members will be able to watch the full session. They are of approx. 1.5 hours duration. The final winter event was on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October (the autobiography of Luke Fletcher of Nottinghamshire). All these sessions were free of charge.

If there are any further Pitch Publishing events in the New Year, members will be notified beforehand.

## SIMON HUGHES' VIRTUAL CRICKET CLUB

The above is a more recent development designed for members of Cricket Societies, where Simon Hughes, editor of *The Cricketer* and the Analyst on Sky Television, and Simon Mann of TMS interview current cricketers. The projected list of interviewees is an ambitious and very attractive one. The pair interviewed Angus Fraser (later joined by John Emburey) on 15 October. Joe Root was in the spotlight on 22 October. The provisional future programme also includes many members of the England Test and ODI squads. There is a cost of £7.20 (including VAT) per month. Given that most of those to be interviewed will be either unavailable or outside the price range which the Society will be able to afford for one of our meetings, the cost represents very good value for money. Those who join the Club also receive a brief email of the main topics that were discussed afterwards. The Society will notify members by email of all the sessions in advance.

## HAMPSHIRE NEWS

**MASON CRANE** has signed a two-year contract, which will keep him at Hampshire until the end of the 2022 season. He enjoyed a successful season this summer, taking 14 wickets at a very healthy average. of 13.57 in four matches. He was omitted from the side for the match against Middlesex at Radlett, when Liam Dawson returned from the international squad. Crane's tally was exceeded only by Ian Holland (17). He is still only 23 years old but has already taken 80 wickets in first-class cricket for the County, and a further 102 in white ball cricket.

Hampshire have extended the rookie contracts for **SCOTT CURRIE**, **AJEET DALE** and **TOM SCRIVEN** until the end of 2021. All three of these young players enjoyed promising moments during the Bob Willis Trophy and it is good to see that Hampshire have continued to show faith in them.

When Angus Fraser, now Middlesex's Director of Cricket, spoke at the first of the Virtual Cricket Club screenings (see above) he commented that given county cricket's parlous financial situation, and the cessation of Kolpak contracts, it was inevitable that clubs would start looking increasingly to their younger players, from their Academies, in the future.

He further said that in the Bob Willis Trophy, the selection policies of the Counties had been in three distinct groups: those who were intent on winning every match and fielding their strongest side, those who decided to give their Academy players an opportunity, to test their mettle, and those who adopted a mixed approach.

It has to be said that Hampshire were left with little choice on their selection policy given that Kyle Abbott and Fidel Edwards were confined by Covid to their home countries, James Vince and Liam Dawson were with the England squads, and Aneurin Donald was out for the season recovering from a cruciate ligament injury. As

the truncated season progressed, Keith Barker became injured and missed the last two matches, Dawson ruptured his Achilles tendon at Radlett during his sole appearance, and Vince was shielding his wife who was expecting their second child. In the circumstances, Hampshire did exceptionally well with their inexperienced side to win two of their five matches. Their victories at Radlett and against Surrey at Arundel were famous indeed. They also established good positions against Sussex at Hove and Kent at Canterbury before their relative rawness was exposed. However, captain Sam Northeast, and the coaching staff, must be congratulated on the team's showing. At both Arundel and Canterbury, Northeast was the only capped member of the side.

During the summer, **Kyle Abbott made food deliveries to the rural poor of Kwazulu Natal**. Notwithstanding wearing a mask, he was recognised everywhere he went and was feted by the local communities.

Hampshire have decided not to renew the contracts of **Ollie Soames and Harry Came**. As he had not been selected for any matches in 2020, the decision in respect of the former came as no surprise. A right-hand opening batsman, he came into the game via school (Cheltenham College). He made his first-class debut for Loughborough University against Sussex at Hove in 2018 and played in four matches for Hampshire at the end of that season. In his first Championship game of the following year, he made an enterprising 62 in the second innings against Warwickshire at Edgbaston, sharing an opening stand of 102 with Joe Weatherley. This remained his highest score. He was unable to replicate that form and was not selected again after a run of low scores in mid-season.

Harry Came originally signed for Hampshire after an excellent season in 2<sup>nd</sup> XI cricket for Kent. There was genuine competition between the two Counties for his signature. He played his first match for Hampshire towards the end of the 2019 season. His appearance occurred in unusual circumstances, against Surrey at The Oval. He took the field as a full replacement on the third day after Aneurin Donald had been concussed whilst fielding at short leg. Came went on to score an unbeaten 23 in the second innings, batting for an hour and a half in company with Liam Dawson in an unbroken sixth wicket partnership of 78. There were two other full replacements in the match. Sam Curran and Ollie Pope (who scored an unbeaten 227) both batted for Surrey, but were then called up by England.

Came seemed to be a natural replacement for Donald, who was indisposed for the whole of this summer. He was selected for the first four Bob Willis Trophy matches scoring 49 in five innings with a highest score of 25 against Sussex at Hove in his first visit to the crease of the summer.

Two new players appeared for Hampshire in the t20 Vitality Blast. The County took a punt on **GEORGE HENRY MUNSEY**, a 27-year old attacking top order batsman. He was born in Oxford, went to school in Scotland, and had enjoyed a nomadic career

via Scotland (for whom he played international cricket), Northamptonshire and Leicestershire. His forte was scoring runs quickly. Though he was in the Hampshire section of *Playfair*, which indicated that he had been signed prior to the start of the season, the announcement of his selection took most by surprise. Sadly, it was a gamble that failed, as he scored only 55 runs in his five matches.

The other debutant was **CALVIN GRANT HARRISON**, a 22-year old leg spin bowler. Born in Durban, South Africa, he received his education at Taunton School. He had previously trialled with several Counties: Somerset, Warwickshire, Gloucestershire and Surrey before playing for Hampshire 2<sup>nd</sup> XI in 2019. He had played two first-class matches for Oxford MCCU in 2019, the second of which was against Hampshire in The Parks. He dismissed James Vince, but not before the Hampshire captain had scored 139. He made his Hampshire debut in the Blast against Sussex at The Ageas Bowl; he bowled well, with a good, enticing, loop, conceding 39 in his four overs. However, he suffered the misfortune of dropping catches off his own bowling as Luke Wright unfurled some blistering straight drives. In truth, though, he wasn't the only culprit; Hampshire's fielding in this match, which was televised, was embarrassingly poor. He then played against Surrey at The Oval, when he was put on to bowl with the match being all but over. On this occasion, Will Jacks and Laurie Evans were at their punishing best. The fortunes of both Harrison and Munsey demonstrated that county cricket, even in the t20 game, is a hard, unforgiving school.

## **THE SOUTHERN VIPERS**

### **THE RACHEL HEYHOE FLINT TROPHY**

The Southern Vipers deservedly won the inaugural Rachel Heyhoe Flint Trophy. They were victorious in all their six group matches, before defeating the Northern Diamonds in the final at Edgbaston.

The Vipers' success was founded on impressively consistent batting and bowling. In only two of their seven matches did they experience a wobble. Their batting was led by **Georgia Adams**, daughter of Chris, the great Sussex captain. She was quite awesomely dependable, posting scores of 37, 55, 44, 89, 154 not out, 41 and 80 – 500 runs, at an average of 83.33. She was easily the competition's highest run scorer. As might be expected from her pedigree, she possessed a sound technique. Right-handed and an opening batsman, who gave her wicket away in the early matches looking to push on prematurely, but once appreciating that 50 overs occupies a lengthy period, she eschewed risk. She was strictly orthodox in her approach and reaped the benefit.

In the first two matches, she opened with her Sussex team-mate **Dani Wyatt**, who made 66 and 53. The latter then left to join the England bubble for their t20 series against the West Indies. Her vacancy was filled by the precocious **Elle McCaughan**, for Sussex Women at the age of 15. She moved up the order and twice scored

fifties. In the match against Western Storm, she made her highest score, 63, whilst partnering Adams in an opening stand of 155. Adams then shared an unbroken second wicket stand of 133 with **Maia Bouchier** (aged 21) who played for Hampshire Women last year.

Society members will remember that delightful meeting at Test Valley Golf Club in March 2018 in the company of **Charlie Dean and Emily Windsor**. Both made their debuts for the Vipers in the competition and went on to excel. Charlie ended the summer best all-rounder of the Summer in domestic cricket. She anchored the end of her side's innings with a fine 60 not out, in the first match against the Storm at Bristol, and ended the season with 180 runs (avge 45.00). She also took nine wickets (avge 29.88) with her off-spin bowling. For good measure she also held four catches

Emily made her first appearance in that match at Bristol. A middle-order batsman, she made useful contributions as she was finding her feet, but then peaked in the final two matches. In the last of the group matches against South East Stars at The Oval, the Vipers' innings, was on a knife edge when they lost their fifth wicket with the score at 141, still 87 runs short of their target with just over 18 overs remaining. She then made an unbeaten 47 off 43 balls to guide her team home with 17 balls to spare. She added 72 for the sixth wicket with wicket-keeper **Carla Rudd**.

In the final, the Vipers dominated the Diamonds bowling for some 30 overs, but then collapsed for 150 for one to 191 for eight before the leg-spin bowling of Heather Armitage and Katie Levick. Among the wickets to fall was the omnipresent Adams. Windsor, batting very responsibly with much intelligence then shepherded the tail end of their innings in making 37, second top score.

The Diamonds were left with 232 to win. There were a few early alarms but the introduction of spin bowler **Charlotte Taylor** completely changed the complexion of the match again and swung it decisively in the favour of the Vipers. The Sky commentary team were at a loss to describe what she was bowling. It seemed to be a mixture of off-breaks, leg breaks, doosras and carram balls. The Diamonds' batsmen were equally as baffled. She went on to claim the Woman of the Match award with figures of six for 34 off her ten overs.

**Tara Norris, Lauren Bull, Paige Scholfield** were also in the wickets for the Vipers.

Like so much other sport, it is a pity that the Southern Vipers' considerable performances could not be seen by the cricketing public. Profound thanks must be extended to Kevan James for his commentaries on Radio Solent which brought the players and the games to life. The performance of Emily Windsor, with whom he has shared the commentary box on several occasions, must have pleased him immensely.

## CHARLOTTE TAYLOR

It was a rehabilitative season for Charlotte Taylor. .

She had first played for Hampshire Women ten years ago at the age of 16. Her back story is virtually a history of the women's County game in Hampshire in the past decade. Ten years ago Hampshire were in Division Three of the Women's County Championship. In 2010 they fell into Division Four at the end of that season, were promoted in the following year but were then in danger of relegation again at the end of the summer 2012. She scored 55 and claimed three for 14 to save the day in the relegation play-off match (against Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire). Hampshire remained in Division Three playing against such sides as Scotland and the Netherlands, before gaining promotion to Division Two at the end of the 2015 season. In the first match of the season against Northamptonshire, she opened the innings and made her highest score of 165 not out, which the Editor believes is a record in County cricket. Also in that side was the 18 year old Emily Windsor who made 99; the pair shared a third wicket stand of 200. Taylor then suffered a cruciate ligament injury and was out of the game for two years. On her return, she found the going hard, dropping down the order to 11 and rarely bowling. Franchise cricket seemed a long way off. However, Charlotte Edwards kept faith with her and she was brought into the Vipers side for the match against South East Stars at Hove. She was in the team for the rest of the season, which she ended with 15 wickets (avg 10.13), the best in the country.

Like Adams, and Dean, whose father was a very fine opening batsman for (Staffordshire) she grew up in a cricketing household. Charlotte's father, Steve, played for New Milton in the Southern League for many years; her more famous family member is her uncle, Neil Taylor, another redoubtable New Milton stalwart who also played for Middlesex and Dorset.

## THE VITALITY BLAST

**NOTTINGHAM OUTLAWS** were winners of the Vitality Blast defeating Surrey by six wickets. Rain washed away the first allocated day for the first time in the Competition's 18 – year history. On the next day, a Sunday, play could not start until 3.15pm. The two semi-finals were confined to 11 overs-a-side whilst the final was played over 16 overs.

The stand out player of the day was Nottinghamshire's captain, Dan Christian, who was at the crease when Hampshire scrambled home in the final at the Ageas Bowl ten years ago. On this occasion, his contributions were more emphatic. In the semi-finals, he struck a vivid 30 off just 13 balls (including four towering sixes over cow corner) as his team beat Lancashire Lightning by five wickets. In the final, he

strangled the end of the Surrey innings as he dismissed four batsmen for 23 in his three overs. Surrey had reached the final after beating Gloucestershire by six wickets.

### **THE CRICKETER VILLAGE CUP**

**Colwall** of Herefordshire won the above Cup by beating Redbourn of Hertfordshire by six runs in a thrilling finish at Lord's. Former Hampshire batsman **Henry Horton** would have been looking down from his celestial home with a smile. He lived in the village all his life with his brother, Joe (who played for Worcestershire) and his two sisters. Henry is buried in the same grave as his brother in the village churchyard. Mike Barnard once quipped that he remained a bachelor as he never found a wealthy barmaid!

### **SIMON LEE**

Mention must be made of Hampshire's new groundsman, Simon Lee, who had arrived from Taunton. The dramatically changeable weather during the spring and summer made it a very difficult year for anybody working on the soil. In the cricket world, the challenge of preparing wickets was compounded by uncertainty and, at the outset, a fluctuating timetable. Also, as he outlined in *The Cricket Paper*, he had to manage the intricacies of the Government's furlough scheme. In the spring and early summer, during lockdown, there was only himself and his assistant. Some furloughed staff later returned but he still had to find new recruits for a team of 13 in preparation for the programme of international matches: one Test against the West Indies and two versus Pakistan, three ODIs against Ireland and three T20s against Australia. Even then, the weather was not overly kind, especially for the tests against Pakistan which were constantly interrupted by rain and bad light, as autumn arrived early. Simon Lee earned the plaudits of all concerned with the quality of the pitches. He receives the Editor's nomination as Hampshire's Man of the Season.

Interestingly, his predecessor at the Ageas Bowl Karl McDermott, found himself restricted to Lord's during lockdown. He lives inside the ground with his young family. There were undoubtedly worse places in which to be socially isolated!

### **THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP 2021**

The ECB have announced that the First-Class Counties have agreed a revised structure for next season. The Bob Willis Trophy has been retained, but in a different format to 2020, and a revamped County Championship will be introduced.

The County Championship will be in two stages:

**Stage One**-the Counties have been split into three allegedly seeded groups. Each County will play the other counties in their group both home and away – a total of 10 matches.

The groups will be as follows:-

Group 1: Essex, Warwickshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Worcestershire, Durham

Group 2: Somerset, Hampshire, Surrey, Gloucestershire, Middlesex, Leicestershire

Group 3: Kent, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Northamptonshire, Glamorgan, Sussex

At the end of the group stage, the two top Counties in each group will progress to Division One for the second phase of the County Championship.

The other 12 counties will move into Divisions Two and Three. The third and fourth-placed teams will be in Division Two while the fifth and sixth-placed teams will move into Division Three.

**Stage Two** - The Counties will play their final four County Championship matches in their “new” Divisions. **The County Championship title will be won by the team that finishes top of Division One.**

**Bob Willis Trophy**- **The top two teams in Division One will play for the BWT in a five-day final at Lord’s at the end of the season.**

### **IAN BELL**

The most notable retirement at the end of the season was Ian Bell. He will have good cause to remember the Ageas Bowl. He made no fewer than six centuries there. He achieved the distinction of scoring the first test century on the ground: a fluent unbeaten 119 against Sri Lanka in June 2011. Three years later, he struck an imperious 167 against India, sharing a third wicket stand of 142 with Gary Ballance (156).

He also made two centuries in ODIs. The first was 126 not out against India in 2007. The England innings was dominated by he and Alastair Cook, as they added 178 in just under 30 overs for the second wicket. He also scored 126 against the West Indies in 2012.

For good measure, he also twice passed three figures for Warwickshire against Hampshire there: 104 in 2010 and 174 in seven hours in 2016. The pitch for the latter innings was not an easy one, but he memorably batted on a different plane to all those others taking part in the match.