

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: Shaun Udal James Tomlinson

NEWSLETTER No. 406 – NOVEMBER 2021

MEETINGS

Wednesday 17 November – Meeting

This afternoon's speaker, **IAN GOULD**, has been an integral part of the cricket scene for nearly five decades, first as a wicket-keeper/batsman for Middlesex and Sussex between 1975 - 1990 (he captained Sussex in 1987), then as Middlesex coach from 1991 – 2000, and finally as an umpire from 2002 – date. Between 2009–2019 he was a member of the ICC Elite Umpires' Panel.

It has been a rewarding career comprising three County Championship titles with Middlesex (1976, 1977 (Joint), and 1980), two Lord's Finals (Middlesex 1977 and Sussex 1986), a Sunday League winner with Sussex in 1982, appearances in 18 Limited Overs Internationals (LOIs), and standing in 74 tests, 140 LOIs and 37 International T20 matches. He officiated in two major World finals: the ICC Champions Trophy (between Australia and New Zealand), in South Africa (October 2009), and the ICC World T20 Final (between India v Sri Lanka) in Bangladesh (March 2014).

His autobiography *Gunner: My Life in Cricket* was published by Pitch Publishing in 2019. A review of the book, following his publisher's zoom session, was included in Newsletter No 392 – June 2020, which can be found on the Society's website. The editor was much impressed by all his thorough preparation work leading up to his umpiring in International matches. It was also evident that he was an outstanding man manager.

IAN JAMES GOULD was born in Taplow, Buckinghamshire on 19 August 1957. The beginning of his sporting career also included time on the books of Arsenal FC-hence his nickname. Another noteworthy incident in his career was fielding as a substitute in that famous Test at Melbourne in 1982, which England won by three runs, and in which he caught Greg Chappell. He was also the TV umpire in the Australian ball tampering incident at Cape Town in March 2018.

Wednesday 27 October 2021 – Report

Richard Ellison delivered a wide ranging address, as well as a unique dissertation on swing bowling. His comments were thoughtful and analytical throughout. He referred to the cricketing genes in his family (see Newsletter No. 405) before moving on to his early days in the game. His earliest coach was Brian Luckhurst. During his career, he drew on the advice and experience of Alan Dixon, Bob Woolmer, John Shepherd, Terry Alderman and Malcolm Marshall to expand his knowledge of swing bowling. The latter's speed and control was such that he regarded the great Hampshire and West Indian fast man as the greatest bowler in his era. He played club cricket for Malmsbury in Wiltshire and then in Kent. Crucially, he spent two years playing and coaching in Johannesburg. In every game, he was duelling with test players, one of whom was Graeme Pollock.

When he talked about his test career, he referred to the practical joking of Ian Botham and Allan Lamb, the challenges of an Indian tour, that when he enjoyed his career defining spell against Australia at Edgbaston, he played against the England physio's advice as he had a heavy cold, and relationships with the Press. When batting against the West Indians, he rarely saw a fielder in his eyeline as their fast bowlers were running to the wicket. All the fielders were either square of the wicket (just) or behind him. He remembered that Viv

Richards twice hit him out of the ground at Antigua. Richards was the best batsman he ever saw, followed by Martin Crowe, Sachin Tendulkar, Brian Lara and Allan Border. Alan Knott, full of idiosyncrasies and eccentricity, was the finest wicket-keeper; he was always available to talk to. His best friend in the game was Alan Igglesden. He spoke about his brave 20 year fight against an inoperable brain tumour. (Alan Igglesden sadly passed away shortly after the meeting). He praised Kerry Packer, whom he regarded as being ahead of his time.

His knowledge of the properties of the cricket ball, and swing bowling, was extensive and of degree standard. He felt that bowlers did not have to resort to the dark arts to obtain swing. Reverse swing was pioneered by Northamptonshire's Sarfraz Nawaz.

He argued that as the white ball does little, games with that ball could be played in April and September. Four day championship cricket should be played in high summer on better wickets, thereby benefitting both batsmen and bowlers. He also suggested that groundsmen should be employed by the ECB rather than the Counties to ensure more uniformity in the quality of pitches.

Since 2017 Richard Ellison has worked as a Cricket Liaison Officer with the ECB. One of their main tasks was to record "Incidents of Note", which was an objective rather than subjective process, and the source of discipline and rating of pitches.

STRUCTURE FOR THE 2022 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Members will probably be aware that the County Championship will revert to a two Divisional structure in 2022. The two Divisions will comprise the same teams as would have been the case in 2020. Interestingly, the outcome of last summer's Conference competition was not markedly different. Eight of the ten Counties who will be in Division 1 next year – Essex, Somerset, Hampshire, Yorkshire, Warwickshire, Lancashire, Northamptonshire and Gloucestershire – were either in the A Division, or the top four of the B Division of the Conference in 2021. The two outliers from the aborted 2020 Championship were Surrey (5th in the Conference B Division) and Kent (1st in the Conference C Division). Nottinghamshire are the most unfortunate of the Counties; they were in last summer's A Division and were in contention to win the Championship until the penultimate day of the season. They were relegated from Division 1 of the Championship in 2019. With Durham (3rd in the B Division), they will be in next summer's Division 2.

The 2022 structure of 10 Counties in Division 1 and eight in Division 2, postponed from 2020, will still leave an unsatisfactory way of determining the County Champions in that each team in Division 1 will not play each other twice.

The fixture list for 2022 has still to be published but, in the wake of the strong criticism of the schedule in 2021, there seems to be a realisation that more Championship matches need to be played in the middle of the season.

ALAN DAVIDSON and ASHLEY MALLETT at THE COUNTY GROUND, SOUTHAMPTON

Alan Davidson, the great Australian left-handed all-rounder, passed away on 30 October, aged 92. He toured England three times, in 1953, 1956 and 1961. His only appearance against Hampshire was in the first of those years at the County Ground. He was bowled by Roy Marshall for 22 in Australia's first innings. The top had come off the pitch in the first over of the match. Australia largely owed their total of 268 to Neil Harvey's 109, which Alan Rayment, who watched his innings from his vantage point in the covers, always regarded as the finest he ever saw. Interestingly, seven of the Australian wickets were taken by Hampshire's two opening batsmen (Marshall 4 – 69 and Jimmy Gray 3 – 52). When Hampshire batted, Davidson held three catches but did not bowl. Arthur Morris, who captained the side whilst Lindsay Hassett took a rest, utilised only three bowlers, Bill Johnston (5 for 75), Ron Archer (3 for 23) – both pace bowlers – and Jack Hill (legbreak - 2 for 27), as Hampshire were dismissed for only 131. Henry Horton top scored with 28.

Davidson did not bat when Australia batted again. Morris added 50 to his 55 in the first innings; Jimmy De Courcy made an unbeaten 55. When Hampshire batted a second time, Marshall launched a furious assault before perishing to Richie Benaud for 71. Davidson, on as second change, trapped Jimmy Gray lbw (9–3-16-1) and caught Reg Dare.

Besides being Davidson's only appearance against Hampshire, the game was historic in that it marked both Marshall's and Horton's first home match. The former was still qualifying for Hampshire and was unable to play regularly until 1955.

Though he made his Test debut on the tour, Alan Davidson never became a test regular until Australia's visit to South Africa in 1956-57. The result thereafter was spectacular; he claimed 170 wickets (avge. 19.25) in the remaining seven test series before his retirement at the end of the Ashes rubber of 1962-63. In that period, he was indisputably the finest left-arm fast bowler in the world, and arguably, the best ever until that time. His late in swing was lethal. He was also a hard-hitting left-handed batsman and a brilliant close to the wicket catcher. He was a cricketer to be savoured.

Ashley Mallett died the day before his fellow Australian on 29 October, aged 76. He was that rarity in Australian post-war cricket; a successful off-spin bowler. He took more wickets (132) for his country for a bowler of his type until Nathan Lyon. Tall and slim, with a high action, he claimed his wickets with spin and bounce.

Like Alan Davidson, he toured England three times, in 1968, 1972 and 1975. His only appearance against Hampshire was in 1975, in another unforgettable match between the two sides. The first day was memorable for two fine innings by David Turner (87) and Trevor Jesty (79). The day belonged, though, to Barry Richards, who was captaining the side whilst Richard Gilliat was resting. The Australian pace bowlers were Jeff Thomson, Alan Hurst and Max Walker. It was five years since he had faced bowlers of their speed. He struggled, playing and missing and never quite finding his timing. His travails were exemplified by Ian Chappell posting a fly slip. He worked - that being the operative word - his way to the thirties in the first hour and a half. When lunch arrived, 30 minutes later, he was in the nineties. Having found his touch, Richards batted as only he could; assured off his legs and driving resplendently. By now, the packed house was in frenzy and they were looking forward to applauding his century after the interval. Shortly after the resumption, the leg spinner, Jim Higgs, bowled him a half tracker. Most expected the ball to disappear as far as Hulse Road, but typically for him, he tried to hit it just hard enough to clear the boundary. The ball finished in the hands of Bruce Laird at mid-wicket just in front of the ropes. The gasp from the crowd was audible, but the stand-in captain still received a much deserved standing ovation.

Richards had provided the lion's share of a second wicket partnership of 138 with Turner. The undemonstrative left-hander then added 130 with Jesty. It was now that Ashley Mallett came into his own. He induced Turner to edge to wicketkeeper Rod Marsh; he then quickly accounted for John Rice in the same manner, before bowling Andy Murtagh. He finished with figures of three for 67 as Hampshire totalled 351 for seven, declaring just before the close.

On the Monday, Australia went on to 344 for six declared (Greg Chappell 86; Ross Edwards 74 not out). Mallett did not bat. Barry Richards then raced to an unbeaten 54 in the remaining time available. Gordon Greenidge had made only 14 at the end. Richards retired hurt for 69 early on the next morning, "struck amidships", courtesy of a brute of a ball from Thomson. Turner also left the crease because of injury shortly afterwards. Greenidge, however, played 74 before Hampshire declared on 247 for three. Mallett dismissed Rice in exactly the same manner as in the first innings and returned eventual figures of one for 55.

Australia, mainly due to Captain Ian Chappell's pugnacious 127, scored at just under five runs an over to reach their victory target of 255, for the loss of five wickets. The match was a marvellous batting feast producing 1198 runs for the loss of 21 wickets. Ashley Mallett's match figures of four for 122 in 32 overs were the best of the game, and most respectable amidst the carnage on a blameless pitch.

A quiet, studious, man, he was ironically nicknamed "Rowdy". He coached and became a commentator after retiring from playing. He was a highly regarded author with books on Victor Trumper, Ian Chappell and, shortly before his death, Neil Harvey – the last of Bradman's Invincibles of 1948 - amongst his output. The book on Harvey became available in this country last week.

CHARLIE DEAN

The career of Charlie (Charlotte) Dean, educated at Portsmouth Grammar School, continued apace last summer. Still only 20 years old, she gained selection for England Women in the five One Day International series against New Zealand in September. Having made her debut in the first match at Bristol, she then took four for 36 in eight overs in her second appearance at Worcester, before claiming three for 52 in her ten over stint in the fourth match at Derby. She seems to be on the cusp of a long international career.

© Copyright Alan Edwards 2021 (NewsletterEditor@HantsCricSoc.org.uk)