

# HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: Shaun Udal James Tomlinson Kevan James

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## MEETINGS

### January Meeting

Members will be aware that James Taylor was unable to attend our January meeting due to illness. He still intends to come to address us at a future date.

### Wednesday 14 February

The Society is delighted to welcome **SIMON MANN** to this afternoon's meeting. He is, of course, an indispensable and, to listeners, a highly popular, member of the *Test Match Special* team.

Born in Bristol in November 1963, he was educated at Birmingham University, where he read history. He joined the BBC in 1990 and first reported on Test matches for Radio Five Live four years later. He reported on two World Cups before joining the TMS commentary team for the first time on England's 1996 tour to Zimbabwe. The January edition of *The Cricketer* contained a feature on TMS and included a photograph from that tour; his fellow members in the commentary box were Peter Baxter (producer), Trevor Bailey, Henry Blofeld, Chris Cowdrey and scorer Jo King, who was a rare female presence at the time. The cricket coverage landscape has changed considerably in recent years and he is sure to provide an interesting afternoon.

One of the changes is the introduction of the Podcast. On *The Analyst Inside Cricket* podcast, he provides with Simon Hughes, a sharp analysis of the cricket world featuring comment and interviews with international players and celebrity guests. They covered each day of the marvellous recent test in Hyderabad; it helped fill a much needed broadcasting gap. They provide an interesting and complementary contrast in style.

Simon Mann has remained true to his roots, being a devoted supporter of Bristol City and Gloucestershire CCC.

## NEXT MEETING

The Society's final meeting this winter is on Wednesday 13 March, when our speaker will be Derek Pringle, ex Essex and England, and now a

highly regarded Cricket Correspondent for the Daily Telegraph. He has also written one of the most entertaining autobiographies in recent years: *Pushing the Boundaries - Cricket in the Eighties - Playing Home and Away*.

## HAMPSHIRE PLAYERS IN THE WINTER

**James Vince** has again played for the Sydney Sixers in Australia's Big Bash League (BBL). Uncharacteristically, he struggled for much of the time, but found form with 83 off 55 balls against the Melbourne Stars at the SCG on Boxing Day. However, he fielded quite brilliantly holding nine catches in the same number of matches. He scored 244 runs (avge. 30.50).

As the Sixers moved on to the final stages of BBL, he flew to the Emirates to captain the Gulf Giants in an International League Twenty/20 tournament. At the time of writing, he has scored 298 runs (avge. 29.80), including three half-centuries. Among his team-mates have been Jamie Smith, Chris Jordan, and Jamie Overton (Surrey), and Jordan Cox (Kent),

**Liam Dawson** has also played in the BBL, for the first time, this winter. He was contracted for the first three matches of the Melbourne Stars' programme. He played in each one, scoring 31 runs and conceding 90 runs off 61 balls. He had returned home prior to Vince's innings mentioned above.

He then moved to South Africa to represent Sunrisers Eastern Cape in the much vaunted SA20, which has done so much to ruin, indeed destroy, the credibility of South African test cricket. Their country's test fixtures have been downgraded, with weakened sides now playing for the country in what was the highest form of the game. (See below)\*. The Sunrisers eventually won the competition, with Dawson being an ever-present. In 11 matches, the Hampshire vice-captain scored 40 runs in four innings (being dismissed only once) and claimed 8 wickets in 210 balls (avge. 33.87) **He has become the first Hampshire player to take 200 wickets in Twenty20 cricket, though only 129 for Hampshire.** The others have been taken in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Australia, South Africa and for various English teams. He has also played in the Emirates, but his wickets there were in matches excluded from official records.

Among Dawson's team-mates were Aiden Markram, who was so successful for Hampshire in 2019, Adam Rossington (Essex), Tom Abell (Somerset), Simon Harmer (Essex) and Dan Worrall (Surrey).

As reported earlier this winter, the gifted **JOHN TURNER** was selected for the England limited overs squads. However, he was fortunate not to be chosen for any of the matches, in which England generally performed so abysmally. He has, however, played in one match in the SA20 for Paarl Royals against Liam Dawson's side at St. George's Park, Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth), in which he went wicketless whilst bowling four overs and conceding 30 runs. It has been reported that he will be returning to Exeter University to complete his degree at the start of the forthcoming season.

**TOBY ALBERT** has excelled for his club, Joondalup, in Western Australia Premier Grade cricket. After delaying his departure until early in the New year because of minor knee surgery, he scored 71 against Bayswater Morley, 71 not out against Melville, a club familiar to Hampshire followers over the years, before striking 170 versus Gosnells. He and opening partner, Garrick Morgan (190) shared a triple century first wicket stand. He has apparently been working on his power-hitting.

**FLETCHA MIDDLETON**, who opened the Hampshire innings with Albert at the end of last season, has had a fluctuating season for Fitzroy Doncaster in the Cricket Victoria Premier Division. He made 103 against Northcote, then suffered a temporary blip, before re-emerging with 63 at the expense of Dandedong. He was then concussed after a blow to the back of his head and had to retire hurt after making his way to a splendid 74 in 100 minutes against top-of-the table Carlton. He was unable to bat again the following weekend. It has to be hoped that the after effects of the injury are not long-lasting.

**IAN HOLLAND** has enjoyed productive spells with the ball for Ringwood, a suburb of Melbourne, in the same league as Middleton.

## **TWO HAMPSHIRE SIGNINGS**

Hampshire have signed the Australian **MICHAEL GERTGES NESER** and the Afghan **NAVEEN-UL-HAQ MURID** primarily for this summer's Vitality Blast.

Neser will play for the majority of the Blast campaign and potentially for two Championship matches. Naveen will substitute for Neser in the Blast when Neser returns to Australia.

Neser has played for the last three summers for Glamorgan, where he has developed into an authentic all-rounder. Born in Pretoria, South Africa on 29 March 1990, his family moved to the Gold Coast, south of Brisbane,

when he was 10 years old. He has played all of his Sheffield Shield cricket for Queensland for whom he made his debut in 2010-11. He is an Australian international, having played in two tests, and four ODIs. His T20 cricket has been with the Adelaide Strikers and Brisbane Beat, and one match in the IPL in 2013.

Naveen comes to Hampshire after the last three seasons in the Blast with Leicestershire. His record was eye-catching: 54 wickets (avge. 18.55), with a formidable strike rate of 13.44. Leicestershire awarded him his county cap in 2022.

Aged only 24, he has enjoyed a quite remarkable career to date. He is a global cricketer, having played T20 cricket, much of it in franchises, in Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, the West Indies, India, Pakistan, the UAE (in the Afghanistan Premier League), Australia and South Africa. In the last few weeks, he has stated that he will only play in franchise cricket in the future, so as to enjoy and lengthen his career for as long as possible. In all T20 cricket, he has impressively tallied 189 wickets (avge. 23.87) at a strike rate of 17.64. He is clearly a consummate performer in the format.

He was born in Logar, Afghanistan on 23 September 1999. Six foot one inch tall, he is a right-arm medium fast bowler, which suggests he has many variations in his armoury. He made his first-class debut for Kabul Region in March 2018; he played in only 10 four-day matches until July 2019, since when he has appeared in 31 List A matches and no fewer than 189 T20 matches. He has clearly made the most of his opportunities. A cricketer to be envied. He has played in 15 ODIs and 32 Twenty 20 matches for his country.

## **WORLD TEST CHAMPIONSHIP COMPROMISED**

\*South Africa were predictably overwhelmed by New Zealand in the first Test at Wanganui from 4-7 February, losing by 281 runs. Kane Williamson filled his boots with a century in each innings -118 and 109 – and Rachin Ravindra, born in Wellington, even more so with a first innings 240. South Africa were dismissed for 162 and 247. The result of this match was contributory to the World Test Championship. The credibility and outcome of the competition has already been seriously compromised.

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