

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: Shaun Udal James Tomlinson Kevan James

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MEETINGS

Wednesday 13 November 2024 – Meeting

In the modern era, it has become fairly commonplace to call people from all walks of life "legends". Yet, it is entirely appropriate to apply that term to this afternoon's speaker, **MATTHEW MAYNARD**, who by any test, is a Welsh legend. He was actually born in Oldham, Lancashire, but attended school in North Wales. He initially strayed onto the Kent staff for a short while before joining Glamorgan.

His entry into first-class cricket, against Yorkshire at St.Helen's, Swansea, towards the end of August 1985, was startling. Rain washed away the first day, but both teams were determined to make a game of it. In pursuit of an eventual victory target of 262, Glamorgan had lost four wickets for 120 when he made his way to the wicket. He had not batted in the first innings. Almost immediately, there was a clatter of wickets at the other end as left-arm spinner Phil Carrick (who had earlier scored 92) began also to stamp his authority with the ball. Undeterred, Matthew Maynard carried the attack to both Carrick and the lesser known off break bowler Ian Swallow. His century was in sight when the ninth wicket fell at 185. He fearlessly took the fast track to his hundred by striking three successive sixes off Carrick before being dismissed shortly afterwards. He had batted for only 87 minutes; all but 30 of his runs had come in boundaries (13 fours and five sixes).

He had announced his arrival as an exciting strokemaker and, moreover, an entertainer, who was to endear himself to all followers of county cricket for the next twenty years. He went on to score a century before lunch on two occasions and, in 1993, won the Walter Lawrence Trophy for the fastest century of the season.

By the end of his career, he had scored more centuries (54) in the first-class game for Glamorgan than any other player. Only Alan Jones and Emrys Davies had made more than his 22,764 runs. Our speaker was the only right-handed batsman of the trio.

His highest innings was a power-laden 243 against Hampshire at the County Ground, Southampton in 1991. He struck the ball to all parts, as he cleared the boundary ropes on six occasions, as well as hitting 32 fours. He monopolised a sixth wicket partnership of 154 in 35 overs with Robert Croft to such effect that the latter contributed just 35 runs. Glamorgan went on to win the game by seven wickets.

He was captain of Glamorgan in 1992 and from 1996-2000. It was in the latter tenure that he led a fine Glamorgan side to a County Championship title in 1997. Three years later he captained his County to their first Lord's final (in the Benson and Hedges Cup) since 1977. The lead-up to the final and semi-final were a personal

triumph. He scored 109 against Surrey in the semi-final, and then made 104 in the final itself. A century in a Lord's final is often a prelude to victory but his side were defeated by a Gloucestershire team captained by Mark Alleyne that were so successful on the big occasion in the period around the new Millennium. In 1993 he was a member of the Glamorgan team that memorably won the Sunday League title. Viv Richards was a huge presence in that side and his influence extended to our speaker adopting a more measured approach for the remainder of his career.

He remains Glamorgan's most prolific run scorer (12291 runs) and century maker (15) in List A matches.

When his playing days were finished, he became England's batting coach for three years; that period coincided with that famous Ashes series in 2005. That side was, of course, coached by Duncan Fletcher, who had previously performed a similar role when Glamorgan won the Championship in 1997. It is strange, given his prolific batting and consistency through his distinguished career, that his representative playing days with England were unfulfilled. In four tests and 14 ODIs his highest score was only 41. However, it did coincide with the various West Indian pace quartets and the advent of one of the best of all Australian bowling sides.

He was a well-travelled cricketer, making an official England tour to the West Indies, a rebel tour to South Africa, as well as spending four winters in New Zealand.

After his England coaching stint, he later returned to Glamorgan as cricket manager before spending three years as Somerset's coach. Last winter, he was part of the coaching team for the Sharjah Warriors franchise in Dubai in an International T20 League.

The cricket world was stunned in 2013 when his son, Tom, who had moved from Glamorgan to Surrey, died in tragic circumstances, aged 23. He devoted the next 10 years of his life creating a Trust to preserve Tom's name and legacy through a number of fund-raising ventures for the development of aspiring disadvantaged cricketers and other athletes via bursaries, training, education, financial support and kit, as well as naming various structures on those Welsh cricket grounds where Tom learnt the game. The venture was hugely successful and Matthew Maynard's work was recognised, to wide acclaim, when he received the PCA's Outstanding Contribution Award at his peers' recent awards ceremony. The presentation can be found on YouTube.

He is assured of a warm reception this afternoon.

Wednesday 22 October 2024 – Report

Members enjoyed an entertaining afternoon in the company of Angus Fraser as he galloped through his long career in the game. His address was laced with a fine sense of self-deprecating humour throughout. He began with two reminiscences about time spent in Hampshire. His last game in professional cricket was at the Rose Bowl, and he recalled twice visiting Romsey on a sponsored cycle tour!

He then turned to his early life and days in the game. He hailed from farming stock near Liverpool. His brother, Alastair, was a better cricketer whilst he was growing up.

It was their relationship that gave him a competitive edge. He opened the batting at school, and was a first change bowler. Bowling became his main forte when he grew five inches in a year. He played club cricket at Stanmore in the Middlesex League and never appeared in representative cricket until he was 17.

He then mentioned his career with Middlesex. They were a successful side with a good team spirit engendered by coach Don Bennett. He was a combative individual who, with former fast bowler and chairman, Alan Moss, continually challenged the players. It was a team full of characters, which included John Emburey, Phil Edmonds and Mike Gatting. The latter responded to the challenges in kind. Our speaker suffered a back injury early on which he regarded as a rite of passage. He was always a man for the big occasion, citing a match-winning performance in the final of the Nat West Trophy against Worcestershire in 1988. Throughout his address, it was clear that he possessed a very clear recollection of the matches he played in, and his performances.

In his early years, he wintered for Western Suburbs in Sydney, and for Wellington in New Zealand. They were invaluable in helping his independence. He mentioned two of his early tours for England, in which he first set eyes on Brian Lara and David Warner in non first-class matches. On a later tour, of course, he was one of the bowlers when Lara plundered a new record test score of 375 in Antigua. He retained fond memories of a great win in the Barbados test earlier on that trip when Alec Stewart made a century in each innings. Other mentions of his test career were a fascinating comparison between the types of pitches in Australia and the West Indies, and contrasting the relative captaincy approaches of David Gower and Graham Gooch.

He spoke about his season as Middlesex captain, and the challenges of journalism, at a time when ex-players began to replace career journalists in the press box.

He brought his career up to date with Middlesex's work in the community. The purpose was to engender enjoyment of playing cricket. He clearly retained a great love of the game. Middlesex were the only urban county which brought financial difficulties. He felt they needed a ground of their own able to host adult cricket. He was positive, from a financial perspective, about Hampshire's India link.

JOHN TURNER

After touring with England's international squad in the last year, without playing a match, John Turner was at last given two ODI games in the West Indies. Opening the bowling with Jofra Archer, he went wicket-less in the first, but dismissed both openers in the second, in which he finished with figures of two for 42 in six overs. Both matches were played at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, North Sound, Antigua. He was then omitted for the third match of the series at the Kensington Oval, Barbados, being replaced by former Hampshire player Reece Topley. England were thrashed by eight wickets in the first and third match of the series, but won the second by five wickets.

MORE ON HAMPSHIRE IN GUYANA

When the last Newsletter was written, Hampshire's final opponents in the grandly named inaugural Global Super League t20 tournament in Guyana, were still unknown. It has since been announced that Victoria will be participating. Hampshire's fixture calendar in the competition is as follows:-

Wednesday 27 November	Rangpur Riders
Saturday 30 November	Lahore Qalanders
Sunday 1 December	Guyana Amazon Warriors
Saturday 6 December	Victoria

All matches will be played at the Guyana National Stadium, Providence, and will start at 2300 GMT, except the one on 30 November (1430 GMT start). The Providence ground is in Georgetown and has replaced the more well known Bourda ground as the country's National Stadium. Hampshire will be captained by Chris Wood, as James Vince was already contracted to play for Delhi Bulls in a T10 (!!) competition in Abu Dhabi.

An eclectic mix of Hampshire players have played in Guyana (formerly British Guiana) before. **Leaving aside Hampshire's West Indian born players who appeared in domestic or test cricket in the West Indies**, the editor has been able to trace the following. The list includes the teams for whom they played and the year of their appearance. All were in first-class matches, at the Bourda ground:

Colin Heseltine	Lord Hawke's XI	1897
EC Lee*	RA Bennett's XI	1902
EG "Teddy" Wynyard	Lord Brackley's XI	1905
George Brown	MCC	1911
Arthur Jaques	MCC	1913
TO "Tommy" Jameson	MCC	1926
Lionel Tennyson	MCC	1926
Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie	EW Swanton's XI	1961
Robin Smith	England	1994

George Brown and Robin Smith were the only professional cricketers. All the others were amateurs. Smith is the only Hampshire player to appear in a test match in Guyana.

The only Guyanan-born cricketer to play for Hampshire was Linden Joseph, in 1990. It was an ill-fated venture. Allegedly unable to cope with the cold, and due to injury, the right-arm fast bowler made only six appearances, taking just seven wickets at an average 66. With the bat, however, he averaged 152, thanks to four not outs in his five innings!

*EC Lee's son, AM Lee, was a Judge who played for four matches for Hampshire in the 1930's. He addressed the Society, most authoritatively and entertainingly, at one of its earliest meetings in 1977.