HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: Shaun Udal James Tomlinson Kevan James

NEWSLETTER No 415 – OCTOBER (2) 2022

MEETINGS

Wednesday 26 October 2022

The Society is privileged to welcome **PAUL FARBRACE** to this afternoon's meeting. He is one of the most influential international and county coaches in recent years. Born in Ash, Kent, on 7 July 1967, he made intermittent appearances for Kent (1987-89) and Middlesex (1990-95), before embarking on a coaching career. He filled the most difficult job of any in county cricket: that of reserve wicketkeeper. Despite an innings of 75 against Yorkshire at Canterbury, when he shared a 10th wicket partnership of 77 with Derek Underwood, he understudied Steven Marsh. He therefore moved to Middlesex but the gloves were then handed over to Keith Brown, a batsman.

His initial coaching assignments were with England Under-19s, England Women and the Kent Academy. He began his international career as assistant coach to Trevor Bayliss for Sri Lanka in July 2007. He suffered the misfortune of being on board the coach which was attacked by terrorists in Lahore in 2009, but was largely unscathed. He and Bayliss were, of course, destined to work together with great success for England a few years later.

He returned to the UK to coach the Kent first team between for 2010-11. It was a difficult two years, with the club finishing near the bottom of the table. He coached Yorkshire Second XI in 2012, before returning to Sri Lanka as the national coach in 2013. In the following year, he coached the team to victory in the Asia Cup, held in Bangladesh, where they defeated Pakistan in the final. Shortly afterwards, in the same country, he enjoyed a notable success on the global stage when Sri Lanka won the T20 World Cup. He then became Assistant Coach of England, under Peter Moores. England went on to record a memorable test series win against India the following summer. Our speaker had enjoyed a fulfilling year.

Andrew Strauss' appointment as Director of Cricket heralded a change. Moores was cast aside after a disappointing ODI World Cup and a drawn test series in the West Indies in the ensuing winter.

Our speaker undertook an interim role as head coach, pending the recruitment of Moores' successor. In that summer of 2015, he oversaw a drawn rubber against an emerging New Zealand side. England then lost to Pakistan in the test series, but won the subsequent ODI series three - nil. (James Vince was named man of the series).

Coincident with Trevor Bayliss' appointment as Head Coach the international calendar gathered a seemingly unstoppable momentum thereafter. Highlights of our speaker's career were test series wins against Australia in 2015, South Africa and

Sri Lanka and England finishing runners-up in the T20 World Cup in the West Indies. That was the famous occasion when Carlos Braithwaite hammered four successive sixes off Ben Stokes in the final.

Paul Farbrace returned to county cricket as Sporting Director of Warwickshire in 2019 and oversaw their County Championship title in 2021. A series of injuries, to two of their main strike bowlers in Chris Woakes and Liam Norwell, resulted in a difficult summer this year, but they preserved a deserved place in Division One with victory in that final pulsating match against Hampshire last month. It was a good note on which to end his Warwickshire stay.

WEDNESDAY 5 OCTOBER 2022 – REPORT

For our first meeting of the winter, Roger Knight gave an all-embracing talk, covering his own career, the role of MCC and Lord's, and the main issues facing the game. He began by praising Rob Key, Brendon McCullum and Ben Stokes for England's revival.

His own career was an interesting one. He was unable to break into the top six of the Surrey batting line-up after leaving Cambridge, and left to join Gloucestershire to bat at three. He found that Mike Procter was an inspirational figure. He played in that famous Gillette Cup tie at Old Trafford, which finished in the dark, and was in the side that won that competition in 1973. (It was the first-ever trophy won by Gloucestershire). When he moved to Sussex, he played under the captaincy of Tony Greig; he watched with interest the personality dynamics between Greig and John Snow. When he returned to Surrey, as captain, he established a good rapport with Micky Stewart; he also admired Sylvester Clarke highly. In his second season, the County finished second in the Championship. He also mentioned Surrey's four Cup Final appearances at Lord's (see previous Newsletter).

He recalled the Championship match against Hampshire at The Oval in 1982. The match was played on a relaid pitch. The bounce was unpredictable. It was the first occasion he ever wore a helmet. He was not afraid to tell a story against himself: despite the helmet he failed to get off the mark in both innings. Gordon Greenidge played a miraculous second innings of 84; Malcolm Marshall routed Surrey with seven wickets in their final innings (10 in the match). Hampshire eventually won by 3 runs. He also recalled a tied match between the two sides in the John Player League later that season, also at The Oval, when Tim Tremlett, in attempting to win the match off the last ball, was caught on the deep square leg boundary. All the other fielders were saving the single. He claimed that, given his field placings, it was the only area to which Tremlett could hit the ball!

He said that the County Championship matters, and that the current state of English cricket needs to be resolved. Roger Knight showed himself to be a man with a progressive outlook and who held dear the values of the game. The subsequent Q & A debate was a lively one, encompassing, among other matters, The Hundred, the Championship programme, and the decision to move the Eton/Harrow match away from Lord's.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Roger Knight's address was preceded by the Society's AGM. Our Chairman, Garry Lane conducted the business speedily with the minimum of fuss.

The main points of the meeting were:-

- the minutes of the last meeting were read and agreed;
- after two years, the Society got back to normal and bounced back. Garry mentioned the speakers we had last year and those booked for the current year;
- all the meetings this winter will be held at Romsey Golf Club;
- thanked the Committee and all were re-elected;
- details of the Christmas Lunch were given (please see below);
- word of mouth seems to be the best method of recruiting new members.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Members will have received an email with details of menu choices, seating preferences and the final date for confirming their attendance. Please reply as soon as possible.

MEETINGS

A reminder that the next two meetings are as follows:-

Wednesday 16 November, starting at 2pm. Our speakers will be two members of the Southern Vipers.

Wednesday 14 December: The Annual Christmas Lunch, starting at 1pm, followed by a talk at 2.30 pm by the inimitable John Barclay. It is sure to be a convivial and entertaining afternoon.

KEITH BARKER
PCA CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYER OF THE YEAR

2022 was quite a season for Keith Barker. He received the PCA Championship Player of the Year award; was named the Hampshire Fans' Player of the Year and, with Kyle Abbott and Mohammad Abbas, was nominated as one of The Guardian's Five County Cricketers of the Year. The Guardian nominated all three players as a single entity, calling them The Trident. Also, with **James Vince** and **James Fuller,** Barker was included in the PCA Team of the Year. The PCA's modus operandii for selecting their team is quite sophisticated, incorporating all formats of the game.

In the County Championship, Barker scored 595 runs and took 52 wickets. He thus emulated our Patron, Shaun Udal, as being the only Hampshire player to score 500 runs and claim 50 wickets in the same season since the full-time introduction of the four-day Championship in 1993. Shaun performed the feat twice, in 1993 (17 matches; 503 runs and 65 wickets) and 1994 (15 matches; 656; 62). The County

Championship in those years was a single division. Two Divisions were not introduced until 2000.

Abbott, Barker and Abbas all took 50 wickets in 2022. It is the first occasion that three bowlers have taken 50 wickets in a Championship season since 1995. In that year (maximum 17 matches), Cardigan Connor (15 matches; 54 wickets), Shaun Udal (16; 53) and Heath Streak (16; 52) all achieved the landmark.

The last time that three *pace* bowlers achieved the 50 wicket landmark in Championship matches was as long ago as 1981. One was, inevitably, Malcolm Marshall (17 matches; 68 wickets). The other two were Keith Stevenson (22 matches; 56) and Trevor Jesty (21; 51). Truly another age.

Kyle Abbott was the second leading wicket taker in the country, with 57, one behind Simon Harmer. He has now taken 323 wickets for Hampshire in Championship cricket. Only Shaun Udal (565) and another of our Patrons, James Tomlinson, have taken more in the four-day game. An indication of his quality in the pantheon of the great Hampshire bowlers is his average - 19.57 – all on covered wickets. Only three men have bettered it: Andy Roberts (16.70), Derek Shackleton (18.23), and Malcolm Marshall (18.64). The last named bowled on uncovered and covered wickets. Roberts and Shackleton made full use of unprotected pitches. Abbott, of course, holds the Hampshire record for the most number of wickets in a match – 17 for 86 – in that unforgettable game against Somerset at the Ageas Bowl in 2019. He also claimed his second hat-trick during the summer, against Gloucestershire at Cheltenham, which effectively decided the match. What a wonderful bowler he has been!

OBITUARY
ROBIN MARLAR

Robin Marlar, the former Sussex off-spin bowler and captain, and once MCC President, as well as cricket correspondent of *The Sunday Times* for some 26 years, died on 30 September, age 91. In his address to the Society in the following week, Roger Knight commented that he always had the interests of cricket at heart. Robin Marlar addressed the Society at Test Valley Golf Club in March 2007. He was President of MCC in the previous year. In his address, he said his ambitions were to redraft the laws on throwing, and to introduce a two innings match between the USA and Europe. Given the prevalence of expats from the Indian Sub Continent, including Afghan refugees, as well as the number of West Indians living in the USA, it isn't a total flight of fancy to imagine that such a match may well come to pass within the next decade.

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