HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: Shaun Udal James Tomlinson Kevan James

NEWSLETTER No. 416 – NOVEMBER 2022

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

A reminder that the Annual Christmas Lunch will be held on 14 December, when the speaker will be the delightful JOHN BARCLAY.

MEETINGS

Wednesday 16 November 2022

The Society is privileged to welcome **ADAM CARTY,** Regional Director of Women's Cricket, and **GEORGIA ADAMS,** Captain of the Southern Vipers, to this afternoon's meeting.

Adam will give us insight into his recent 3-year assessment of the 5-year vision that has been set for the Southern Vipers as a professional women's franchise from the inception of the ECB's Women's Elite Domestic Professional Structure. He will be telling us about their successes, learning and challenges.

Adam still plays the game, as an off-spin bowler for Calmore Sports. He is captain of both the club's 2nd XI and Border League XI. His son, Liam, also bowls off-spin and was in the Calmore National Village Cup winning side in 2021 and again played in the losing side at Lord's this year.

GEORGIA LOUISE ADAMS has been one of the most prolific run scorers in women's domestic cricket for some years now. Latterly, she has added productive off spin bowling to her repertoire.

Her father is, of course, Chris Adams, who led Sussex to their historic first championship title in 2003, before securing two more in 2006 and 2007. Beginning with Derbyshire, he moved from Derbyshire to Sussex for the 1998 season, when Georgia was four years old. She had been born in Chesterfield on 4 October 1993.

Given her parentage, she has been an integral part of the Sussex cricket scene virtually all her life. She was first spotted on the playing field during intervals at Hove. She made her debut for the Sussex Women's team whilst a 15 year old in 2009.The roots of women's teams in that County run fairly deep. They played their first recorded match in 1936 and joined the Women's County Championship for its inaugural season in 1997. After oscillating between divisions one and two for a short while, they became an established Division One side from 2002 and won their inaugural County Championship, before adding five more titles in the following two seasons.

A resume of her career is virtually a history of women's domestic cricket in the period since her debut. She has been a serial winner in competitions throughout. Among the Sussex team on her debut were the great Sarah Taylor – the finest of all English wicketkeepers, who later played for men's teams – Caroline Atkins, Holly Colvin and Laura Marsh, regular England players for many years. By 2012, she was opening the batting and has done so ever since. She first captained the County side in 2016.

The profile of Women's cricket started to expand beyond county cricket with the foundation of the Southern Vipers and the Kia Super League in 2016, which then became the Charlotte Edwards Cup in 2021. These two were t20 competitions. 50-over matches were added to the menu in 2020 with the Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Trophy. With the exception of two years in 2018-2019, when she appeared for Loughborough Lightning, whilst at the university in the town, she has been first choice for all Vipers' sides.

She was in the Vipers side that won the inaugural Kia Super League in 2016 and reached the final in the following year (when they lost to Western Storm). She appeared in a third successive final in 2018, for the Lightning (who were defeated by Surrey Stars). Last season she captained the Vipers to a six wicket victory in the final against Central Sports.

The Vipers have been virtually omnipotent in the Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Trophy. They defeated the Northern Diamond by 38 runs in the final at Edgbaston in 2021, before repeating the feat against the same opposition at Northampton in 2021. Georgia made her mark in both matches, making 80 – the top score in the game in 2020, and excelled with the ball a year later, taking four for 35. The Vipers' unbeaten run in finals came to an end by the closest of margins – two runs – against the perennial Lightning last season. However she enjoyed a fine all-round match by taking three for 34 and batting at four, top scoring in the match with 70. Her dismissal, three overs before the end, proved to be decisive.

Earlier in the season, she had led Sussex Women to victory against Kent Women in the final of the Vitality Women's County t20 in a match played at Totton and Eling's Ground.

An orthodox right-hand batter, she has scored just over 5000 runs in all cricket, including three centuries and 27 fifties, creditable figures indeed. Her best score is 154 not out against Western Storm at the Ageas Bowl in that landmark year 2020, when in the Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Trophy she amassed 500 runs, averaging a gargantuan 83.33, in seven visits to the crease.

In the inaugural Hundred, in 2021, she was in the Oval Invincibles side that defeated the Southern Braves in the final at Lord's. Last summer, the boot was on the other foot. She appeared in the losing Brave side that lost to the Invincibles in the final.

PREVIOUS FEMALE SPEAKERS

Georgia Adams is the tenth female speaker to address the Society. Her predecessors have been the poet **Imogen Grosberg** (December 1991), whose poems on cricket and Hampshire players in the second half of the 20th century form

an important historical archive, the renowned painter **Jocelyn Galsworthy** (April 2001), **Cally Barlow,** wife of the South African test player (March 2013), **Isabelle Duncan,** author and influential advocate of women's cricket (November 2015 and March 2022), **Charlie Dean and Emily Windsor –** see elsewhere in this Newsletter (March 2018), **Hayley Green** of the ECB Anti-Corruption Unit (February 2019), **Charlotte Edwards**, who needs no introduction (March 2019), and the former much capped England batter and the first woman to be nominated as one of *Wisden's* Five Cricketers of the Year, **Claire Taylor** (January 2020).

NB Charlotte Edwards was recently inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame. Her English female predecessors were Rachael Heyhoe Flint, Enid Bakewell, Claire Taylor and Jan Britten. Two members of that very select list have therefore spoken to the Society.

AWARD FOR BBC LOCAL RADIO COMMENTATORS

At the Cricket Society's Autumn Awards Lunch, held at The Oval on Friday 28 October, our Patron **Kevan James**, accompanied by **Emily Windsor** received, on behalf of the BBC local radio cricket commentators, the Ian Jackson Award for embodying the spirit of cricket. In Kevan's brilliantly witty response for receipt of the award, on behalf of his colleagues, which can be found on Youtube, he stressed inclusivity and asked Emily to add her comments, during which she recalled the first occasion that Kevan invited her to describe her first over on air. Both Kevan and Emily have enriched Hampshire cricket with their commentaries over the years. They and their fellow commentators from other Counties have performed a great service to the game and its followers.

A week after the awards ceremony, the BBC announced they were making significant cuts to BBC local radio. At a time when county cricket coverage of matches in the print media is token at best, it must be hoped that their cricket commentaries will be spared the axe and continue on the same basis as at present.

Members will be aware that Emily Windsor, accompanied by Bob Parks and Charlotte (Charlie) Dean addressed the Society in March 2018. Since then she has become a regular member of the Southern Vipers squad in the Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Trophy and has been drafted for Trent Rockets and Oval Invincibles in the Women's Hundred. Her fielding has earned praise, and in August she hit the winning run for the Invincibles in the final against the Southern Braves at Lord's.

MORE ON CHARLIE DEAN

Charlie Dean has now appeared for England in 19 One Day Internationals, as well as that exciting, closely fought Test against Australia at Canberra in January of this year. She was one of the four women to be awarded a central contract recently.
At the Cricket Society ceremony mentioned above, she received the award for the Most Promising Young Female Cricketer.

THE STRAUSS REVIEW

In the Society's Newsletter for February 2022, the Editor gave his jaundiced view of the probable outcome of the Strauss Review of the role and structure of the first-class game. Alas, all his reservations were subsequently confirmed when the report was published. The 'Independent Review' was anything but. Thankfully, most of the Counties have rejected it. Richard Thompson, the new ECB Chairman, and Richard Gould, the new Chief Executive, are clearly seeking a more compromising approach to the proposed savage reduction (from 14 to 10 - 28%) in the number of the County matches to be played.

The inconsistencies in the report were perhaps best encapsulated in an article by the erudite Paul Edwards (no relation) in *The Times* on 1 October. Under the headline of "Excellence to treasure – so why would you cut games", he wrote "……let it be plainly understood that if the number of first-class games is reduced, the number of chances for young cricketers will also diminish. It is a curious sport that trumpets the importance of inclusion and diversity yet also proposes to reduce opportunities".

Whatever the compromise eventually reached, all parties should have regard to these sentiments. At the moment, the ECB is sleep-walking to a self-fulfilling prophecy which ensures the ultimate destruction of the game.

JAMES VINCE AND LIAM DAWSON

James Vince and Liam Dawson have been selected for England's ODI squad for three matches against Australia to be played after the conclusion of the Men's t20 World Cup. It is some time since the two men have played in the 50-over format. Vince's last appearance in any List A match was on 13 July 2021, when he made his maiden international century -102 against Pakistan at Edgbaston. Dawson's last featured in a List A match as long ago as 12 May 2019 when he played against Lancashire at the Ageas Bowl in the semi-final of the Royal London Cup, which Hampshire won by four wickets. He was unable to play in the final as he was called up for England's World Cup campaign. With England refusing to release both he and Vince, Hampshire went on to lose the final against Somerset at Lord's by six wickets.

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