HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: Shaun Udal James Tomlinson Kevan James

NEWSLETTER No. 417 – DECEMBER 2022

MEETINGS

Wednesday 14 December 2022 – Annual Christmas Lunch

The Society is delighted, and privileged, to host **JOHN BARCLAY** at our Annual Christmas Lunch. For any time in his company is a memorable experience and always leaves a warm glow. Both of his previous visits to the Society - in November 1988 and October 2007 (gosh, were they really that long ago?) - are still fondly remembered by those who listened to his enthusiastic, entertaining, erudite and always shrewd addresses.

On the first of those occasions he gave a treatise on leadership. It was no wonder why he was regarded with such warmth and affection by Sussex followers. Before he was appointed captain in 1981, Sussex had nearly as many captains as Italian governments since the end of World War II. He immediately captained his County to second place in the County Championship, to equal (for the seventh occasion) the highest position they had attained until that time; they were pipped by Nottinghamshire by a mere two points. When the two sides played each other in the penultimate match of the season, Notts escaped with a draw. With their last two batsmen at the wicket, Imran Khan, and others in the side, always averred that Sussex were deprived of victory, and therefore the Championship, when his appeal for what they regarded as a plumb lbw was rejected. In the following season, Sussex won the John Player League. Our speaker's tenure was never at risk and his departure from the playing field, due to a hand injury, was much lamented. He was always a positive captain, who through his engaging personality concealed the steely side of his character well. He is now President of the Club; he made his first-class debut, at the age of 16, in 1970; his association with Sussex therefore exceeds over 50 years.

On his second visit to the Society, he paid tribute to Derek Shackleton who had died shortly beforehand. John Barclay regarded "Shack" as a bowler's friend, and would always look to put himself on to bowl at his end! The meeting was held at Test Valley Golf Club; he fondly remembered days fly fishing with John Woodcock, our late Patron, on the river Test. He then recounted England's tour to South Africa in 1995, for which he was assistant manager, the international programme (contentious even then), the spirit of cricket, and the work of the Arundel Foundation, for which he received such widespread acclaim.

The Newsletters for those two meetings included the statistics of his career (the one for the 2007 meeting can be found on the Society's website (www.HantsCricSoc.org.uk) and so the editor does not propose to repeat them here. However, what those Newsletters did not mention were three volumes of autobiography, published by Stephen Chalke's Fairfield Books, and another book on a unique aspect of the game which he edited in conjunction with his publisher.

Life Beyond The Airing Cupboard (pub. 2008) takes the reader through the considerable up and downs of his life, both on and beyond the cricket field. *Lost In The Long Grass (pub. 2013)* is a collection of 24 sketches of characters whom he knew in the world of cricket. Both are written with great charm, lightness of touch and humanity. In the latter he gives his subjects a voice, none more so than Imran Khan whose stentorian baritone power of speech is present in every sentence. The personality of Ian Gould, who spoke to the Society two years ago, also shines through. There is also much of interest to Hampshire followers in his essays on John Woodcock, who wrote a Foreword, and who captivated our speaker with his enthusiasm and sensitive use of words, Vic Cannings, a benevolent and supportive presence, who mentored, rather than coached him at Eton, and Malcolm Marshall. He felt that no fast bowler was more likely to dismiss any batsman. Not afraid to tell a story against himself, he recalled one of the few occasions when he didn't walk after edging Marshall to Bob Parks behind the wicket. Macko was not amused and Mankaded him in his next over (both actions were totally out of character for both men), before Nick Pocock recalled him to the crease. He finishes the book with a wonderful chapter on his dog. The editor has become acquainted with three family Covid lockdown hounds in the last two years; his narrative resonates. His portraits of his subjects bear comparison with the great West Country cricket writers of the last hundred years.

His other two books are *The Appeal of the Championship (pub. 2002)* which describes Sussex's summer of 2001 (see above), and *Team Mates, edited by himself and Stephen Chalke (pub. 2016)* which gives an evocative insight on the individual friendships and camaraderie enjoyed by players at test, county, and club level, as well as women's cricket, which have made each match an occasion to look forward to.

Wednesday 26 October 2022 – Report

Paul Farbrace's address was a tour de force. He spoke for an hour without any notes, and then took questions from the floor for another hour. Interest never flagged as he spoke about his playing and coaching career. His passion and enthusiasm for the game was evident throughout. Humour was never far away.

His parents engendered his interest, and he grew up with two brothers who were equally keen. His first coach was the legendary Doug Wright. He made his Kent debut in 1987, and at the end of that season played in Derek Underwood's final match.

It was his insights into coaching which were the most absorbing part of the afternoon, particularly in coaching world class players such as Mahela Jayawardene, Kumar Sangakkara, and Muttiah Muralitharan. Elite players knew their game; he was usually asked to look out for certain aspects. Each player was different. Jayawardene was an instinctive batsman; Sangakkara continually reviewed his game in infinite detail. There was also competition between the two, as there was between Joe Root and Johnny Bairstow. If one scored a century or embarked on a run of high scores the other would soon follow. He felt all great players possessed a selfish streak which made them as successful as they were. It was also necessary to understand people; much of his approach was about managing the mind. He also mentioned the generosity of the three Sri Lankan greats. He was asked about the Lahore terrorist incident. He felt lucky to survive. He required two operations on his arm. He was pleased that Pakistan are now playing international cricket in their own

country again. At the end of an unforgettable afternoon, one was left with the impression that Paul Farbrace still had much to offer the game. At the age of 55, his abilities are such that it is far too early for him to be lost to it.

After England's early defeat to Ireland in the World t20 Championship, he was interviewed on Sky TV. His enthusiasm and optimism shone through in his unswerving belief in the capabilities of the England squad. He predicted that they would win the competition.

Wednesday 16 November 2022 - Report

Members enjoyed an informative afternoon in the company of Adam Carty and Georgia Adams. They took their audience on a journey on the growth and profesionalisation of women's cricket, with a franchise model at its core. The development of the women's game had been challenging and was still evolving. The ECB had invested significant sums in enabling the eight franchise teams to recruit both full-time professionals and part-time paid players. All the teams had to constantly change their planning as some of their professionals had been awarded central contracts which took them away to the England set-up for much of the time. The Vipers' recruitment policy was based on the character of individual players as much as their technical ability. As a result, the Vipers had become a competitive, cohesive and successful squad. Charlotte Edwards, who coached the team, was a driving force, setting the standards she expected her wards to achieve. It was also clear that Georgia Adams was an inspirational and influential figure on the field.

Adam Carty also clearly worked extremely hard on establishing a pathway for girls and women to realise their ambitions to become professional cricketers. Some 1000 girls were now in the Vipers' pathway scheme.

Georgia Adams had landed her dream job as a cricket coach at a time when several others had been lost to the game because of the lack of a formal structure and its attendant financial insecurity. However, although now a professional cricketer, she was still working part-time in Brighton, coaching 17/18 year old boys, in the splendid Aldridge Community College, which has now become a launchpad for many at the start of their cricketing careers.

Clare Connor was an early influence in her cricket. Her father, Chris, chose not to be involved in coaching her personally; he shrewdly referred her to those two legends of Sussex cricket, Murray Goodwin and Matthew Prior. The first time she played with a hard ball was on her debut for Sussex Women. The squad whilst she was at Loughborough University included nine England players. She was selected for an England Academy side to India and Sri Lanka, and the World Cup Preparation Camp for the 2017 World Cup. However, she missed out on making the final squad, and still awaits a national call-up. This is despite being the only woman to feature in all the three inaugural winning sides in the Charlotte Edwards Cup, the Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Trophy, and The Hundred. She was proud of the Vikings' achievement in the Lockdown Summer of 2020 when she captained the side to victory in all seven of their group matches in the Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Trophy, before going on to win the final against Northern Diamonds at Edgbaston.

In the subsequent Q and A session, members in the audience commented on the disparity between the publicity given by the ECB to The Hundred, compared with competitions in which the Southern Vipers play.

MEETINGS IN 2023

A reminder of the final three meetings of the Society's winter calendar. They will all be held at Romsey Golf Club, and start at 2 pm.

Wednesday 11 January – Daryl Mitchell – former Worcestershire captain and now PCA Director of Cricket Operations. Our Chairman, Garry Lane, will conduct a Q & A session.

Wednesday 15 February – Bill Athey – Yorkshire, Gloucestershire, Sussex and England.

Wednesday 15 March – Mark Church, BBC Radio London. He will talk on how the role of commentating has changed over the years.

HAMPSHIRE'S FIXTURES 2023

Hampshire's fixtures for next summer were announced on 30 November. The full fixture list, for all forms of the game, as well as the schedule for the Southern Vipers, can be found on the Ageas Bowl website.

JAMES VINCE AND LIAM DAWSON IN AUSTRALIA

James Vince and Liam Dawson were selected for all of England's three ODIs in Australia, which were played after the conclusion of the World t20 Championship. Not surprisingly, given that some men had not played in the 50-overs format for at least three years, because of Covid and The Hundred, England were completely outclassed and lost the series three - nil. Despite Australia fielding a full strength side, the matches failed to excite their supporters. All the games were sparsely attended. Many wondered about the point of it all. Vince's scores were 5, 60 and 22. Dawson took two wickets and made 49 runs in total. Vince's last two innings were of merit. The first, at the SCG, which has become almost his winter home ground due to his appearances for the Sydney Sixers in the BBL, came to the wicket with his side having lost two wickets before scoring a run. He battled through the early overs against the testing bowling of Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood and was accelerating nicely until he hit the buffers in the forties. Thereafter, as it had done so in Barbados earlier in the year, he struggled with his timing as the ball softened and the pitch became damp through dew. He eventually fell leg before to Hazlewood. In the next, at the MCG, England seemed to be batting on a different ground, let alone pitch, after Australia ran up 355 in their 50 overs, with Travis Head, formerly of Ventnor and Sussex, scoring 152 and David Warner 106. Both Vince (22) and Jason Roy (33), who were top scorers, fought hard but struggled to make any headway. England were dismissed for 142.

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