HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: Shaun Udal James Tomlinson Kevan James

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Wednesday 11 January 2023 – Meeting

The Society extends a warm welcome to **DARYL MITCHELL** to this afternoon's meeting. His standing in the game, both as a player and an administrator for the Professional Cricketers Association, is considerable. He was one of county cricket's most dependable opening batsmen in the last decade. Hampshire followers will especially remember him for an extraordinary run of form against them in 2014 and 2015 when, in four innings, he scored 532 runs for once out: 172 not out and an unbeaten 142 at the Ageas Bowl in 2014 and 2015 respectively, before completing the sequence with 206 not out at New Road in the latter year. In six matches on Hampshire's home ground, he filled his boots by averaging over 78. His career average against Hampshire (61.50) was his highest against any County. Society members will be pleased that he is not walking to the wicket this afternoon!

He possessed formidable powers of concentration and was able to adapt his game to the needs of his side. The editor vividly recalls an encounter against Gloucestershire at Cheltenham in 2010, which exemplified these qualities. On that occasion he held his team's batting together, eschewing any risk on a fast scoring ground in scoring 104 in over seven hours, as they sought to avoid following-on. The Pears fell two runs short their target, but Gloucestershire decided to bat again, only to be rolled for 136 in less than 40 overs. Worcestershire were left with 339 to win in just over a day. In partnership with Vikram Solanki (64) and Moeen Ali (94), he guided his side to a six wicket victory as he constructed a well-paced, unbeaten, 134. Such a victory looked extremely unlikely on the previous day. It was county cricket at its best. He succeeded Solanki as Worcestershire captain shortly afterwards.

In a career of 225 matches, virtually all for his County (he spent one winter in Zimbabwe), Daryl Mitchell scored 13,920 runs (avge. 38.34). His conversion rate was impressive, as he made 39 hundreds to go with 55 half-centuries. Only five men scored more centuries for his County. His highest score was 298 against Somerset at Taunton in 2009. He scored 1000 runs in a season on six occasions, his most productive season being 2014 when he amassed 1334 runs (avge. 58.80). He also made a further four centuries in List A matches. Throughout his career, he was a more than useful right-arm medium pace bowler. His 295 catches for his County places him eighth in their fielding records.

DARYL KEITH HENRY MITCHELL was born in Badsey, near Evesham, on 25 November 1983. A right-hand batter, he went to Loughborough University before playing for his native County from 2005-2021 and captained the side from 2010-2016. Only one Worcestershire born captain, HK Foster, made more runs for the County when leading the side. Representing Worcestershire in two Vitality Blast

Finals in 2018 and 2019 reinforced his reputation. It was a pity that his tenure as captain coincided with a period when Worcestershire were the ultimate yo-yo side as they oscillated between Divisions One and Two of the County Championship.

His subsequent career with the Professional Cricketers Association has been full of interest and challenge. He became Chairman of the PCA in 2017; his four year term in that role coincided with the Covid-19 pandemic. He is now Chief Operating Officer of the PCA. His highly regarded autobiography *Once a Pear…..*was published last year, and he will be bringing copies to this afternoon's meeting.

The editor thanks Mike Hitchings and Tim Jones of Worcestershire Cricket Society for assistance with this biography.

HAMPSHIRE PLAYERS OVERSEAS THIS WINTER

Since November, Hampshire players have been participating in a variety of T20/T10 tournaments in various locations over the world.

Both **JAMES FULLER** (Jaffna Kings) and **BENNY HOWELL** (Colombo Stars) played in the (Sri) Lanka Premier League. Their respective teams met in the final, though Fuller, who had played regularly beforehand, missed out on selection. Despite Howell taking three wickets, it was the Jaffna Kings who emerged victors by two wickets.

Benny Howell returns to Hampshire for this summer's t20 Blast. Since leaving Hampshire to join Gloucestershire a decade ago, he has established a worldwide reputation as a specialist t20 cricketer, with a bewildering array of bowling skills, and an innovative late order batsman. Besides his appearances in Sri Lanka this winter, he has previously played in the Bangladesh Premier League, the Pakistan Super League, as well as earning contracts in Australia and India in the past few years. He was a tremendously popular cricketer with the Gloucestershire supporters.

JAMES VINCE has returned to Australia to resume his cricket for the Sydney Sixers in the BBL. At the time of writing, he has just scored a sublime 91 not out against the Melbourne Stars at the MCG. The editor has rarely seen him bat better; it was an innings of control, poise and elegance, which was appreciated by Brian Lara in the commentary box. In the previous match against Brisbane Heat at The Gabba he had been caught at the wicket off a wide for 41. He wasn't going to give it away this time. He has been joined in Australia by **ROSS WHITELEY,** who is an integral member of the Brisbane Heat squad.

Fuller and Whiteley (both Chennai Braves), Howell (Bangla Tigers), Vince (Team Abu Dhabi) and **LIAM DAWSON** (Northern Warriors) earned gigs in the Abu Dhabi T10 tournament.

MASON CRANE and **TOM PREST** have been included in the England Lions ODI Squad to tour Sri Lanka in February. Three ODIs have been scheduled.

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