HAMPSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY

Patrons: Shaun Udal James Tomlinson Kevan James

Website: http://www.hantscricsoc.org.uk

Newsletter (446) – September 2026

Changes in Hampshire Cricket Society

This is my first newsletter as editor. Alan Edwards is a hard act to follow and given his extraordinary longevity in the role, his knowledge and eloquence, I am not going to try to compete with the master. You will not see any radical changes but hopefully you will enjoy the content. It is fair to say that it has been a busy season for Hampshire cricket at all levels and an eventful one on and off the pitch. Amongst the doom and gloom of county championship relegation for the men there have been successes for teams and individuals worthy of note. Consequently, there has been a lot to report which has resulted in a more lengthy than usual edition. This is not a major shift in editorial direction.

Any feedback will be welcome to newslettereditor@hantscricsoc.org.uk

I would also welcome contributions from members for consideration for publication to the same email address.

It would be remiss of me not to thank Alan, on behalf of the members, for his unstinting dedication to the role over so many years. Alan is staying directly involved through the role of society archivist.

You will also be aware that John Hooper is standing down as secretary at the AGM.

On behalf of the members, I would also like to thank John for his many years of service as Secretary which he has carried out with great efficiency. In addition, John has performed the role of “interviewer” of some of our speakers, a skill that few people can master, with great aplomb.

Daniel Norcross

A very warm welcome to our first speaker of the season Daniel Norcross. I have a feeling we are in for a real treat. Daniel is a prolific cricket writer and broadcaster. Brought up in a cricket mad family he has a wonderful and detailed grasp of the history and all aspects of the game. His broadcasting however is not traditional or focussed on the past, but his knowledge provides the foundations for a varied approach to the many mediums he uses.

Listening to him I love the quirkiness of his approach and his acute sense of the ridiculous which he can weave into commentary alongside the serious bits.

Daniel is now an established and popular member of the Test Match Special team but made his name with his less than traditional approach on Test Match Sofa, a free online cricket commentary service which he set up and eventually sold to The Cricketer.

Daniel appears regularly on cricket podcasts as presenter or as a guest. He co presents “Zero Ducks Given” with Steven Finn. He has a large back catalogue of writing and broadcasting mixing

a satirical and irreverent slant on the modern game with perceptive pieces on the social and cultural history of our sport and how it has affected the evolution of the game

Hampshire Cricket Heritage

Hampshire Cricket Heritage (HCH) is dedicated to preserving the rich history of cricket played in and by Hampshire. HCH manages the archive of Hampshire cricket which can viewed by visitors to The Bowl. Full details are available on their website
https://www.hampshirecountycricketheritage.co.uk/

There is a link on the Hampshire Cricket Society and vice versa. The society is looking to forge closer links with HCH.

Recently HCH has published “My Favourite Game” – Tales of Hampshire Cricket”.

Compiled and edited by John Winter this 380-page hardcover book features 75 special Hampshire matches chosen by players and supporters.

There are original contributions by over 40 former and current players including Barry Richards, Kyle Abbott, Liam Dawson, Trevor Jesty, Richard Gilliatt, Mark Nicholas, David Gower and Society Patron, Kevan James.

Additionally, several supporters including our very own Alan Edwards and Garry Lane have selected and written about their favourite ever Hampshire game. One of the criteria for all entries is that the person choosing the match had to be there in person not watching on tv.

The book is available on the Waterstones and Foyles websites but if you order direct from HCH, using the link below, you ensure all proceeds from each sale go direct to HCH to help them fund their work.

https://www.hampshirecountycricketheritage.co.uk/Hampshire-Cricket-Heritage

I have my copy. It is fantastic fun dipping in and out and reliving games attended or those you wish you had been at from the 1950’s through to the recent past. There are full scorecards of each game and lots of interesting photographs.

An ideal gift idea or something to include in your letter to Santa.

Robin Smith - Memorial Service at Winchester Cathedral on 11th June

It was a real honour and pleasure to join the guests who filled the cathedral for this celebration of Robin’s life.

The congregation brought together some of the greatest players from English cricket, former and current Hampshire players and staff, with cricket lovers from the county and beyond. Great to see so many fellow members of The Hampshire Cricket Society there.

Fraser, Gatting, Gooch, Gower, Lamb, Small, Stewart, to name just a few, coming to remember the days they spent at grounds all around the world.

The service had everything within the solemnity of the cathedral, the beauty of the singing of “Ave Maria” by the choir, to a video of some of Robin’s finest innings.

Innes Marlow read “High Flying Bird” a lovely piece celebrating the highs and lows of Robin’s life.

This was a recurring theme in a tribute from Robin's brother, Chris.

Chris described happy days growing up together in Durban, the arduous work to achieve sporting excellence from an early age and moving to England. Chris said how proud he was that Robin followed him into the Hampshire team and then to both go on to play for their adopted country. The sadness was that he and so many others could not help Robin with his problems in coping with life after cricket.

As Society members who heard Mark Nicholas speak so eloquently at the summer afternoon tea will know, he held Robin in the highest regard as a player but more importantly as a friend. That eloquence shone through in Mark's tribute reliving the great moments they had together particularly in the one-day successes, the captain/player relationship, the dressing room humour, and recalling some of Robin's finest innings. Mark then reflected on the sadness in Robin's life after cricket and his shock at the news of his passing only days after a joyful lunch together in Australia.

Like so many others we all had personal memories of watching Robin play. I was lucky enough to have met Robin many times including watching him score a ton for Hampshire 2's at my home club Fareham in our centenary year cricket week in 1982, whilst qualifying. Sharing a beer afterwards and latterly listening to him overcome his nerves to speak at our club dinner.

The service brought back all those memories, and I will admit it was a very emotional occasion. So glad to have been able to be there with so many others to say farewell.

For new members, or if you want to go back, Alan Edwards wrote a lovely piece on Robin in the December 2025 newsletter (number 441).

Review of 2026 season in Hampshire

Hampshire Women

In the T20 Blast Hampshire topped the group with eight wins, two ties and two losses.

This year's competition missed the international players because of the Women's World Cup. This however provided opportunities for young players. Bex Tyson, Daisy Gibb and Poppy Tulloch all took significant steps forward with their bowling. A spin bowling attack with captain Georgia Adams, Amanda-Jade Wellington and Bex Tyson to the fore, restricted teams to low totals and defended below par scores when the batting did not fire.

Ella McCaughan, Maia Bouchier, Georgia Adams, Nancy Harman and Naomi Dattani provided plenty of experience in the batting as a foundation for young batters Francesca Sweet and Abi Norgrove to flourish. Rhianna Southby was tidy as ever behind the stumps and showed continued progression in her batting.

It was therefore surprising that Hampshire slipped to a disappointing defeat to Durham in the semi final. Defending an under par 129 the bowlers took the game into the final over, but Durham prevailed by 4 wickets.

The Blaze (aka Notts) beat Surrey in their semi final and cruised to a 10-wicket win in the final.

In the One-Day Cup, Hampshire and The Blaze were the standout teams.

Hampshire's team broadly mirrored the T20 campaign with the international players not always available giving opportunities to the younger players. Still able to field a strong batting line up and a spin dominated bowling attack, the team won 12 and lost just three of their group matches with one no result.

There were two standout performances by the team in the league stages.

Away at Essex, Ella McCaughan (104) and Bouchier (136) put on 246 for a 10-wicket win.

In their final group match Hampshire hosted The Blaze knowing a bonus point win would take them level on points. Restricting the Blaze to 249-7 opened the possibility of that bonus point win if they could chase the 250 inside 40 overs. Maia Bouchier's century, an excellent 50 from Abi Norgrove and a hard-hitting cameo from Freya Kemp saw them home in 39.5 overs to go top of the table on net run rate.

The Blaze went on to reclaim top spot and moved directly into the final by winning their final game.

Hampshire hosted Surrey in the eliminator play off match. Put in Hampshire made a very impressive 303-5. Maia Bouchier and Abi Norgrove repeated their successes from the earlier game with a partnership of 109 for the 5th wicket with Norgrove run out for 60 off the final ball of the innings. Bouchier ended on 117 not out. Earlier Freya Kemp made a well constructed 77 showing her growing maturity as a batter.

Surrey got nowhere near after losing star batter Sophia Dunkley to Daisy Gibb early on.

The Hampshire spinners then took over with Georgia Adams (1-14) and Bex Tyson (2-29) supporting the superb Amanda- Jade Wellington who finished with her competition best of 5-19. Surrey managed just 109.

The final was likely to be close given the record of both teams through the season. Hampshire had a slight advantage in that the predetermined venue for the final was The Bowl. The Blaze put us in and Ella McCaughan's 78 and Freya Kemp's 52 looked to have set a base for a big total, but Hampshire subsided from 197-3 in the 39th over to only make 251-9 which was par at best. At 95-0 after 16 overs Hampshire were in trouble before Amanda-Jade Wellington struck twice in an over removing both Bryce sisters. With Tammy Beaumont (74) and Georgia Elwiss adding 96 for the third wicket the game looked done, but Wellington removed Beaumont and shortly after Bex Tyson got the wicket of Elwiss.

When Tyson dismissed Blaze skipper Kirsty Gordon at 222-6, The Blaze needed 30 runs off 21 balls and Hampshire looked favourites, Emma Jones (assisted by some poor fielding) had other ideas farming the strike and getting 34 off 25 balls including a match winning boundary off the last ball with two needed.

A great campaign ending in another disappointment for Hampshire but a third title of the season for The Blaze.

The PCA has recognised Maia Bouchier's stellar season with the bat, through her nomination in the "Young Player of the Year" award category.

Hampshire Under 18 Girls have enjoyed remarkable success this season.

They chased down a mammoth 223 to defeat Nottinghamshire in the final of the Vitality Girls U18 County T20 at Neston CC in Cheshire. Darcey Clarke leading the way with 70* off just 39 balls.

The girls completed a fine double by winning the County 50 over competition with a win over Yorkshire on 20th September at Attenborough CC in Nottinghamshire. Yorkshire were bowled out for 153 with Emily Wilson and Talitha Stanley both taking 3 wickets.

Freya Watkinson made 49 before Darcey Clarke (39) and captain Georgia Toosey (41) put on an unbeaten partnership of 89 as Hampshire strolled home in just 22 overs.

Hampshire disability cricket

Disability cricket in Hampshire, which is managed by the Hampshire Cricket Board (HCB) goes from strength to strength. The Lord's Taverners support the disability cricket programme which provides weekly coaching for youngsters and has seen a record number of participants this year.

HCB also runs five county level disability teams for softball and hardball cricket.

One of the teams in the hard ball format, Hampshire D40 Quest are National champions. They beat Lancashire by 117 runs in the final at Kidderminster CC in August. Captain Kevin Cooper hit 156 in a total of 284-7 in 40 overs. Freddie Gurney, (who also made a fifty), took 3-15 and Freddie Leamon (4-32) to bowl them to victory.

Hampshire Men – County Championship

Like many supporters I was feeling a bit more optimistic as the new season approached. Russell Domingo appointed as coach, Jake Lehmann on a two-year contract to strengthen the batting and Michael Neser, fresh from Ashes success bringing his all-round skills to The Bowl. With Sonny Baker on the rise to support stalwarts Kyle Abbott and Liam Dawson the bowling looked strong and hopefully the young batters would realise their potential.

As Friedrich Nietzsche wrote "Hope, in reality is the worst of all evils because it prolongs the torments of man." Tormented we have been.

I was in Amsterdam at Easter so missed the first game at The Bowl. No Michael Neser, not released by Cricket Australia and replaced as overseas by Codi Yusuf at short notice.

Essex, put in by Ben Brown won by an innings (this was to become a common theme) with Matt Critchley hitting a career best (another common theme) 173 and taking 5-9 in our 2nd innings.

Hope briefly returned with a convincing win at Headingley, with Jake Lehmann showing his class, a Ben Brown hundred and Kyle Abbott's 6-21 at once relieving the Easter blues.

The next game at home to Somerset may, reflecting on the season, be the pivotal moment in the season. Hampshire with a 50-run deficit on 1st innings were building a defendable 4th innings target at 269-4 but subsided to 336 all out as Lewis Gregory took 5-42.

A target of 287 was still a challenging one on a tricky wearing slow surface. Sonny Baker bowled superbly for his 5-62 but Tom Abell's unbeaten 101 saw Somerset home. Abell & James Rew showed their batting class in both innings and were the point of difference in a tight game. If Hampshire had got over the line to gain the confidence from consecutive wins the story of the season may have been different.

Glamorgan were next up at The Bowl and asked to bat first they did just that. Kiran Carlson (209) and Zain ul Hassan (143) with personal bests in the visitor's total of 536-7.

Hampshire's innings defeat looked inevitable after replying with 214 which was only notable for Ben Mayes reaching his 1st first class half century. And so, depressingly it proved to be the case despite 96 from Ben Brown in his second dig.

Essex beat us easily again at Chelmsford in what was to become Liam Dawson's final first-class match.

On 13th May, two days before Hampshire's next championship game with Notts, Liam Dawson announced his retirement from red ball cricket. A detailed review of Liam's red ball career with Hampshire will follow in a later newsletter but the bare statistics of over 10,000 runs and more than 350 wickets in 200+ games speak for themselves.

The post Dawson era started with a rain affected draw at home to Notts which was memorable for Jake Lehmann's first hundred for the Rose and Crown and the introduction of South African overseas player, Delano Potgieter who replaced the ineffective Codi Yusuf.

A rain affected game at The Oval saw Hampshire achieve a draw despite Dan Lawrence taking our bowling apart in the first innings with a career best 218 off just 190 balls. It was on one hand painful being there that day, but also a pleasure to watch. Delano Potgieter's 84* played a big part in Hampshire being able to save the follow on and get two batting bonus points to add to the one gained at Headingley. Dan Lawrence scored a sixty ball hundred to set up the declaration, but Hampshire saved the game comfortably in the end.

Some hope returned with a second win of the season at Hove before the break for the final stages of the T20 Blast and the One-Day Cup. A solid team performance in a low scoring game resulted in a win by 118 runs and a three-match unbeaten run.

Kyle Abbott with 6-49 in the 1st innings and 9 wickets in the match led the way again with Eddie Jack and Felix Organ taking 7 second innings wickets between them. Jack Abbott and Organ also made vital second innings contributions with the bat along with Delano Potgieter to set up a match winning lead.

A home win against fellow strugglers Yorkshire was vital to Hampshire's survival hopes when the championship resumed. Delano Potgieter had returned to South Africa, and much to the consternation and surprise of many supporters, no replacement was in place.

In a tight game Hampshire conceded lower order runs in both innings and allowed Yorkshire a flying start in their second innings, and this proved to be crucial. Set 278 to win Dom Bess took five wickets (to add to his late order runs in both innings) as Hampshire fell 39 short.

Hampshire dominated the rain affected match with Glamorgan at Sophia Gardens where Hampshire set the hosts 302 to win on the final day. Optimistic Hampshire fans were ignoring the gloomy weather forecast but hopes of a win disappeared in mid afternoon as the rain fell with Glamorgan 21-3.

Off the field controversy about the aborted engagement of an overseas player from New Zealand cast a big shadow over the start of Hampshire's penultimate home game against Warwickshire. The gloom for supporters heightened watching events on the field. The Bears put into bat in favourable bowling conditions made 398 which was far too many. Kyle Abbott's 4-51 from 25 overs included his 50th wicket of the season, but once again he lacked support.

Hampshire's responses with the bat were predictable given the quality of the visitor's attack and the fragility of Hampshire's batting line up all season. Warwickshire completed an innings win in three days.

The torment continued at Trent Bridge. Hampshire gave a first-class debut to seventeen-year-old Manny Lumsden. Nottinghamshire had managed to find two kiwi overseas players, Mitch Hay and Fraser Sheat, to fill gaps who went on to play significant parts in the match.

Nottinghamshire, asked to bat first on a very green pitch were soon in trouble at 20-3 with Kyle Abbott and Scott Currie bowling well and things looked good. A counterattack by Jack Haynes wrestled the initiative away with a nervous Lumsden and an off-colour Eddie Jack unable to stem the flow of runs as Joe Clarke made yet another hundred in a prolific season. Liam Patterson-White smashed 92 and Hay 49 in a total of 377 which was comfortably 150 over par. 4 dropped catches did not help.

Hampshire fans feared the worst given the batting performances this season. Jake Lehmann had other ideas and struck a combative 133* as the backbone of a total of 304 which garnered a fourth batting bonus point of the season.

A deficit of 73 on a still tricky pitch looked significant and Hampshire needed something special. Enter Eddie Jack and Manny Lumsden to redeem themselves after their first innings performances. Eddie Jack's opening spell saw him bag three cheap wickets bowling in tandem with a miserly Kyle Abbott. Manny Lumsden then burst the door open with three quick wickets. At 47-6 the lead was "only" 120. Crucially Joe Clarke was still in and made 37 before being Lumsden's fourth wicket when he was ninth out with the score at 97. Dillon Pennington followed soon after as Lumsden returned impressive figures of 5-36 on his debut. Also of note was Ben Brown equalling the county record of ten catches in a match by a keeper in first class cricket.

The lead had stretched out so that Hampshire needed 178 to complete an unlikely victory over the champions. "They couldn't could they" you could hear the tormented Hampshire fans saying as they followed the game at the ground, on the livestream or through other mediums.

The reply was swift as Dillon Pennington and Olly Stone with three wickets apiece exposed the season long frailties in the Hampshire top order. Hampshire slipped to 11-4 and then 27-6 as Notts bowled and caught impressively.

Ben Mayes and Scott Currie dug in, and Hampshire finished the day on 61-6 still needing an unlikely 117 to win. Hampshire fans off to bed dreaming "Cricket is a funny game – this is still on with one good partnership." This was a sentiment echoed by the coach.

Reality struck early the next morning. Mayes, Jack and Abbott were removed early by Olly Stone and it was soon 80-9 and all but over. Scott Currie and Manny Lumsden had other ideas adding 43 before the torment ended with a 54-run defeat and relegation all but guaranteed. Hampshire's relegation from Division 1 was confirmed by defeat at Grace Road but not without a further twist, more raised hopes, followed by dismal failure.

Ian Holland with a career best 6-38 showed Hampshire what they had let go. Kyle Abbott (4-58) went back to being leading wicket taker in the division as Leicester took a 30-run 1st inning lead. Then it all went very odd. Felix Organ (Holland's old opening partner at Hampshire) and Nick Gubbins started with a century opening stand and Gubbins got his first 100 since April 2025. At the close of play on day 2 Hampshire by reaching the dizzy heights of 255-3 had a 225-run lead and

had moved off the bottom of the table. Leicester dropped to the bottom having had 27 points deducted for the poor pitch prepared for the home game with Glamorgan. Leicestershire admitted the pitch was poor but bizarrely, in mitigation, explained that part of the problem was the filming of a “Bollywood” biopic on Virender Sehwag at Grace Road which affected their pitch preparation.

Hampshire management were still sending messages of hope. The team would push until relegation was a mathematical certainty. The hope was to extend the lead into a match winning one on day three and then, a 2025 style “great escape” was on again. The eventual target set of 334 was lower than hoped but still meant Leicester would have to record their highest ever home run chase against Hampshire and their 10th highest of all time anywhere against any opponent. No problem for kiwi white ball international Nick Kelly (86) and Ben Cox (75*) who added 158 for the 5th wicket to take Leicester to the brink of victory. It was ironic in many ways that Ian Holland was in with Cox when he hit a no ball for 4 to relegate Hampshire.

The Durham last day collapse of 2025 was just a temporary reprieve and Hampshire’s 12 year stay in Division 1 ended and the torment was finally over.

In some ways it is hard to believe that Hampshire in Jake Lehmann have the third highest run scorer in the division (965 runs at 48.25) and the leading wicket taker in Kyle Abbott (62 wickets at 15.80 and an economy rate of 2.42 runs per over) but are bottom of the table by a distance despite Leicestershire’s points deduction. You must feel sorry for them as they could not have done more but needed consistent support. Kyle has said as much by commenting that he has not been able to enjoy his personal success due to the team’s results.

With the home game against Sussex to come a record of P13. W2. D3. L8 with just four centuries and 4 batting bonus points, makes for dismal reading.

There is hope for the future if the young players like Baker, Mayes, Jack and Lumsden continue their progress. Gubbins, Lehmann and Abbott, with a decent overseas signing will provide the support to enable them to flourish alongside the likes of Prest, Albert and Neal. An early return to Division 1 will not be easy but is important.

The PCA has nominated Sonny Baker in the “Young Player of the Year” award category as recognition for his significant development this season.

Hampshire Men – T20 Blast

As in 2025 moving to white ball cricket after a disappointing start to the county championship offered the opportunity for the squad to build some confidence.

A fresh look format with three groups of six, with teams playing everyone home and away and two fixtures against teams from other groups.

Bolstered by the return of James Vince, Liam Dawson (after his unexpected red ball retirement), overseas stars Tristan Stubbs and Hilton Cartwright, a quarter final place was a minimum expectation. An inauspicious start at Taunton did not lift the gloom but six wins in a row including two wins over Surrey changed the mood. A personal highlight was Chris Wood hitting Andrew Tye for a four and a six to secure a penultimate ball win over Yorkshire.

Hampshire fans expect the team to do it the hard way and three defeats in four games followed including another chaotic performance in a heavy defeat at Essex.

With qualification for the quarter finals guaranteed going into the final group game at Hove a win would enhance the prospects of a home tie especially if other results went their way. Hilton Cartwright & Ben Mayes were instrumental in seeing Hampshire to top spot in the group with a partnership of 112 securing a four-wicket win after a collapse to 61-5.

A sublime 125 off 61 balls from James Vince and Sonny Baker's 5-24 swept Essex aside in the quarter final. So on to a fifth Finals Day in six years and a twelfth in all.

In the semi final a partnership of 126 for the 2nd wicket by James Vince and Joe Weatherley set up an imposing total of 187 which Notts got nowhere near with Sonny Baker taking 4-26.

Many Hampshire supporters were surprised when James Vince put Northants into bat in the final given how well Hampshire defend totals in this format. Northants looked on course for an unassailable total before Sonny Baker's death bowling (5-21) helped restrict the total to 169.

Northants as expected, squeezed hard and at 90-5 after 11.5 overs the prospects of a Hampshire win were receding fast despite Joe Weatherley continuing his good form. Joined by Liam Dawson a 48-run partnership revived hope before a calamitous run out saw Dawson dismissed. Weatherley was out for 75 in the final over and with it went Hampshire's hopes.

It was a record breaking T20 campaign for Weatherley who became the leading scorer in the competition this year (as was Toby Albert in 2025).

Joe also became the first player to hit two 50's on finals day and his 163 runs (88*and 75) is the most runs scored on finals day.

The campaign was a positive despite the final defeat. Weatherley's batting and Sonny Baker's explosive bowling when he returned from England duty were the highlights, but others showed up on a regular basis.

Scott Currie enhanced his reputation as a white ball bowler, Ben Mayes and Manny Lumsden showed continued progress in their fledgling careers.

Hilton Cartwright was a great asset as hard-hitting batter and gun fielder who caught everything. Tristan Stubbs started well but you cannot help thinking that if he returns, he should bat higher in the order.

Hampshire Men – One Day Cup

Despite significant absentees to The Hundred, especially on the bowling front, most Hampshire fans were expecting a strong showing in the ODC where Hampshire have a strong record.

Hampshire did not qualify for the play offs as a direct result of two heavy defeats at home to Middlesex and Durham where the net run rate took a hammering.

These games aside there were plenty of positives. Tom Prest played some decent innings in the early games including a hundred at Scarborough. Ollie Williams and Harry Petrie got opportunities because of the absence of some senior bowlers. Ashutosh Sharma arrived as an overseas all-rounder from the Delhi Capitals with IPL experience and bowled well but his batting was disappointing.

Ben Mayes returned from bench warming in The Hundred to score his first hundred for Hampshire in the win at Hove in a 225-run opening partnership with Ali Orr who also scored a century. The

game also saw a remarkable innings from Toby Albert who hit 86 off 37 balls including six consecutive 6's (across two consecutive overs).

Andrew Neal was a massive contributor with the bat to supplement his steady bowling. The statistics are impressive with 276 runs at 46 batting at 8 but do not tell the whole story. His 48 batting with number 11 Ollie Williams nearly brought an unlikely victory at Worcester. His 33* batting with James Fuller did see Hampshire home at Essex. These innings were just a taste of what was to come.

I sat with our chair, Garry Lane, at The Bowl for the final group game with Derbyshire. We both said afterwards we were glad we were there to see what unfolded. Hampshire went hard at the target of 318 trying to drastically improve their net run rate by winning inside 40 overs. The run rate was healthy, but a steady fall of wickets saw Hampshire at 134-6 in the 23rd over when Andrew Neal strode to the crease. It was 191-8 in the 29th over when Kyle Abbott joined Andrew. They put on 64 before Kyle was out for 18 and Ollie Williams came in at 255-9.

Andrew was last out trying to hit the 8 runs needed for victory in the 40th over. He had made 110 off just 63 balls with six 4's and ten 6's. Ollie Williams was 2*.

A remarkable display of power hitting (no slogging) with most of the sixes not just clearing the ropes but going well over the advertising boards.

It was not enough for Hampshire to qualify. That was down to the batting frailties in the two other homes losses which in many ways mirrored Hampshire's red ball batting at The Bowl.

Leicester and Middlesex contested the final at Trent Bridge on 20th September with Middlesex winning by 31 runs despite Ian Holland taking 5-36.

The Hundred

The Hampshire owned Southern Brave franchises changed team colours and personnel. Attendances were down which in part may be due to the lack of local players in the men's squad.

James Vince who had captained The Brave since the start of the competition had moved franchise. Manny Lumsden was the only Hampshire player in the squad and took part in just one match, the final game when the team was already out of contention.

The Brave women made a strong start but lost their way and although they made the eliminator match, they had lost momentum and lost easily. Hampshire players were successful with Liam Dawson and Sonny Baker lifting the Men's title with the Manchester Super Giants. Georgia Adams was captain of the Trent Rockets who won the Women's title.

England International honours in 2026

Liam Dawson played in the T20 World Cup including the semi final defeat to India. He also played in the 3-0 series win over India including the game where England hit 257-3 at The Bowl. He was also a member of the T20 team which recently completed a 3-0 series win over Sri Lanka.

Liam also played in the ODI 2-1 series win over India scoring an international ODI best of 68 at Edgbaston in July. Sonny Baker made his Test debut in the 2nd Test against New Zealand at The Oval and has now represented the full England team in all formats. His first test wicket was Rachin Ravindra followed in the same innings with the wicket of Daryll Mitchell and in the second innings he dismissed Matt Henry.

Sonny also returned to the T20 team for the recent series win over Sri Lanka alongside Liam Dawson. Sonny's bowling returns in terms of wickets and economy rates being in sharp contrast to his difficult debuts in the white ball formats. A reflection of how hard Sonny has worked on his game since his debuts and maybe that those selections were premature.

Ben Mayes and Manny Lumsden were an integral part of the England U19 team which reached the final of the World Cup. Mayes was leading run scorer in the tournament and Lumsden was the leading wicket taker. In the final England lost to India by 100 runs primarily because fifteen-year-old sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi smashed 175 off just 80 balls.

Ben Mayes and Eddie Jack played for the England Lions in their series of 4-day games against South Africa A. I was fortunate enough to be at Arundel to see Ben stroke his way to his first century in first class cricket.

Manny Lumsden played for England U19 in the ODI series with South Africa U19 and Pakistan U19. Manny also played for the PCC select team against the Pakistan test squad in their warmup match before the first test.

Lauren Bell and Maia Bouchier played in the historic first Women's Test Match at Lords against India in July.

Lauren Bell, Linsey Smith and Freya Kemp played in the T20 World Cup final which England lost to Australia at Lords in July.

Freya Kemp and Maia Bouchier played in the ODI series against New Zealand and Ireland. Bouchier hit her 2nd ODI hundred in the first game of the series with Ireland.

Ella McCaughan and Abi Norgrove played for England A in their series with India A.

Club cricket in Hampshire

Fellow society member Mike Vimpany kindly provided me with a report on the upper echelons of men's club cricket in the county which he has covered with distinction for many years. I have reproduced his summary below with his permission"St. Cross Symondians dominated the Hampshire recreational scene, winning the ECB Southern League championship for the second consecutive

season (and the third time in five years) before climaxing the summer by being crowned ECB Vitality Club T20 winners at Worcester.

Ironically, St Cross lost their first and last SPL games but in between times won 11 of their 14 completed matches drawing just once. Hampshire's Felix Organ scored 591 runs, with left hand allrounder Charlie Gwynn taking 37 wickets.

St Cross showed off their talents with a series of outstanding T20 performances, initially winning the South and West group before defeating Penzance, the powerful west country paymasters, to win the South final at Basingstoke.They went on to defeat Bradford League top dogs Townville in the final at Worcester, successfully defending 158 all out.

St Cross Symondians created a spot of English cricket history with that victory as their women's team had previously won the ECB Women's T20 Cup in August.

South Wilts and Bournemouth finished second and third respectively, with Hampshire Academy captain Sam Ashman the leading Premier League batter with 669 runs.

Bournemouth left arm spinner Connor Smith took 40 wickets to become top bowler.

Beset by pre-season departures, Bashley (Rydal) finished bottom and, accreditations being satisfied, will be replaced in the Premiership by Division 1 winners Fair Oak, for whom Hampshire's Fletcha Middleton made 603 runs including 4 hundreds.

Waterlooville and Hursley Park won Divisions 2 and 3, respectively."

I have added some other key SPL movements: -

In Division 2, battling for the second promotion place, Andover and Portsmouth & Southsea finished level on points and average. Andover gained promotion by virtue of a better run rate through the season calculated to three decimal places. As Ian Smith famously said "by the barest of margins"

In Division 3, Alton 2's took the second promotion spot. At the bottom Sarisbury 2's together with Hook and Newnham 2's drop to the Hampshire Cricket League. HCL Division 1 champions Bournemouth 2 and Gosport Borough will replace them.

Portsmouth won the SPL T20 Cup defeating Bournemouth in the final

In the Womens Cricket Southern League, Hursley Park 1's finished in 4th place with Gunnersbury the champions.

In The Hampshire Women's Cricket League Division 1 the champions are St. Cross Symondians. As previously mentioned, they completed an impressive double by winning the ECB Vitality Club T20 Cup with a 6-wicket win in the final against Dorridge from Solihull.

Remarkably, St Cross men also won the national T20 title last weekend to complete a unique competition double.

St Cross Women's 2's also completed a double winning Hampshire League Division 2 and the Hampshire Slam Shield beating Yateley in the final.

It would be hard to look anywhere beyond Winchester to find the club of the year.

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Committee: Chairman Garry Lane Secretary John Hooper Assistant Secretary Neil Robjohns Treasurer Mandy Lewis Newsletter Editor Steve Godwin Archivist Alan Edwards Webmaster Andy Ray Minutes Secretary Sue Ray