

Stourbridge & District Cricket Society

(Formed 1972)

Patron : Lord Cobham
Chairman : Dave Nicklin (01527 871835)
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Stourbridge & District Cricket Society is a member of the Council of Cricket Societies

OCTOBER 2004

NEWSLETTER No. 9

PROGRAMME FOR 2004/5

<u>TUESDAY</u> 19 th October	Geoff Miller	England, Derbyshire and Essex C.C.C. Current England selector.
Thursday 11 th November	Chris Westcott	Cricket writer.
Thursday 9 th December	Dave Bradley	Hereford & Worcester BBC broadcaster
Thursday 13 th January	Dennis Amiss	England and Warwickshire C.C.C. Chief Executive of Warwickshire C.C.C.
Thursday 17 th February	Greg Thomas	England, Glamorgan and Northants C.C.C.
Thursday 17 th March	Richard Bevan	Chief Executive of the Professional Cricketers Association.
Thursday 7 th April	Steve Rhodes	Worcestershire C.C.C.

Will members please note that our first meeting is on TUESDAY 19th October.

Since our last meeting!

The summer weather has not lived up to expectations. Who mentioned climate change? England have continued to make great progress in Test matches but their performances in One Day Internationals still leaves a lot to be desired. The difficult tour to South Africa this winter will be good preparation for next year's Ashes series. Is the Aussie team growing old together or will they come up with some interesting replacements? Perhaps there are a few playing in the Championship this summer!!

At the time of writing Worcester are struggling. After a reasonable start, relegation is on the cards in the Championship, whilst promotion in the Totesport League is in the balance. The Twenty20 gave some good results (except against Surrey!) and the final was reached in the C & G. Unfortunately Gloucester proved to be better on the day. Worcester do seem to run hot and cold – sometimes in the same match!

Congratulations to Mike Gilhooly, one of our members, on his appointment as a Vice President of Worcestershire C.C.C.

Annual General Meeting

At the AGM in April the officials of the Society were re-elected for the forthcoming year. At the request of Bryan Styles and other members, the Programme Secretary was asked to arrange an extra speaker for April. You will see from the list above that this request has been implemented. The Committee hopes that all members will appreciate this – especially as the Membership fee remains at £6!!!!

A request was made for each of our meetings to be non – smoking. This was thought to be a bit draconian so IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF MEMBERS WOULD NOT SMOKE DURING THE MAIN PART OF THE EVENING i.e. smoke, if you have to, during the interval. THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

Members will have received a Membership Form to complete. Please let Ken Workman have these as soon as possible once they have been completed – preferably when you pay your sub.. This information will bring our records up to date and will enable us to contact you at short notice should the situation arise e.g. late cancellation of a meeting. This information will not be passed to any outside agencies.

As you may know we have the use of the pavilion free of charge for our meetings. In the past we have given a donation to the Stourbridge C.C. This year we have made a contribution of £100 to their fund for a bowling machine to be used by their youth members.

Also it was decided to take advantage of a web site scheme offered by the Council of Cricket Societies. Why not take a look. Our website address is www.sdcs.councilcricketsocieties.com

Those who have visited the County Ground this summer may have seen the plaque for Les Hatton that has been placed in the Memorial Rose Garden. Mrs Hatton has expressed her thanks for this memorial. Mike Taylor will be looking into the possibilities of arranging another day out in the Spring. Nottingham has been mentioned for visits to Trent Bridge and the City Ground of Nottingham Forest.

Monthly reports by our members

The speaker for January 2004, BRIAN GITTINS, Press Officer for Kidderminster Cricket and Rugby clubs, opened the evening by inviting the audience to journey through the Birmingham League, India, Dickie Bird and back.

Brian began by explaining that he was press secretary because no other bugger wanted the job and that although he wrote for four papers, they all received the same report.

He played cricket at school as a bowler, and also in the RAF, where one of his team-mates was John 'Cowboy' McConnack who went on to win a bronze medal, boxing in the Olympics. He admitted to playing 300 matches without achieving an aggregate of 100 runs!! While playing for Kidderminster he borrowed a bat belonging to A. J. Bamforth who greeted him on his return to the pavilion by saying 'Brian, that's my bat you've got, at least you haven't done much damage to it. You must be the worst batsmen I've ever seen.'

Brian explained that he is a Vice-President of Kidderminster Cricket Club, and that during the years Worcester played county matches at Kidderminster he had been in charge of hospitality for the matches and made sure that every penny was in before a ball had been bowled.

Brian mourned the changes to Birmingham League cricket, explaining that the facilities are no longer as good because less money is spent on things such as sightscreens and pitch covers while more goes to paying players.

The allocation of County players to certain Birmingham League sides was also seen as a cause for concern, with sides being notified at the last minute of injuries and unavailability. He outlined the problems Kidderminster had the season they were relegated when because the county players they were allocated were unavailable due to County commitments, it was difficult to compete with the other teams fighting relegation. Knowle and Dorridge, who were able to field David Hemp and Coventry with Charlie Dagnall and Neil Smith, in the final few important matches of the season.

The discipline of some of the players was a cause for concern to Brian, who said that at two matches during the summer he had been ashamed of the language used by the players and called for stronger umpires.

Brian went on to talk about the cricket grounds he had visited in India - Eden Gardens Calcutta, Madras, and Delhi. This was where he witnessed the strange sight of a dogcatcher with a net chasing a dog that had run on the field during a Wills Trophy game between Delhi and Bombay.

Brian explained the problems he had had with Dickie Bird when he was umpiring at Kidderminster; trying to find the ideal hotel, not on a main road, close to the ground, not on a route with any road works, with a car park, away from Barry Meyer, his fellow umpire, (who according to Dickie snored and would keep him awake)!! Finally after much discussion a Hotel was found which proved to be fine, unfortunately the next time Dickie visited Kidderminster he was unable to stop at the same hotel as it was under new management. Brian described Dickie as priceless.

Questions in the second half of the evening dealt with Birmingham League cricket, county cricket at Kidderminster, responsibility of umpires for the conduct of players, overseas players, lack of

opportunities for young players, and central contracts. A question about the way rugby deals with bad behaviour and the respect for referees generated discussion about gratuitous violence, whether footballers and rugby players are treated differently, Martin Johnson and Paulo Di Canio were highlighted.

Many thanks to Isobel for her view of the evening's proceedings.

Drinks interval 1

Welcome to Worcester, where you've just missed seeing Barry Richards hit one of Basil d'Oliviera's balls clean out of the ground.

Brian Johnston

The following are the thoughts of Stuart Richardson on an excellent evening we had with our February guest.

ALAN OAKMAN was the fifth guest speaker this winter to the Stourbridge Cricket Society on Thursday 19th February 2004. Alan was a right-hand batsman and off-break bowler who usually fielded close to the wicket. He represented Sussex from 1947 to 1968 playing twice for England, his career record was 21800 runs, average 26.17, 736 wickets, average 27.63, and he also claimed 594 catches.

His best season with the bat was in 1961 when he scored 2307 runs. During his career he completed 22 centuries with a highest score of 229 not out against Northamptonshire at Worksop in 1961.

His best bowling season was in 1954 when he took 99 wickets, with best bowling figures of 7 for 39 against Glamorgan at Eastbourne again in 1954. He took one hat trick in 1952 against Somerset at Hove, and during his career took five catches in an innings on two occasions.

He was awarded his county cap in 1951 and received a benefit in 1965 that realised £5900.00.

He served on the first class umpires list for one season in 1969, and was then appointed Warwickshire cricket coach from 1970 until 1987. Later became assistant secretary for cricket at Warwickshire until his retirement in 1996.

He is still involved in numerous cricket activities, including being the President of the Birmingham League, Chairman of the Warwickshire over 50's team, and he also organises conducted tours of Edgbaston, and extended a cordial invitation to our Society. He gave an interesting talk, and was very modest about his own achievements and appeared delighted to visit the Society, because it had eliminated his decorating duties for the evening, he had left his wife painting!

He joined Sussex straight from school and was paid £4.00 weekly, which was paid throughout the year. Other young players on the staff included Jim Parks, Ken Suttle and Ian Thomson. He made

his debut in 1947 against Northamptonshire and returned bowling figures of 0 for 99. His second game was against Middlesex in 1948 and his first victim was Harry Sharp, his second victim was the great Denis Compton who scored just 17 runs. He felt he had committed a crime because spectators, umpires and even Sussex players were disappointed the legend was out very cheaply.

He spent his National Service in the Guards, after originally applying to join the R.A.F., and represented the Army and Combined Services at cricket and only missed one season for Sussex whilst completing his National Service.

He talked at length about his county captain's at Sussex :- Hugh Bartlett 1947-49, James Langridge 1950-1952, David Sheppard 1953, Robin Marlars 1955-59, Ted Dexter 1960-65, Nawab of Pataudi 1966, Jim Parks 1967-68 and Mike Griffith 1968. He omitted to mention Hubert Doggart who was captain in 1954. He spent much of the time talking about Ted Dexter who he said, with Roy Marshall, was one of the few batsmen he would cross the road to watch, although he said Gary Sobers was the greatest player he saw.

Ted Dexter commuted from London to play, had a love of motorcycles, and was a talented scratch golfer, who played cricket for sheer enjoyment and was not concerned about averages. An amusing story about Ted Dexter was one Derby Day, he wanted to watch or listen to the race and organised the twelfth man, Don Bates, to bring drinks just before 3-00 p.m. Eventually players, umpires and the club secretary all listened to the race with drinks on the boundary. He was quick to appreciate that Sussex did not have the ability to win the County Championship, but did have possibilities in the one-day competition and led Sussex to the first Gillette Cup Final victory against Worcestershire. David Sheppard was the

best captain he played under, whilst The Nawab of Pataudi was late arriving to undertake his appointment because he was on safari! Mike Griffith became skipper as a result of a player's vote, while Robin Marlar was the most eccentric skipper, they never really knew what to expect next.

After the interval he spoke at length about his two tests against Australia including the 'Jim Laker Test' when he took 19 wickets, Laker toasted himself on Lucozade, it appeared none of the players really appreciated at the time how great an occasion it was. Tony Lock, the other half of the Surrey Spin Twins, left almost immediately after the game after taking just one wicket. Alan had heard of his selection for England at Old Trafford via the local constabulary because he did not have a telephone. He was a late replacement for Tom Graveney who was injured. An interesting comment was during the two tests he was involved in, Brian Statham was twelfth man at Headingley and Fred Trueman was twelfth man at Old Trafford, which was probably a political selection, but would that England had that luxury now.

He heard about the Warwickshire post via Leslie Deakins whilst coaching in South Africa and was invited to apply as county coach because Tom Dollery was about to retire. He had spent 10 winter's coaching in South Africa and thought he might settle there, but his application was

successful, and he was initially offered a one-year contract with a five-year back up if everyone was happy.

He was called into action to umpire on three occasions whilst coach at Edgbaston, the most famous was when he replaced Arthur Fagg temporarily at the Test Match against West Indies when there was a disagreement between Arthur Fagg and Rohan Kanhai. He also replaced Syd Buller when he sadly passed away during the tea interval during a county game, and deputised for Dusty Rhodes when he was ill at another county fixture. He could not see the point of getting rid of any of the first class counties, and thought one overseas player was sufficient if any were needed at all. He was not against England touring Zimbabwe, all other test nations were still touring and if we did not go he thought it would prove expensive. The E.C.B. had already stopped sponsoring Scottish Cricket and the Over 50's competition. He thought the use of the third umpire was excellent and during his career had enjoyed playing at many of the rural grounds including Worcester. After about the third or fourth polite attempt by the Chairman to conclude the meeting, it finished a little later than usual.

Alan's knowledge, involvement and love of the game shone throughout the evening, and the generous applause he received was richly deserved.

Preceding the meeting Geoff Harper spoke briefly about the late Charlie Elliott the former Derbyshire batsman and Umpire who played football for Coventry City, he played cricket for Stourbridge Cricket Club. The Chairman also congratulated David Whittingham on his election to the Warwickshire Committee.

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Drinks interval 2

There is one great similarity between music and cricket. There are slow movements in both.

Sir Neville Cardus

JIM CUMBES was the last speaker of the 2003/4 season. Now in his 42nd year in cricket, either as a player or as an administrator, Jim played for four counties - Lancashire (twice), Surrey, Worcestershire and Warwickshire. In the 'closed season' he kept goal for Tranmere Rovers, West Bromwich Albion and Aston Villa. His boyhood hero was the Manchester City goalkeeper Bert Trautmann. He was transferred twice for £35,000 and on the second occasion it was, at that time, the second highest fee for a goalkeeper. Whilst at Aston Villa he won Division 2 and 3 Championship medals and was also in their League Cup Winning team.

One of his few regrets is that he did not play in the same side as his cricketing hero Brian Statham. During his time at Surrey he heard unofficially that he was in line for a Test cap against New Zealand but a contract dispute with Tranmere Rovers meant that he was unavailable for selection so unfortunately he will never know whether he would have been chosen.

Jim joined Worcestershire in 1971 staying for ten years during which time the county won a Championship and reached two Benson and Hedges Finals. He was proud to have played in the same team as many players

with a team ethic, considering Glenn Turner the best opening batsman in the world and Basil D'Oliveira the greatest fighter in the game.

Joining Warwickshire he was soon to become their Commercial Manager, the first such appointment amongst the counties. Five years later Lancashire offered him a similar position and he was to become their Chief Executive in 1997, a position he still holds.

Cricket has always been his first love and he feels that there is a much better relationship between Umpires and Cricketers than between Referees and Footballers. As for the future of the game Jim feels it is at a crossroads and change would be brought about by either breakaway or bankruptcy with the smaller counties staring bankruptcy in the face and unable to support themselves.

A look into the past with Jim one of those lucky enough to play in an age where first class cricket could be accommodated alongside the life of a professional footballer: a balanced view of the game in the present: a glimpse of the future with Lancashire considering vacating their Old Trafford home after 150 years .

An immensely popular man Jim's talk was much appreciated on his third visit to the Society. There will always be a warm welcome for Jim whenever he visits our area.

Thanks Terry for these comments on what everyone said was an excellent evenings entertainment.

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A Summer Day

By Douglas Winterborn

I'm sitting here looking down the wicket
Yes I'm here to watch some cricket
Looking right the pavilion we view
The other way a church tower or two

We are meeting again the usual group
Every year the same folk to New Road troop
There is Alan, Graham and Mr. Green
But who do we rely on in our team

Our openers are Peters and Singh
They move to the wicket when the start bell does ring
Will their stand be a century
Or shall we start with ten for three

Captain Smith that's our Ben
Will he be able to motivate his men
He, is followed by Kadeer, Solanki and Hick
Hope they make the scoreboard tick

Middle order Kemp and Hall
They perform with both bat and ball
When our opponents make a good drive
We hope it is caught by a Leatherdale dive

Wicket keepers Pipe and Rhodes, Steve
Make our bowlers in themselves believe
They take stance behind the sticks
To stump, and take catches from the slightest snicks

Down the order we have a spinner
We all hope he will prove a winner
He hopes to send the opposition scatty
What is his name? Gareth Batty

Our seamers Hayward, Mason and Ali
Need to create a good wicket tally
We also have the left armer, Harrity
Hope the matches don't prove a calamity

The backroom boys they do their bit
Keeping all the players sharp and fit
Tom Moody the cricket Director
His job is to be the players' mentor

What happens when this year there is cricket no more
I expect we will all return in two thousand and four
These members I'm sure will never tire
Of watching their county Worcestershire.

Many of you may remember that in January 2001 our guest was the eminent cricket writer Stephen Chalke. He spoke about his books that gave an amusing insight into the cricket of the 50's and 60's. Martin Horton was very pleased to get a well deserved mention! Stephen has recently written an article for the Wisden Cricketer magazine about Roly Jenkins and he has kindly given us permission to reprint it in our newsletter.

Spin for Roly

'NO ENGLISH leg-spinner has ever returned all-round figures to rival those of Worcester's Roly Jenkins in the summer of 1949. With 183 victims, he was the country's leading wicket-taker, his "dogged batting" yielded 1,183 runs, and his "live-wire fielding" resulted in 27 catches, the majority of them off his own bowling. *Wisden* named him as one of their Cricketers of the Year, detailing also his outstanding success in South Africa the previous winter. "Worcester people are proud of him," it wrote, "the only man born in the city itself to be chosen by MCC for a tour."

"The keenest man playing first-class cricket today," the *Guardian's* Terence Prittie called him. "He loves the game as much as any man living." Nine years on from his death, his widow Olive remembers his enthusiasm. "He never stopped talking about cricket. Not long before he died, we were in the doctor's waiting room, and he met this chap. They were talking away for hours. In the end, the doctor came out. 'Is one of you two going to come in?'"

As a bowler, always in his cap, he had a short, fidgety roll to the wicket, a distinctive mix of muscle and anxiety as he threw the ball high and spun it prodigiously. "Spin for Roly," he would tell the ball, but his quest for perfection rarely left him satisfied.

"I've seen him take eight wickets and go straight into the nets," his teammate Martin Horton says. "He particularly hated batsmen sweeping him. He used to say to Bill Alley, 'I hope your chickens all die.' Jim Parks used to sweep him first ball, whatever. 'Haven't they got any proper batsmen today?' he'd say."

One year in Glasgow he beat the Rev Jim Aitchison repeatedly but without success, and he came down the wicket. "They say you're a vicar. Well, with your luck, you'll be the Archbishop of Canterbury." Later, as he nursed a sore finger, he turned to the umpire: "I'll borrow the one you're not using." He returned to Worcester in a state of nervous distress and did not bowl again for a month.

"He was always talking," Olive says. "And he never bothered what he said. He just said it."

During the Second World War an officer batting with him admonished him. "Now listen, Jenkins, you don't say 'come one,' you say 'come one, sir.'" And Roly, with his insistent Worcester vowels, had to have the last word: "And if I'm wearing a cap, sir, should I salute when we cross?"

He wrote a piece on spin bowling for the *Cricketer*, and Walter Robins commended him. "That was a very good article, Jenkins. Who wrote it for you?" Quick as a flash he came back:

"I wrote it myself, sir. Who read it for you?"

But in May 1949 he made one remark too many and, for all his success in South Africa and during that golden summer, it cost him his Test place. The selectors picked six slow bowlers that summer — including three leg-spinners at The Oval — but there was no call-up for the man from Worcester.

Olive produces eight pages of typed script from an envelope marked Unpublished Article: "There are those who assert that he was omitted because of a frivolous (and harmless) remark made while batting for MCC in a friendly match. He was certainly carpeted at Lord's for his levity and, it seems, lost his Test place ~ because of it."

"What on earth did he say?"

"Ah well, I don't suppose it matters to repeat it now. He was batting on the last morning, and he said to this fancy cap, 'I'm going to play as an amateur today. I want to catch the early train back to Worcester.'"

The irony is that no cricketer ever tried harder or took the game more seriously, ever looked after its spirit more lovingly. In his final radio interview, he read Lord Harris's famous words:

"Cricket. It is a moral lesson in itself, and the classroom is God's air and sunshine. Foster it, my brothers, protect it from anything that will sully it, so that it will be in favour with all men.' What would he do in his grave," Roly added, "if he could see what was going on today?"

But if there was no England place for Roly that summer, at least he had time for the wedding he had had to postpone during the winter. Worcester released him for a week in June, and he sent them a postcard from Llandudno: "They say it's sunny outside."

He reappeared the following Saturday, bowling 49 overs on a hot day at Dudley and glowing with the joys of married life: "I never realised you could have so much fun without laughing."

Answers for Crossword No. 6 -

Across: 1. Gallion 4. Leveson Gower 10. Larwood 12. Hutton 13. Logie 15. OHM 16. Swetman 17. Nicholas 20. Nurse 22. Endean 23. Robinson 27. Flavell 29. Armstrong 33. Reynolds 35. Eady 36. Tyldesley 37. Dexter 38. Langer 40. Zoysa 44. Gunn 45. Inverarity 46. Mbangwa 48. Wazir 50. Gooch 54. Imran Khan 55. Stewart 56. Fellows Smith.

Down: 1. Giles 2. Larter 3. Ironmonger 4. Lohmann 5. Vettori 6. Spooner 7. Gilchrist 8. WGG 9. Rae 11. Donnelly 14. IVA 18. Les 19. Sen 21. Tufnell 24. Hayden 25. Tyler 26. Eastwood 28. Lever 30. Mal 31. Rose 32. Gayle 34. Nothling 37. DeFreitas 39. Agnew 41. Subba Row 42. Snow 43. Tyson 47. Nunes 49. Ames 51. Hill 52. RNSH 53. ITB.

The winner was Brian Priest.

Answers for the Easter Egg Quiz -

1. E 2. I 3. B 4. G 5. W 6. N 7. O 8. R 9. D 10. T

Answer = BRIDGETOWN.

The winner was Albert Lavender.

Drinks interval 3

What is happiness???????

An interviewer was asking a group of three people in the 1980's 'What does happiness mean to you?' The American replied: 'Happiness to me means baseball, my family, my Corvette convertible, a good job and vacations in my mountain lodge.' The Englishman replied: 'Well, to me it means watching cricket at New Road Worcester, afternoon tea in the Ladies' pavilion on a fine summer's day, tending my roses and looking forward to a happy, healthy and long retirement.' The Russian responded by saying 'Well comrade, to me it means working all day on the collective farm for a pittance, coming home to my state flat to watch a party political broadcast about the glory of living in the Soviet Union, and having stale black bread and soup for dinner. When there is a knock on the door and I open it to find two KGB officers there, one says, 'Are you Vladimir Komanski?' and I say, 'No comrade, he lives next door'. That's happiness!'

The Times

Martin Horton's match at Stourbridge!

Worcestershire v. Leicestershire

July 24, 25, 26, 1957

Leicestershire

G.Lester	lbw b Flavell	4	b Jenkins	46
M.R.Hallam	b Horton	6	st Booth b Jenkins	41
J. van Gelovan	st Booth b Horton	6	c Outschoorn b Horton	2
C.H.Palmer	c Outschoorn b Horton	0	b Flavell	6
L.R.Gardner	c Flavell b Coldwell	50	st Booth b Jenkins	3
V.S.Munden	c Dews b Horton	2	not out	21
J.Firth	lbw b Coldwell	13	c Lister b Jenkins	0
J.Savage	c Booth b Coldwell	0	b Horton	0
R.Smith	c Booth b Coldwell	0	c Outschoorn b Horton	13
C.T.Spencer	b Coldwell	6	c Coldwell b Horton	0
B.Boshier	not out	0	b Horton	0
Extras		3	Extras	5
	<u>TOTAL</u>	90	<u>TOTAL</u>	137

Flavell 1 - 58, Coldwell 5 - 18, Berry 0 - 0,
HORTON 12 - 8 - 11 - 4.

Flavell 1 - 19, Coldwell 0 - 7, Berry 0 - 7,
Jenkins 4 - 62, HORTON 42.4 - 24 - 37 - 5!

Worcestershire

D.Kenyon	b Savage	15
L.Outschoorn	b Spencer	5
G.Dews	c Palmer b Savage	115
R.G.Broadbent	c Firth b Spencer	66
M.J.HORTON	NOT OUT	70
R.Booth	c Firth b Munden	14
J.Lister	c Munden b van Geloven	7
J.Flavell	not out	5
Extras		3
	<u>TOTAL</u> - 6 wkts dec.	300

Spencer 2 - 64, Boshier 0 - 41, Savage 2 - 75,
Smith 0 - 59, Palmer 0 - 22, Munden 1 - 20
Van Geloven 1 - 16.

Umpires : John Langridge and H.G.Baldwin.

Worcestershire won by an innings and 73 runs.

Worcestershire established a commanding position almost from the start. Jack Flavell took a wicket at four and when Martin Horton came on to allow the fast bowler to change ends, his off breaks proved so effective that the next four wickets fell to him in 17 balls at a cost of five runs. Then, after a shower, Len Coldwell, fast medium, performed the first hat-trick of his career, and although Gardner batted resolutely, Leicestershire could not recover. They collapsed again after Dews, who hit seventeen 4's in his first century of the summer, Broadbent and Horton helped Worcestershire to a lead of 210. On a drying pitch, Martin Horton conceded only 37 runs in 42.4 overs, 24 of them maidens, and took five wickets. He finished with match figures of 9 for 48.

Hopefully, at some time in the future, Martin will give us his thoughts on this match.