

Boundary View

The newsletter of Stourbridge & District Cricket Society

www.sdcs.cricket

Spring 2018 - No. 18

Founded 1972

Notice is hereby given that the **Annual General Meeting** of Stourbridge & District Cricket Society will be held on **12 April 2018** starting at **7pm** in the **pavilion** of Stourbridge CC. The regular monthly meeting will begin soon after the end of the AGM. We look forward to seeing you at both meetings.

CRICKET CLUB MEMORIES

Members are invited to submit memories of club cricket in both the immediate local district and surrounding area. We are not going to attempt to write histories, but we want to include your anecdotes and memories of clubs, notable events and matches, prominent players (past and present), and anything else to do with your club.

So far, contributions about the following clubs have been promised or received:

Amblecote	Mark & Moody
Ambl. & Wollaston	Nth Worcs Breweries
Belbroughton	Old Halesonians
Bromsgrove	Old Hill
Claverley	Oldswinford
Cradley Victoria	Oldswinford St Mary
Dudley	Pedmore
Enville	Penn
Hagley	St. Katherine's
Himley	Stourbridge Social
Kidderminster	Tipton
Lye	Wollaston

Much has been written about Test and County cricket, but very little about Club cricket, particularly in our area.

There must be a wealth of information kept in albums, scrap books or tucked away in boxes, or stored long ago in the loft.

We invite contributions not just from members! Talk about the project to your friends, neighbours, relatives and old George in the pub!

More memories of clubs (listed or new) are still wanted—please contact either Brian Lester, Terry Church or Anthony Collis for more information.



COMMITTEE NEWS

We welcome Robin Viner and Brian Lester to the committee.

Robin (above) has been co-opted as Treasurer with effect from the start of 2018, while Brian (shown on page 2), has also answered our call for new blood. He is keen to help with the local Club project. Both men will be formally proposed as committee members at the forthcoming AGM.

'NEW BLOOD' APPEAL

We invite 'expressions of interest' from members who are keen to assist in the running of the Society.

The tasks are not onerous and the perks are non-existent. The pay is dreadful, there is no pension, sick pay or holiday entitlement.

Please contact any committee member for further information.

QUICK SINGLES

NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS

The Society has a smart new website **and a new address**, which is:
www.sdcs.cricket

PROGRAMME CHANGE

Norman Gifford is unable to attend the March meeting. The former Hampshire bowler and Test umpire John Holder will take his place.

100 BOOKINGS, NO RED CARDS

Before the December meeting, Programme Secretary Terry Church was presented with a copy of *A True Gentleman* (the biography of George Chesterton, by November's guest, Andrew Murtagh) to commemorate Terry's 100th booking (no red cards – yet).

NEW MEMBERS!

Our cricket XI, if we had one, would be strengthened by new member, **David Gower**! He is a Bhm League umpire and has also stood in Minor Counties games.

We also welcome **Paul Harris** (Cookley CC), who attended Dean Allen's presentation and joined the Society on the spot! They are the first members to pay their 2018/19 subs!

CHAIRMAN'S VIEW

In a recent national survey of youngsters, when asked to name six sports, only two percent included cricket.

This must concern all cricket clubs as they prepare this summer to implement the 2nd year of the ECB initiative 'All Stars Cricket Programme' aimed at 5-8 year-olds, which last year was a success.

More clubs will join this year buoyed by positive feedback from others. My view is that some clubs do it better than others. It is work in progress run by some very enthusiastic unpaid members and coaches giving up their time for the good of the game.

An open all hours policy is difficult for most clubs, but I believe that weekdays in summer holidays and weekends offer a wonderful opportunity for boys and girls to use the facilities at their clubs if they can be made available.

A strong link between club and county is important. A happy go lucky social club with no drive or ambition conveys the wrong impression and does cricket no favours.

School visits to county games led by enthusiastic teachers staying for one and a half sessions are invaluable and encouraging to see. If only a few return, take an interest in the rich fabric of our game, are taught the mathematical significance of match situations, averages, physical and dietary requirements to play professionally then that can only awaken their interest to learn and become involved.

I would urge cricket societies and ours in particular to heed the two percent warning, accurate or not, and actively encourage boys and girls to take an interest in cricket.

Mike Tomkins

SUPPORTING CRICKET IS AS IMPORTANT AS PLAYING CRICKET!

The opinions expressed in Boundary View are not necessarily those of Stourbridge & District Cricket Society

Viscount Cobham (Patron) Dave Nicklin (President) Mike Tomkins (Chairman)
Terry Church (Programme Secretary) Anthony Collis (Secretary / Editor) Brian Lester (Heritage) Robin Viner (Treasurer)

DAVID MILLNS

(Leicestershire (2), Nottinghamshire – now a first-class umpire)

This meeting, scheduled for a week earlier, was deferred due to the car park and approach road being icy.

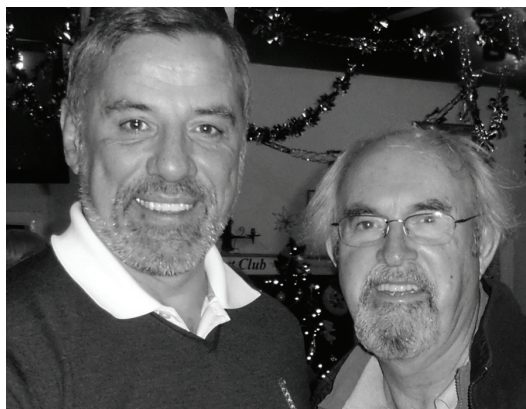
David began his talk by paying tribute to the late Russell Evans, not only a fellow first-class umpire, but a close friend, who was his best man and godfather to his son. He died aged 52 on 30 November 2017, following complications after routine surgery.

David Millns (shown left with Brian Lester) began and ended his playing career with his native county Nottinghamshire, sandwiched in between by a nine-year stint with Leicestershire. He gained overseas playing experience with Tasmania and Boland.

After persistent injury niggles, he turned to umpiring and was on the ECB's reserve list from 2007, since when he has stood in West Indies, India and Abu Dhabi. The highest level he has reached is as a Reserve Test Umpire on seven occasions, but he umpired a Women's Test in 2014.

He talked at length about various players who he had faced, played with or umpired during his career. Yorkshire's Ryan Sidebottom has called a halt to his

20-year career. "I will miss his histrionic appeals often followed by equally dramatic reaction when the decision didn't go his way," umpire Millns recalled. "At the end of one day's play, I called him into the umpire's room and told him that he would be reported for dissent, and he would likely get another 3 points towards suspension. Next morning, he apologised to me and said 'No hard feelings, it's sorted as my wife has agreed to take the points for me!'"



The paths of the two Davids – Millns & Boon – [they could go far with names like that!] crossed many times as players and officials. Both played for Leicestershire and Tasmania. "Down under, I averaged 70 with the bat and 44 with the ball!" Later both men officiated in various matches, Millns as umpire, Boon as

match referee.

He described Foxes' skipper Nigel Briers, as brilliant, a sergeant-major type, barking out orders as if on the parade ground not a cricket field.

Millns recalled a horrific injury sustained by Phil Whitticase in 1995. "Against Essex he faced the late Neil Williams who delivered a fearsome bouncer in poor light. He got smashed in the face, lost seven teeth, his jaw was broken and he looked like the Elephant Man—he retired hurt, but grittily came back next day to continue batting, added two runs to end with 62 not out." Millns omitted to say that he was at the other end and scored 70, which helped the Foxes win by 102 runs after trailing by 151 on first innings.

David was unaware that Phil had played for Stourbridge CC in the early 1980s.

Millns described Clive Rice as a "tough, fierce competitor, with no sense of humour, except when watching Norman Wisdom films."

Kevin Petersen "looked innocuous in the nets, but later smashed an astonishing hundred. He was a superb batsman who spoke his mind and upset people."

21 December 2017

Att. 53 (49 members + 4 guests)

Prior to the above talk, S&DCS Programme Secretary Terry Church was presented with a copy of *A True Gentleman* (the biography of George Chesterton, by Andrew Murtagh) to commemorate Terry's 100th booking (no red cards).

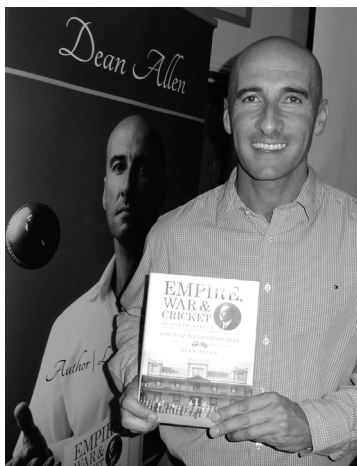
DEAN ALLEN

Author

Tonight's guest was Dean Allen, author of *Empire, War and Cricket*, the biography of Scottish-born entrepreneur and millionaire, James Douglas Logan (1857-1920).

Most of the sixty-plus members present had little awareness of the subject, but by the end of the meeting all had learnt much about a man who gave a splendid silver cup in 1903, subsequently named in his honour, as the principal trophy of cricket in Southern Rhodesia (amazingly Mugabe's government has not enforced the Logan Cup to be renamed); financed early cricket tours to and from South Africa (as it later became known) and attended the coronations of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra at Westminster Abbey in 1903.

Allen (pictured) told of the teenage Logan who worked his passage to Cape Town in 1877 (nine years before Johannesburg was founded), liked what he saw and took every opportunity to make his first million (from diamonds) before he was 25 years old.



Self-aggrandisement, networking and sensing opportunities helped to create his wealth. Cecil Rhodes was a particular contact, whose lifelong ambition was to see a railway connecting the Cape to Cairo. Although the railway initially reached no further than the Transvaal (ultimately the line ended in Southern Rhodesia), Logan was awarded the catering contract personally by Rhodes (no tenders invited!). Logan's famous – and most spectacular stop – was at Matjiesfontein, where he sunk bore holes to ensure a constant water supply for the

locomotives about to cross the Karoo Desert. He also established a hotel that survives today.

The climate was invigorating and attracted visitors, including the Hon. Randolph Churchill, Rudyard Kipling and the Surrey and England cricketer, George Lohmann. All were excellent PR opportunities for Logan.

Lohmann (buried at Matjiesfontein) was the manager of the touring team to England in 1901, which caused Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to write in *The Times*, "The visitors should be fighting the Boers, not playing cricket".

The range of questions were thought-provoking and complemented the author's literary achievement., which is based on the PhD he completed in 2008.

Dean Allen's sumptuous book is an excellent read and does much to explain the complex background to a country that on the same day of our guest's visit, President Zuma was finally ousted from power after accusations of shady dealings.

Plus Ça change!

15 February 2018

Att. 58 (48 members + 10 guests)

GEOFF COPE (Yorkshire & England)

Our first guests of 2018 really were one man and his dog. Geoff Cope was accompanied by Lester, his 3 year-old black Labrador. Geoff got his afternoon audience onside by first addressing the hall's back wall!

He recalled his feat when aged ten, in a tournament match for his school, he took all ten wickets and scored an undefeated 37 to win the game to the obvious delight of his watching father. His deed cut no ice with his knitting mother, who asked why he had not got the eleventh man out!

Geoff Cope played 230 times for Yorkshire and won three caps for England; his career was beset with issues related to his bowling technique, but as he pointed out, "Had I had the unchecked career Muralitheran enjoyed, I would have had far more success." H

He made his debut for Yorkshire against Hampshire in 1966, when Ray Illingworth was on Test duty. "I was ordered by telegram to report next day at Bradford Park Avenue. I was extremely nervous as I entered the dressing room, but I was put at ease at once by Fred Trueman, who took me under his wing."

Contrary to popular belief, Fred was a great thinker about the game; Geoff quoted this example against Northants with Colin Milburn in full cry. "Ollie was 88 not out at lunch (Prideaux 26*) on day one. Fred asked me how I was going to get him out. I had no answer as I had tried everything. 'Tuck him up behind his legs – he can't get his bat round because of his belly', Fred advised. I did so and went round the wicket, which resulted in two successive maidens was rewarded when he nicked one on to his off stump. Ollie just stood and stared in disbelief and then told me: 'Fred got me out - well bowled mate'."

Despite taking 40 wickets at 13.82 in 1967, Geoff did not earn a regular first team place until 1969, when Illingworth left to captain Leicestershire.

He was twice forced to remodel his off-break bowling action after he was suspended in 1972, and again in 1978.

"It was a bad time because you were never allowed to defend yourself," said Cope. "A committee met and made a decision, which was then passed on down the lines. You didn't know who was on that committee or what they thought. But Dickie Bird and a lot of other people have said, 'Geoff, there's nothing wrong; if you were guilty, then an awful lot of others were.' It was just one of those periods."

Apart from Trueman, Cope referred to various other Yorkshire cricketers of note

such as Boycott, Close, Illingworth, Kirby and Wardle. "Geoff Boycott fell in love with himself and has remained true ever since. He was the best man-made batsman who became a great cricketer. He had one of the biggest egos typified by saying 'your ability, my brain'. He told me he passed by my house last week. I replied and thanked him for doing so!"

Brian Close was a hard man who led up-



front by example. He played football for Bradford, Leeds and Arsenal. He was a strong header of the ball, which invariably went over the bar. He was coached to head downwards, and in the next game he did as told only for the ball to bounce over the bar!

Stephen Kirby was a lunatic who bowled with such venom at the Academy lads as if he was going to kill someone. He was irked by the Etonian, Matthew Fleming of Kent who after surviving a couple of hostile overs stared at Kirby. The bowler roared, 'What are you staring at?' The batsman removed his fancy cap and calmly responded, 'I was just wondering, did we go to the same school?'

Johnny Wardle was like a second father to me; he helped me sort out my action and vowed, 'When I've finished with you you'll play for England' – which I duly did. He worked on my action and, after good seasons in 1974 and 1975, I played in an England Test trial at Bristol. [Derek Underwood took four for 10 in the second innings while Cope took five for 27, as the pair skittled 'The Rest of England' for 48.] In 1977/78 he toured Pakistan where he won his three Test caps.

Cope rated Mike Brearley as the best skipper he ever played under — despite him denying Geoff a hat-trick on his Test debut at Lahore: he dismissed Abdul

Qadir leg before wicket, and then bowled Sarfraz Nawaz. The next batsman, Iqbal Qasim, was caught at slip by Mike Brearley. Despite the umpire giving him out, Brearley was unsure whether he had taken the catch cleanly and called him back to the crease. Geoff was not too disappointed: "I was relieved when I thought of the money I'd have to have forked out in the celebrations!"

Another father-figure for whom Cope retains the highest regard was John Arlott. "When my father died, I was on a MCC tour in India. I flew home and was met by John, who drove me to Kings Cross. After the funeral, John again met me and drove me back to the airport. We became firm friends and I visited him at Alderney where we enjoyed copious amounts of wine."

After the interval, Geoff answered members' questions about his nickname, Dickie Bird and the current state of Yorkshire League cricket. He acquired his moniker of Todge, due to his then bespectacled appearance which gave him a marked resemblance to Japanese Emperor Togo, which became Todge.

Contrary to popular opinion concerning his carefulness in all things, Dickie Bird is a delightful, kindly man who has handed over £1m to Great Ormond Street Hospital. He was less than impressed not to have received a letter of thanks when he gave £30k to a Barnsley charity. He is a lonely man. Geoff, who is a vice-president of Halifax FC invited the umpire for a slap-up lunch at the club's restaurant. Dickie was most impressed by the fare served, but couldn't refrain himself from saying, 'Geoff, this is champion, but where's chips?'

Geoff rues the falling interest in Yorkshire League cricket. Not so long ago, there were over 1,000 clubs in Yorkshire. Now there are fewer than 800. It's largely due to the distances involved; many young players are simply not prepared to travel across the county. Other reasons are the lack of adequate ground preparation by some of the clubs and the fact that a lot of the social atmosphere has gone with the emergence of dissimilar clubs.

Geoff Cope suffers from retinitis pigmentosa, a gradual loss of eyesight that now leaves him reliant on Lester, his trusty guide dog. Geoff travelled by train from Leeds and was met by Terry Church at Wolverhampton. On his homeward journey, man and dog were upgraded to first-class – as befitted a first-class raconteur and our first-ever canine guest.

15 January 2018

Att. 65 (51 members + 14 guests)

The afternoon's raffle raised £100, which was donated to Guide Dogs Association.

MEETINGS & EVENTS PROGRAMME for 2018

All meetings start at 7.30pm (unless stated otherwise) Programme subject to change
If in doubt, for example, due to severe weather, phone 01384 292170

Mar 15	JOHN HOLDER replaces Norman Gifford	Former Hampshire bowler (47 matches: 1968/72) and retired umpire (11 Tests), John Holder was offered £10k to fix a ODI in Sharjah in 1993. Hopefully, he will tell us about match-fixing!
Mar 22	CARDIFF Day Trip 7.30am start	Includes tour of both the Swalec and the National Stadium. Set your alarm clocks for the early start!
Apr 12	AGM - 7pm start TOM SCOTT 7.45pm	The former WCCC interim CEO has recently been appointed Vice President of Worcestershire Cricket Society and also WCCC Supporters Association. An interesting evening beckons!
May 7	STOURBRIDGE v. OLD HILL	Two old rivals meet in the first round of the Birmingham & District Premier League Twenty 20. The match will be played at Amblecote
May 10	QUIZ (7.30pm) in aid of D'Oliveira Foundation	At Worcester CC (Norton Barracks). Teams (max 5 persons @£9 p.p.– includes meal). Ten rounds of general knowledge. S&DCS members invited to participate. Contact A. Collis (01384 442244) before 31 March if interested.
May 12	MEMORABILIA MARKET (New Road)	Day two of the match against Essex. All tables likely to have been booked by time of this issue. Free public entry into the Chestnuts marquee. Proceeds to WCCC - Heritage Group funds.
Jun 5, 6, 7	WORCS v HAMPSHIRE (2nd XI match @ Stb)	Members are asked to turn out in forces and support the County in this 2nd XI Trophy fixture at Amblecote.
Jun 22	WCCC QUIZ in aid of Heritage Group - 8pm	Annual quiz at King Charles pub, Worcester on Sunday evening of Worcs v Somerset match. Teams of 4 @ £5 p.p. (includes meal and a drink). Donations of prizes welcomed! Contact Tim on 07890 747619 or email timajones405@aol.com for further details

FOSTERSHIRE

The biography of the Foster family has been warmly received not only by members of the family, but by purchasers as far afield as Australia, Canada and India.

The book focuses on the Foster family, Malvern College and, of course, the County for which all seven brothers played at various times before the First World War, in an era fondly referred to as The Golden Age.

Copies of *Fostershire* can be obtained at meetings and are priced at £12. Add £3 p&p if necessary.

POSER TO PONDER

When did Don Kenyon, playing in an important representative match, score only 7 runs in the first innings, but was the highest scorer in his team's all out total?

[Poser submitted by John Weston]

The answer will be announced at our April Meeting. Similar posers will always be welcomed!

APOLOGY

Some members who bought copies of Stourbridge Test Cricket-ers may be wondering why their cheques were not banked many moons ago.

We apologise for the embarrassment and trust that by now all cheques have been deposited and that any future payments will be presented in timely fashion.

On a positive note, we are pleased to report that the Society has sold all but 15 of the 250 copies printed. Copies are still available at meetings, priced at £7.50 + £2 p&p.

JOURNAL

Various members have submitted a variety of articles that are too long for Boundary View. It is hoped that we can create a separate publication that will appear during the summer. But certain logistical issues, such as funding and delivery have to be overcome beforehand.

We hope to announce more details at the April Meeting.

AGM AGENDA

(See front page for meeting details)

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Apologies for non-attendance
- 3 Approve Minutes of 2016/17 AGM
- 4 Matters Arising:
Receive & approve a/c for 2016/17
- 5 Receive reports for year 2017/18
- 6 S&DCS Golden Jubilee
- 7 Election of Officers
- 8 Any Other Business

Items for AOB (time permitting) to be received in writing by The Secretary (address at bottom of this page) by 31 March 2018.

All paid-up members are entitled and welcome to attend the AGM which will commence promptly at 7pm

WCCC ANNUAL REVIEW

Now in its seventh year!

The 2018 edition of the successor to the County's yearbook will soon be available; hopefully at April meeting!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Deadline for receipt of copy is for each *Issue* is (Last Friday of Month)
Autumn (August) *Winter* (November) *Spring* (February)

Preferably all articles should be typed and emailed to the address below

The editor reserves the right to edit or decline the publication of any material submitted without further reason.

Editorial Contact Details: E-Mail: anthony@acol.org.uk Phone: 01384 442244

Snail Mail: 34a Chawn Hill, Old Swinford, Stourbridge DY9 7JB

STOURBRIDGE & DISTRICT CRICKET SOCIETY IS A MEMBER OF CRICKET SOCIETIES ALLIANCE
(FORMERLY THE COUNCIL OF CRICKET SOCIETIES)