

Boundary View

The newsletter of Stourbridge & District Cricket Society
www.sdcs.cricket

Summer 2020 No. 26

Founded 1972



Brian Lester

Fred Rumsey & Stephen Chalke

CHAIRMAN'S VIEW

In these sad and difficult times of isolation I, like a good many have caught up on a little reading and jobs around the house. One of the books I have read is Stephen Chalke's excellent story of the County Championship "Summers's Crown" whereby he explains so well the very difficult times of both 1914 and 1939 and through adversity how people came together to restart cricket and recover what was left of derelict grounds, thus creating if you like, a spring-time of recovery.

When cricket eventually recommences we hope, of course, not to have to resurrect grounds from total neglect, especially club cricket grounds where people give up so much of their spare time and effort, but to return to that wonderful game we left in 2019 when cricket was at the pinnacle of the nation's sports.

Welcome to this bumper edition of Boundary View. The additional pages are intended to bring extra enjoyment to our members in these unsettling times.

We include details of planned meetings, subject to the outcome of the government's approach towards an eventual return to something akin to a normal society. But it seems highly likely that social distancing will be with us for some time to come.

Rest assured that we shall notify members of final arrangements as soon as they are known.

Thanks are expressed to the members who sent in contributions for this issue. We have others on file for future editions. That said, we shall be pleased to receive more members' memories to help reflect a balanced assortment of memories, news and views.

Stay safe! Stay alert!

NEW MEMBERS

The Corona pandemic may be affecting many things, but not it seems persons wishing to join the S&DCS! We welcome the following new members:

Tony Debenham - Ipswich, Suffolk
Philip Mees - Oldswinford

PROGRAMME SECRETARY

After nineteen years of service as Programme Secretary, Terry Church has announced that he will relinquish his role at the end of the 2020/21 season. Happily, Terry will continue his S&DCS membership.

The principal function of the Programme Secretary is to arrange a series of guest speakers for the Society's annual winter programme.

The successful candidate will have an engaging personality and the confidence of being able to interact with persons associated with cricket at all levels of the game.

Any previous experience of successfully organising a similar schedule will be an advantage, but not essential as help will be available to the successful candidate.

Terry has kindly offered to share his knowledge and experience in the selection of his successor.

Members wishing to express interest in the position to email:

adcollis@blueyonder.co.uk

before 15 June 2020
for further information.

We may not all have the skill of Ben Stokes but we can contribute and enjoy our great game, play our part, however small and be as enthusiastic as we can. If you like, a bit like this chap I wrote a rhyme about a few years ago...

*Out from the pavilion strides the man in the red hat,
new boots on carrying his bat.
Visions of Lords, Old Trafford and Leeds,
a little bit of luck is all this man needs.*

*Driven to the ground in his mate's van,
if anyone can get runs this man can.*

*He takes guard, notes each field place,
in roars the bowler at a fearsome pace.*

*Dropping his wrists alas too late,
handing short leg catching practise on a plate.*

*Back to the pavilion walks the man in the red hat,
Perhaps next Saturday he'll do better than that.*

Keep safe and look after one another.

Mike Tomkins
Chairman

WORLD CUP 1966

The trio of books have been bought by John Chapman of Halesowen. His bid of £35 was the highest received and the Society will benefit as a result! The two signed books were 'Banksy', and 'Greavesy'. The third book, 'Charlton', by Jack, was unsigned.

It must have taken someone ages to think of such catchy titles!

Thank you John for your support!

Supporting Cricket is as Important as Playing Cricket!

Viscount Cobham (Patron) Dave Nicklin (President) Mike Tomkins (Chairman) Terry Church (Vice-Chairman / Programme Secretary)
Anthony Collis (Secretary / Editor) Brian Lester (Heritage Projects) Kieron Weatherstone (Membership)
Andy Webb (Treasurer) Hugh Clark (General)

FRED RUMSEY WITH STEPHEN CHALKE

Dressed in a smart, multi-striped blazer, Fred proudly pointed to his tie and told those present: 'It is number 425 in recognition of my Test debut in 1964. They have reached over 625 ... and as long as Tests are played the number will grow.'

Rumsey made his debut at Stourbridge for Worcestershire against Glamorgan. 'I remember being no-balled, which I disputed. I said the wickets were out of line - which they re-measured - and I was proved right!'

Fred was a feared, fast bowler, who used to have a run-up of 37 yards. Six decades later, he is barely able to walk a single yard without the support of his walking frame. For this reason, the meeting was held at Stourbridge Football Club. Nevertheless, his mind is still active; his recall is quick and his humour, for the most part, enjoyable. On two occasions, at least, he chided his chauffeur-cum-interviewer, Stephen Chalke, for either hurrying or interrupting him. Stephen took it all in good heart!

Fred made his debut against Australia at Old Trafford: 'The umpires were Syd Buller, and Fred Price, who was also making his Test debut ... as an umpire. 'He was so nervous, he couldn't put the bails on so I did it for him. Fat lot of good that was, as he never allowed any of my appeals for lbw. The new front-foot law for bowlers had been introduced and I asked Buller if he would tell me if I was getting too close to the line. "I'll do better than that," he replied, "I'll no-ball you!" 'The nearest Australia's captain, Bobby Simpson had got to a Test century was 92; at Manchester, he succeeded with not just one, but three of the buggers and ended up with a score of 311. Both teams scored over six hundred, Barrington chipped in with 256 and skipper, Lord Ted made 174. My first Test wicket was Wally Grout,' Fred recalled.

In one Test Fred roomed with Geoff Boycott! One weekend GB returned home so Fred took his girl friend back to the room. GB snatched to Alec Bedser who told Fred that, as a bowler, he had to conserve his

strength, "It's beer for bowlers and women for batsmen," to which Fred replied: "Well, God bless the all-rounders."

[In time Coleen, the girlfriend, became Mrs Rumsey and still is after 53 years of marriage!]

Often during Fred's talk, he referred to another fast bowler of the same name. 'At Bradford Park Avenue in 1960, I came into bat and was greeted gruffly: "What's it feel like coomin' into bat in t'middle of hat-trick, sunshine?" After I had moved to Somerset, I was bowling to Fred when my skipper, Harold Stephenson ordered, "Give Fred a bouncer!" I replied, "Do you want me to die?" He repeated his order. I obliged and all hell broke loose with Trueman threatening vengeance. There was just time for us to have two overs in our second innings. Skipper then said to me, "Put the pads on, Rumsey, you're opening the batting and, Langford, you go in with him." Brian turned a whiter shade of pale. As we walked out, Fred was pacing up and down menacingly. Then Brian Close called out to Fred, "Give me the ball and go down to third man." Yorkshire's opening bowlers were Jackie Hampshire and Doug Padgett. Ironically, I promptly became Doug's first victim in county cricket!'

Fred thought Trueman would have been a great all-rounder had he been given more chance as a batsman.

Fred Rumsey's most important contribution to cricket was off, rather than on, the field of play

He was deeply concerned about how the game was run. The MCC had sole control and despite the abolition of the distinction between amateurs and professionals, cricketers were still treated with disdain by many officials.

The Professional Cricketers' Association was born out of cricketers' dissatisfaction over pay and, more importantly, conditions of employment. After talking to players of individual county clubs, having obtained prior permission, support grew for the idea of an association, which was duly formed in 1967. The PCA soon proved its mettle when a Sunday League was proposed for 1968. Rumsey sought an additional

£400 per capped player. The authorities rejected it outright. Rumsey recalled: 'During a match, I was playing against Kent, I had to leave the field not once, but three times to answer phone calls from Billy Griffith, secretary of MCC who, on behalf of the committee offered £200, then £250 and finally agreed to our original sum of £400, which amounted to £25 per match.'

During the interval, Fred was asked to sign my two copies of 'The Thoughts of Trueman Now', which Fred Rumsey had compiled with fellow Lord's Taverners, Eric Morecambe, Willie Rushton and Trueman. As he thumbed through the pages, I am sure he did so with a tear in his eye, for he was the sole survivor of the quartet.

In the second innings, Fred was asked to name the best batsmen he had bowled against. He answered 'Barrington, Cowdrey and Grave-ney', then surprisingly, three lesser lights, 'Maurice Hill, Peter Marner and Dick Richardson. However, the best of them all was Barry Richards.' Another member asked: "How did Cockney Fred come to play for Worcestershire?" Fred replied: 'I was working for Fownes, a glove-making business, in the City of London. The company relocated to Worcester in 1958 and I became the MD's personal assistant. I played for Worcester City and then some County second XI matches. When I came to New Road, I was behind Aldridge, Brain, Coldwell, Flavell and Pearson.'

Fred Rumsey ended his talk, by recalling his last first-class match. He had joined Derbyshire as their Public Relations Officer, and was called up to play his first and last match, ironically, against Somerset at Bath.

Finally, after Fred and Stephen were thanked by the chairman, I wished them both guests well in the forthcoming Book of the Year Awards ceremony at Lord's - it's not often that S&DCS hosts two short-listed authors at the same meeting!

20 March 2020

Vote of thanks by the Chairman

Att: 71 (inc. 12 guests)

Raffle: £101

The following MEMORIES have been provided by members

A fellow in the pub is describing to his mate the first cricket match he and his wife had ever seen..

"Fust of all tu come out dun up like milkmen. Then out comes eleven moor folloren 'um. Tu moor come out with som'at wrapped round th' legs, and pieces of wood in their 'onds. One feller chucks a ball and the mon with the wood 'its et. Et comes right for we, and if I 'adn't shuverd our old woman in the road, et 'ud a smoshed my face in."

[From *I'll Spin You a Tale* by **Eric Hollies**: 1912-81]

ANAGRAMS

Re-arrange the letters to reveal the names of former Worcestershire cricketers. [Answers on page 7]

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------|-------|---------------------------|
| 1. | A kept plaid | (5,5) | |
| 2. | Ah, keg crime | (6,4) | |
| 3. | Arab Rib Inn | (5,5) | |
| 4. | Red and flora | (4,6) | |
| 5. | Heeds voters | (5,6) | |
| 6. | Surf remedy | (4,6) | |
| 7. | Thin room rant | (6,6) | |
| 8. | Yore handle | (3,7) | |
| 9. | Aired gym hall | (6,6) | |
| 10. | Pee in hall | (4,5) | [Anthony Collis] |

In the late 1950's I played in a Saturday 1st XI match for my Grammar School in Bromsgrove. We always started with a new ball and I opened the batting.

In no time at all a yorker split the bottom of my bat. I batted on. That evening with screws, tape and glue I tried to repair the bat ready for my game on the Sunday.

That game was for the Harborne Sunday XI. We batted first and I was asked to open the batting.

All went well for a few overs until the opening bowler had a chat with the umpire at his end. They were discussing the state of the new ball. Small pieces of leather were coming from the surface and guess what was causing the problem? My bat! The screws had loosened and worked their way through the thick tape and damaged the ball. Suitably embarrassed I used a spare club bat.

Needless to say the opening bowler was not too happy but at the end of the game he saw the funny side of things. At least I think he did! [**David Nicklin**]

'I remember Arthur [Milton] speaking at one of my benefit dinners in 1988. "We first met up at Oxford," he said, "and we were both reading classics. His was Latin and Greek and mine was the Derby, Oaks and St Leger." ' [**Vic Marks**, author of *Original Spin*: 2019]

'I have cause to remember the Diglis hotel in Worcester, which I think is now a suave, boutique establishment. It is situated by the river and Brian Close, well-fuelled, once made the return journey there by swimming across the Avon [*sic*]. [**Ibid.**]

'Richard Savage was an unusual, mercurial cricketer, who bowled fast off-breaks with the wicketkeeper standing back. He could be a handful when the ball was gripping and for a while he was on Warwickshire's books. He was full of ideas and quite an idealist, and probably more suited to teaching than the county circuit. Sadly I have not seen him for many years, but the woman he married

keeps popping up on *Question Time* speaking more coherently than the others. Caroline Lucas at the time of writing is the country's solitary Green MP.' [**Ibid.**]

In one of the last games that Bromsgrove played at their New Road ground before moving to St Godwalds Park.

It was the season when I had started to wear contact lenses. Towards the end of the game with Bromsgrove fielding I turned quickly to field the ball and out popped a contact lens.

After what seemed a very long time, about five minutes in fact, with the light getting poorer the umpires told us to get on with the game.

It was a calm evening so I left a white handkerchief on the ground to mark the approximate position of where I thought the lens might be.

Once the game ended there were players with torches reluctantly searching for a glint in the grass. Fortunately after a short time there was a loud shout and there it was. I was very relieved as lenses in those days cost an arm and a leg not like the disposables you get today. [**DN**]

"If we never win a Test match again, we shall still have the world's finest hedges!" wrote Edmund Blunden in 1935. [Quoted from *England in Particular*: 1998]

Edmund Blunden (1897-1974) was a lover of cricket and author of *Cricket Country*. A celebrated poet and writer, he was professor of English at Tokyo University for three years from 1924, fellow and tutor of English literature at Merton College, Oxford (1931-43), professor of English at Hong Kong in 1955 and Oxford University professor of poetry till he resigned through ill health in 1968. He kept wicket for J.C. Squire's Invalids. [Wisden: 1975] [**AC**]

QUIZ #1 [Answers on page 7]

1. Against which county and where did Don Kenyon score 259 in July 1956?
2. What does D stand for in J.D. Inchmore?
3. Who scored Worcestershire's first Championship century in 2019 season?
4. Name the Worcester opener & grandfather to Nile Wilson (Olympic bronze medal winner 2016)
5. Worcester Championship-winning bowler nicknamed 'Crash' – who?
6. Why were two Nat West Trophy matches played against Worcester by same county in 2000?
7. Which Worcester all-rounder was born on the day before football World Cup Final 1966?
8. Who was 12th man v. Australians at Worcester 1964?
9. Who became president of WCCC March 26th 1962?
10. Why was a Worcester black pear tree planted in the Ladies Enclosure at WCCC? [**Brian Lester**]

WHO AM I?

Name the England cricketer who played County cricket in five different decades. [**Hugh Clark**]

IN COMMON

Apart from being Test players, what do the following have in common – Ian Botham, Andrew Flintoff, Jim Laker, Brian Steele? [**Answers on page.7**]

[**Over!**]

In 1981 the seventeen-year marriage of Mike Rowley, official scorer for Stourbridge CC for more than twenty years [and some time member of Stourbridge & District Cricket Society], eventually ended some time after he had left home to live in the cricket pavilion. His wife, Mildred explained: 'Mike could tell you who scored what years ago, and what the weather was like at the time. But he hadn't a clue when my birthday was unless I reminded him.'

Rowley admitted before the divorce hearing that he had put cricket before his family. By then he was living in the home team's dressing room, while waiting for a maisonette. 'I have been staying here on and off, since the mid-seventies' he said.

He was not present at the divorce hearing itself: Stourbridge had a match [C Martin-Jenkins: *Cricket Eccentrics*]

QUIZ #2 by **Brian Lester** [Answers on page 7]

1. Man of the Match ICC World Cup Final 1975?
2. Which ICC World Cup was first with coloured clothing and a white ball?
3. Which England batsman had Charles Scott as middle names?
4. Which England cricket captain scored a century in his 100th Test?
5. Which Australian left-hand batsman was born in Fitzroy, Victoria 1928?
6. Dennis Amiss did it against Pakistan. Martyn Moxon and Norman Yardley did it in Tests never surpassing it. What was it?
7. What happened at Woolongabba December 1960 off the 7th ball of the last over?
8. Arjuna Ranatunga and Asanka Gurusinha were the first Sri Lankans to do what - in March 1986?
9. What relation is Darren Bravo to Brian Lara?
10. Who wears ODI shirt number 66 for England?

THE ENGLAND CAPTAINCY - A Change of Fortune

I was ready to thoroughly endorse chairman Mike Tomkins's view of Joe Root's lack of success as England captain, following the first Test in South Africa during the winter; and I, too, had doubts about Root's ability to lead England in the next Ashes series. However, the subsequent recovery, culminating in England's impressive 3-1 triumph, reminded me of a Guardian article, which a friend recently forwarded to me, which referred to another England triumph, 52 years ago, in the winter of 1968.

Readers may recall that Brian Close, the controversial but extremely successful England captain, had been sacked at the conclusion of the 1967 season. Close was found guilty of deliberately wasting time to prevent Warwickshire from chasing a Yorkshire total in a County Championship match at Edgbaston. The fact that wasting time to gain an advantage was prevalent in county cricket in those days did not prevent Close, who was unbeaten in his brief reign as England captain, with successes against the West Indies, India and Pakistan, from losing his coveted role. Previously, both Kent's Colin Cowdrey and Warwickshire's M. J. K. Smith had failed to win a single Test in the home series against the West Indies in 1966, before a Close-led emphatic innings victory at The Oval in the final match.

When England departed for the West Indies in the winter of 1968, Cowdrey had been reinstated as England captain, a decision which was understandably treated with much derision in the English press. Yet, a closely fought, and somewhat uninspiring, series reached its conclusion, in the fourth Test, with a sporting declaration by Gary Sobers, which resulted in an unlikely England victory. The perception of Cowdrey, arguably, changed from that of a losing captain to that of an heroic victor. Some would say he 'took a leaf from Close's book' by leading England to a series triumph; others that he benefited from Close's misfortune. It has been suggested that, reluctantly, he was persuaded to chase the West Indies' final total. But his image as a losing captain had been transformed: he had, after all, led England to a notable triumph against the strongest side of that memorable era! [Alan Wild]

I am delighted with the excellent publications you were kind enough to send and note with interest that Essex is not forgotten with the reference to Rev. F. H. Gillingham. I joined the **Cricket Society** in 1961 and for the thirty years I worked in London I attended their monthly meetings fairly regularly. I particularly remember a meeting in the old Tavern at Lord's when we were enthralled by John Arlott and Leo Harrison who were accompanied by a bottle of claret. Another highlight was a Dinner at which the main speaker was Lord Birkett. When he spoke you could have heard a pin drop so enraptured were we all. My membership remains unbroken to this day.

Many years ago I joined **Wombwell C.S.**, so that I qualified for a copy of the 'Twelfth Man'. I did make one of their meetings in about 2002 when I accompanied Robin Hobbs who was the speaker for the evening. We were both made very welcome.

But my real commitment has been to the **Essex Cricket Society** founded in 1974. I joined in 1975 and by 1979 was its Chairman which I remained for eighteen years. I am flattered now to be its President following in the footsteps of the long serving Tom Pearce and Brian Taylor. So you can see that the cricket society movement has given me an enormous amount of pleasure and a store of memories over a long period.

I notice that **Stourbridge & District Cricket Society** has a country member in the West Country and another in the North. It is high time it had one in the East and when you receive my cheque you will see that I have applied for membership. However, I regret that my chances of attending one of your meetings are less than zero, but I shall take a great interest from afar.

[Tony Debenham - Ipswich]

F.H was a cousin of Rev. G.W. Gillingham, who is featured in *Worcestershire's Clerical Cricketers*. I am pleased to report that Tony has now become the third Country member of S&DCS! - Ed.

Having just browsed your website, I read that you were inviting memories and experiences.

It may be that you are inviting memories only from clubs in Worcestershire, but thought I would alert you of the following feat in case you may decide to extend your coverage to include interesting items/unique performances from outside of your county. [Over!]

[Continued from previous page]

Members of Belhus CC will forever remember the day when two of our bowlers, Gary Sanderson and Matthew Williams, each took a hat-trick in the same innings in a 2nd XI Shepherd Neame Essex League match against Harlow.

In the space of just nine deliveries Sanderson and Williams took individual hat tricks and the last four wickets fell in successive balls.

Two hat tricks in the same innings by different bowlers has never (to date) been recorded in Test, first-class or ODI matches. Nor, from our research and enquiries, has the feat ever been performed in club cricket in England.

[Denis Reed – Belhus CC, Essex]

[Delighted to hear from you! That's a mighty impressive achievement and may I also congratulate the club on a top-class website! I was interested to see the section on 18th-century cricket in Essex. My late father kept the 'Green Man' at Navestock and I have a photo of a poster announcing the dates of matches for the year 1790. Alas the opponents are not shown. – Ed.]

The mention of the name Roy Swinbourne will bring back fond memories to Wolves supporters of a certain age. Roy scored over two hundred goals as the centre forward in a Wolves team that carried virtually everything before them in the 1950s.

My own memories are not so pleasant, relate to a different sport and occurred on the cricket field. As a teenager playing for Himley CC, I was in the side that travelled to Fordhouses whose side included the aforementioned **Roy Swinbourne** who made an impressive century on that hot Saturday afternoon. As the youngest and probably most athletic (not difficult) member of our team I was always positioned at cover point. Roy found the boundary on many occasions that day and it seemed that whenever he didn't the bullet-like off drives found my ever reddening palms with what seemed like increasing regularity. They are still sore now, some sixty years hence! I did feel a sense of satisfaction though when during the tea interval Roy took the time to seek me out and compliment me on my fielding.

[Terry Church]

In 1967, my second season with Hampshire, I played in a 2nd XI match against Sussex at the United Services ground at Portsmouth. The pitches there were said to be among the quickest in the country about that time.

Hampshire batted first and aided by some scintillating stroke play from our batsmen, we rattled up over 300 and declared, leaving the visitors with about 30 minutes to bat. Bill Lawton played for Sussex and was their best bowler, taking five wickets bowling at medium pace. Bill was a big man, over six-feet tall and bowled accurately.

During the half hour the visitors had to bat, I bowled very fast and aggressively, taking two or three wickets. Next morning I continued in the same vein, taking another wicket and striking one batsman on his chin which forced him to retire to have stitches.

After my spell the spinners came on and after another wicket fell, Bill came in to bat. The pitch was a good one and it was apparent the he was no mug with the bat as he played them quite easily.

My captain Leo Harrison said to me that he wanted me to bowl downwind to Bill from the pavilion end next over. I ran in and bowled an over to Bill which he defended competently, so I said to Leo that I wanted two fielders placed at short leg for short pitched deliveries. The first one reared up at Bill, striking him in the chest. As I followed through, he clutched his chest and fell backwards heavily.

Seeing Bill clutch his chest scared me as I thought he was having a heart attack and I started to walk slowly towards him. He jumped to his feet and started to abuse me and my captain for encouraging me, a young hooligan, to bowl bouncers at him. For more than five minutes he raged at us both as he angrily walked around the wicket.

Eventually the umpires told Bill that he had to resume batting or retire. He decided to carry on and after my next delivery, he sneeringly said, "No more bouncers?" The next two deliveries whistled past his nostrils and enraged, he shouted at me, "I'll shoot you if you come near to me in the pavilion. I've met your type before!"

Les Lenham came onto the field and took Bill away to hospital because he was clearly hurt. He had two cracked ribs and took no further part in the match. In fact seeing him walk off the ground with Les was the last I saw of him.

I found out later that Bill had captained Oldham CC in a Central Lancashire League match against Middleton. The former West Indies fast bowler Roy Gilchrist, Middleton's professional, was causing mayhem among the Oldham side. They were just over 20 for five, with a batsman in hospital from a Gilchrist beamer when Bill Lawton called his batsmen off, thereby forfeiting the match.

I hope this does not sound boastful because it is exactly what happened.

[John Holder]

[John omitted to mention that he top-scored (53) in Hampshire's first innings. Bill scored 16, but the scorecard shows him as 'absent ill' in the second innings – Ed.]

William Lawton died on August 14, 2008 aged 88. Bill Lawton played soccer for Oldham and appeared twice for Lancashire in 1948, being given the thankless task on his debut of taking the new ball against Don Bradman's Australians. Lawton failed to take a wicket [although he caught Ray Lindwall for nought]; he did manage one in his other first-class appearance against Oxford University the following week. After that he was confined to league cricket, with a few appearances for Cumberland in 1955, scoring 120 against Northumberland.

His wife was the comedy actress Dora Bryan; he met her in Oldham in 1940 when she was working in local rep, and they finally married in 1954. They ran a hotel on Brighton seafront before going bankrupt when they tried to convert it into flats. Dora nursed him through Alzheimer's for some years until she herself became too ill to cope. A recording of her singing the song "Bill" from the musical *Showboat* was played at his funeral.

[Obituary in *Wisden*: 2009]

[Continued – over!]

Reply by email from John Holder

[Anthony, there are certain events in life which we never forget and that was one of them. In fact we used to talk about it at Hampshire fairly often. I hope it makes interesting reading for all who read it. Have a wonderful Easter, even though times are so unexpected. Best wishes, John.]

Michael Vaughan and Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff, now elderly, are sitting on a bench, feeding pigeons and talking about cricket as they do every day.

Michael asks Freddie: "Is there cricket in heaven?"

Flintoff ponders and says, "I don't know. But let's make a pact: if I die first, I'll come back and tell you if there is, and if you die first, you do the same." They agree. Not long after, poor Freddie passes on.

Vaughan is now sitting alone feeding the pigeons when he hears a voice whispering: "Michael!. Michael!"

"Is that you, Freddie?" Vaughan asks. "Yes, Michael!"

"So, is there cricket in heaven?" Vaughan wonders.

"I've got good news and bad news," says the ghost.

"Gimme the good news first," urges Michael.

Freddie opines, "Well... there is cricket in heaven."

Vaughan says, "That's great! What news could be bad enough to ruin that?"

Freddie's ghost whispers, "You're opening on Friday."

[Kieron Weatherstone]

Fred Trueman bowling. The batsman edges and the ball goes to first slip, and right between Raman Subba Row's legs. Fred doesn't say a word. At the end of the over, Row ambles past Trueman and apologises sheepishly. "I should've kept my legs together, Fred."

"So should your mother!" quickly came the reply. [KW]

QUIZ # 3 Who am I? (Answers on page 7)

Mostly Warwickshire & Worcestershire cricketers

1. I was a LHB & SLA bowler, I played 54 matches; after the War I took up umpiring and stood in 48 Tests.
2. My uncle played 145 times, my dad 13 games—both for Notts. I played 10 first-class matches, not for Notts before marrying a true legend.
3. I was the youngest of seven brothers, who all played first-class cricket.
4. Born in a spa town, I played 482 first-class matches and six Tests. My best figures are 10 for 75 and I took a hat-trick against Worcs.
5. Born in India, I played 4 Tests; scored 33 100s and my HS was 240*. My brother and I went to Taunton School.
6. I played 6 Tests, my son played 46. We were both Test captains. My HS of 238* was a record in Varsity matches.
7. I was a member of the Order of St Benedict and am thought to be the only monk to have played in the County Championship.
8. I played 40 matches and had a bowling average of 157. My older brothers both played Test cricket
9. I am the only man in the history of first-class cricket to have been given out twice for obstructing the field—both times against the same opponents.
10. I scored my 100th hundred against my county's closest rivals. I captained my country in 10 Tests. [AC]

Athletics at Stourbridge CC in July 1887

A newsletter, issued at the start of the 2001/02 season included the following article, compiled by David Brown, [then a regular member] deserves wider notice:

The Amateur Athletic Association (AAA) Championships were held at Stourbridge Cricket Ground on July 2 and 4, 1887.

At great cost a cinder track had been laid and a grandstand built to accommodate 1,000 spectators. Unfortunately a spell of dry weather made the track very loose, so no records were broken.

The attendance for the two days only totalled about 2,000 at 1/- (5p) per head. The reason for the poor support was said to be the high admission charge for such a poor area as Stourbridge! Six weeks later at the cricket sports, when sixpence (2½p) was the entrance fee, over 10,000 people attended.

Among the many celebrities who attended were Jonadab Turney, the president of Stourbridge CC and Charles Herbert, the AAA secretary, who later with Baron Coubertin founded the modern-day Olympic Games.

Mr J.G Chambers donated the cup for the seven-mile walk. He was a remarkable man and in the forty years of his life he rowed for Cambridge University, founded the Inter-Varsity Sports, became English champion walker, coached four victorious Boat Race crews, devised the Queensberry Rules for boxing, staged the FA Cup Final and the Thames Regatta, and instituted championships for athletics, billiards, boxing, cycling, wrestling. He rowed beside Captain Matthew Webb as he swam across the English Channel and, presumably in his spare time, edited a national newspaper. In the trophy cabinet of the Stourbridge pavilion, there is a silver salver used in the 1887 cricket sports.

[The outline of the cinder track can be seen after a dry spell in late summer.

A few years back, S&DCS member Gordon Smith spotted the silver-plated salver being used as a drip tray beneath the fridge in the pavilion's kitchen! The story goes that some years earlier, the salver had been rescued from a junk shop in Wales and returned to where it rightly belonged. The script on the trophy confirmed that it had been won by H.W Flewker for the 120 yards handicap. I am sure the well-meaning rescuer never dreamt it would be treated in such fashion. — Ed.]

'Who was the hardest batsman you had to set a plan for?' David Lloyd was asked in the *Daily Mail* (18 Apr.) Read Bumble's answer on page 7. — Ed.]

We hope that you have enjoyed this collection of contributions that have been provided with the aim of brightening these times of worrying concern.

We thank the people who have contributed articles and hope that they will be willing to submit items of interest in future issues of *Boundary View*.

We also extend an open invitation to the silent majority of members to share their interest in the game – irrespective of their level of attainment on the field.



The aim of **COUNTY CRICKET MATTERS** is to be a voice for those concerned at how top-class cricket is changing in this country. The purpose is not to denigrate those running the game or question the motives behind attempts to broaden the appeal of a sport which has often been its own worst enemy. It is also not to look back to some 'golden age', which almost certainly never existed. Cricket must evolve, but it must do so in ways true to the spirit and traditions of the game .

OUR AIMS ARE THEREFORE TO:

- **Highlight what is happening to English cricket and what we believe are the likely consequences for the county game.**
- **Push for greater accountability for decision-making by ECB, given its role as guardian of the game.**
- **Provide a focus for supporters of the county game to question what is happening.**
- **And finally, and most importantly, we want to champion what is great about county cricket.**

We are not uncritical in our enthusiasm for county cricket, but we want to see the championship promoted, celebrated,

and played throughout the year, and we want consideration given to ways of growing the game which do not destroy what we already have.

Most of all, we want recognition that County Cricket Matters.

For more information visit: www.countycricketmatters.com

I obtained a copy of County Cricket Matters (CCM) for £2 + £1.50 and was impressed by the quality of the publication. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of the attention to detail, due to the obvious lack of proof-reading. Errors that jarred were misspellings such as Defraitus, Labershane, Russel and Warkwickshire. There really is no excuse for spelling Lords without an apostrophe, unless one is writing about one of the Houses of Parliament. Of particular irritation to New Road supporters is to be told that Glenn Turner scored a memorable triple hundred against *Essex* in 1982. Gloucestershire followers must learn that Procter is spelled Proctor. The clue is in the name—he didn't play for Gloucestorshire! However, I shall buy further copies and hope my comments are taken on board. So much effort goes into such publications as is evident by its quality! CCM couldn't have been launched at a worse time. For that reason alone, it deserves support, not just carping, from old fogies /fogeys like me! [Ed.]

ANAGRAMS

- 1) Dipak Patel
- 2) Graeme Hick
- 3) Brian Brain
- 4) Neal Radford
- 5) Steve Rhodes
- 6) Fred Rumsey
- 7) Martin Horton
- 8) Ron Headley
- 9) Graham Dilley
- 10) Phil Neale

Notes:

Dipak Patel is Worcestershire's youngest century maker
Brian Brain uniquely is his own anagram!

QUIZ #1

- 1) Yorkshire at Kidderminster
- 2) Darling
- 3) C.D Fearnley
- 4) Daryl Mitchell
- 5) Len Coldwell
- 6) First game was void because Kabir Ali was ineligible to play.
- 7) Stuart Lampitt
- 8) Alan Ormrod
- 9) Sir George Dowty
- 10) WCCC's centenary

WHO AM I?

Fred Titmus:
Middx (1949-82)

QUIZ #2

- 1) Clive Lloyd
- 2) 1992
- 3) Denis Compton
- 4) M.C Cowdrey
- 5) Neil Harvey
- 6) Scored 99
- 7) Ian Meckiff run out in tied Test v West Indies
- 8) Batted throughout the last day v Pakistan
- 9) Cousin.
- 10) Joe Root

IN COMMON

All have won the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award.

QUIZ #3

- 1) Frank Chester
- 2) Derrick Flint
- 3) NJA Foster
- 4) E E Hemmings
- 5) John Jameson
- 6} Nawab of Pataudi
- 7) William Ignatius Rice
- 8) Bryan Richardson
- 9) Tom Straw (v. Yorkshire)
- 10) Glenn Turner

BUMBLE'S ANSWER

'I could name so many great players, but I'm going to say [the late] Jim Yardley of Worcestershire and Northants.

'He was a fabulous lad who always had a smile on his face and somehow every shot he played went down to third man.

'Lancashire captain Jack Bond reckoned he must have had a round bat.

'We once put nine slips in for Jim - and he still got it through!'

[Nasser Hussain plumped for Brian Lara. Ed.]

In 1986 Stourbridge had an extremely powerful side made up mainly of young county standard all-rounders such as David Banks, Stuart Lampitt, Gavin Haynes and Chris Tolley, plus others also playing second eleven county cricket.

Just as the season was about to start we were offered the services of a young Australian all-rounder who had been playing very little during their 1986 season because of a hip injury. Australia were keen for him to be ready for the 1987 season - he had already made his Test debut in 1985 against England. Thus we were introduced to Simon O'Donnell, who was an amazing addition to our club in more ways than one! He was very respectful to me and always called me 'Boss', but to say that he was 'a bit of a lad' was an under statement! He quickly became very popular with us all at the club and particularly with the ladies - he was very good looking! He soon became one of the lads and loved joining in with them playing pranks on each other. Then one day he had picked on the wrong guy, David Banks, whatever you did to him, you did at your peril.

We were playing at home against Coventry and North Warwick, they won the toss and put us in to bat and we lost two early wickets both, I think, to Steve Ogrizovic who was at the time the Coventry City goalkeeper. He was also a fine quick bowler who played minor counties cricket for Shropshire. Well, Banksy had noticed that Simon always walked quite slowly to the wicket, and that he always carried his gloves. He would then walk slowly up and down the wicket, prodding it and looking around at the fielding positions before taking guard. On this occasion he started putting his gloves on only for shaving foam to shoot out all over the wicket. He turned and headed towards

the pavilion and shouted out at Banksy an amazing collection of Aussie expletives, many of which are unrepeatable. It was so funny, the opposition and even the umpires were in stitches, and it was about ten minutes before the game restarted, with players and the groundsman helping in the clean up. None of this affected Simon's game and he went on to get a wonderful, aggressive 100. This included a particularly powerful shot off 'Oggy', a flat 6 which didn't rise more than 5ft, almost decapitating the bowler before smashing into the wall just the side of the screen and splitting into two pieces. That's the only time I've seen that happen in all the years I played. Needless to say, I can't remember the result of the game.

FIVE YEARS ON - meeting Simon again!

In 1991, even though I was in my mid 50's, I was fortunate to be selected to be a member of the MCCC side to tour Australia. It was a very tight schedule with 11 matches in 26 days, four in Western Australia and seven in and around Sydney.

We were lucky that one of our free days in Sydney coincided with the first day's play of a crucial Sheffield Shield game between New South Wales and Victoria. Simon, by now captain of Victoria, was still in regular contact with John and Sally Huband, having lived with them while playing for Stourbridge. He told John he was very keen to meet up with me at the SCG prior to the start of the game, and John told him we'd be staying at the Wynyard Travelodge in Sydney. He very generously left tickets there for everyone and arranged for a coach to pick us all up and take us to the ground. Unfortunately a few things went wrong and we arrived too late for the proposed reunion before the game started. Victoria were batting and in less than an hour were about 40 for 4. This brought Simon to the wicket; he

played in his usual aggressive way and was out just before tea for 109, scored at almost a run a ball. What happened next was completely unexpected! Our group were all seated together opposite the pavilion and quite close to the boundary edge. The ground was almost full with nearly 40,000 in attendance. Suddenly 2 or 3 of our group shouted 'Smithy, is that you?' and pointed to a guy who was carrying a flag pole with a message attached which said 'Will Gordon Smith please go to the Victoria dressing room.'

The youngest member of our team, Duncan Lampitt of Wolverhampton CC (no relation to Stuart) said, 'Can I come with you?' We made our way through the crowd and when we were about 30 yards from the pavilion enclosure a voice belted 'Boss, Boss, come here!' after a big hug he took us into the dressing room. He then introduced me to his team mates, some of course Test players, as his Boss in England. It was an amazing experience and Duncan couldn't believe the way he always referred to me as 'Boss'. That day and the time spent with Simon and his team mates was one of the highlights of a wonderful tour, and I could hardly believe that he'd gone to so much trouble just to see me again after all these years.

ABOUT SIMON O'DONNELL

First-class debut for Victoria in 1983
He was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma in 1987, a huge shock, but thankfully the treatment was successful in his case. Remarkably, he went on to captain Victoria the following year and held that position until 1993. He was voted International Cricketer of the Year in 1991 - what a pity this award was made just after I last saw him, what a celebration that could have been! I hope this will be of some interest. [Gordon Smith]
[Certainly is, Gordon! More please! - Ed.]

2020/21 PLANNED PROGRAMME

In the likelihood of continued social distancing, attendances at meetings may not only be limited, but possibly solely restricted to paid-up members.

Subscriptions

Should meetings not be held in the coming season, your renewal payment may either be carried over to the following year, or treated as a donation to S&DCS funds.

Please indicate your choice on the enclosed renewal form.

The schedule of guest speakers for 2020/21 is as follows:

8 October	Alan Butcher
19 November	Luke Sutton
17 December	Daryl Mitchell
21 January	Chris O'Brien
18 February	Derek Pringle
18 March	John Emburey
8 April	TBA

Note: The January and February meetings are afternoon events.

All meetings are subject to alteration and will conform to rules in force. Changes will be announced on www.sdcs.cricket

I dare say that many members are creatures of habit and turn first to the back page.

If that is the case, please go back to the front page and read the unhappy news that Terry Church has decided to call it a day.

Consequently, we are now seeking expressions of interest from members requiring further information about the position.

To obtain further details email adcollis@blueyonder.co.uk before 31st May 2020