

Boundary View

Season 2019 - No. 23

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

Founded 1972

BLACK COUNTRY-BORN CRICKET LEGEND HONOURED

A commemorative blue plaque has been installed on the family home of Baroness Rachael Heyhoe Flint in honour of her achievements both in establishing the game of women's cricket and her philanthropy in the Wolverhampton community.

The plaque was unveiled jointly by the Mayor of Wolverhampton Claire Darke and Rachael's son, Ben Flint at a ceremony which took place on 30 August 2019.

"I'm absolutely thrilled to unveil this plaque, all the family are, and it's a lovely symbol on the house she loved dearly and made so many wonderful achievements during her final 46 years," said her son Ben, who has spent the last two years arranging for the plaque to celebrate his mother's achievements. He was supported in his endeavours by the Wolverhampton Wanderers Foundation and the Wolverhampton History and Heritage Society.

Representing Wolverhampton Wanderers FC at the ceremony was club director John Gough, who said: "She did so much for Wolverhampton; she lifted the profile of the city and was a proud citizen. Wolverhampton has been a poorer city without her."

MAIDEN TAKES OVER

Following the resignation of Mark Robinson, Alistair Maiden, England Women's assistant coach will take temporary charge ahead of December's Women's Championship series against Pakistan in Kuala Lumpur.

Stourbridge-born Alistair Maiden played nine first-class games for Durham UCCE and one match for British Universities against the Bangladeshi tourists, thus qualifying him for inclusion in *Black Country-born Cricketers*, the Society's jubilee project.

He is the son of S&DCS member John Maiden.



Rachael will be featured in our Jubilee book of **Black Country-born First-class Cricketers**

MALCOLM NASH

The death of Malcolm Nash* calls to mind the fateful day in 1968 when Gary Sobers despatched the ball for six sixes in one over, the last hit so huge that the ball was not recovered until the next day. Malcolm Nash was the bowler.

"He had a heart the size of a cricket pitch; he always wanted to bowl, no matter what the score," his Glamorgan colleague Peter Walker recalled, who also remembers Nash's reaction to that fateful over. 'He was smiling broadly as he walked off alongside Gary. "We've gone into the record books, and you couldn't have done it without me!" That was typical of him. He always turned it back into a positive.'

Don Shepherd remembers the scene in the dressing room afterwards. 'Everyone was chiding him, as he sat there quietly with a drink in his hand. "I'll have the last laugh," he said. "Somebody will probably write a book about it." And young Brian Lewis said, "What will they call it? Gone With The Wind?"'

[From *Caught in the Memory* by Stephen Chalke]

* Our guest for March 2020 is John Emburey (Middlesex & England). Well done, Terry!

CHAIRMAN'S VIEW

What a cricket season! Have we ever seen any other season quite as good? Is it my eyesight or are certain Dukes cricket balls doing more than they are reasonably expected to, or are present day bowlers better than their predecessors? Are present-day opening batsmen brought up on white ball cricket under prepared, or simply not good enough?

Are we currently witnessing some of the best sporting entertainment we have ever seen or likely to see being played out on the world's cricketing stage? As Australia depart these shores we can only marvel at the brilliance of Steve Smith and the power and accuracy of their pace attack. I doubt we have ever seen many better Ashes encounters.

At the time of writing, we will shortly know the outcome of the T/20 finals day and perhaps hear more detail of the new hundred competition. In this unique English season, quality has certainly not been sacrificed for quantity, should every season commence in April and finish late September?

As we eagerly look forward to our first cricket evening on the 24th October (please arrive early) these may be some of the questions you may wish to discuss with our distinguished guests. There will be every opportunity to ask or, if you prefer, to write down your questions and hand them to me in the interval. I will ensure your questions are raised.

Let us all make sure that our winter society season matches the cricket we have just witnessed and back our Committee with your support.

Mike Tomkins
Chairman

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)

FRANK DUCKWORTH – The man who put the D in Duckworth/Lewis

[Space and the risk of mistakes precluded the writer from risking to explain the workings of the formula – suffice to say interested readers may google Duckworth Lewis for an explanation. Instead, this report focuses on the project's background, gradual acceptance and present-day outcome.]

Frank Duckworth (pictured) regards himself as an armchair cricketer, with a distinct preference for the limited overs game. He readily confessed that he does not have the patience to sit through a 5-day Test match.

His talk was illustrated by a series of hypothetical examples on slides that he has presented to various bodies, large and small in the world of cricket.

He is the boffin-half of the Duckworth Lewis (D/L) partnership, who devised a method of adjusting target scores in one-day matches, interrupted, usually, by the weather.

The two protagonists are Frank, honorary editor of the Royal Statistical Society Journal and Tony Lewis, was with the University of West England before moving on to Oxford Brookes University. He is not the eponymous Welshman and former England captain.

How to settle rain-interrupted matches had been a problem since one-day, limited-over cricket was devised in the 1960s. The earliest solution was the simplest and most obvious — to use the teams' average scoring rate in runs scored per six ball-over played to set targets and settle results.

This was simple and easy to understand, but unfair. The problem is that not all overs are equal — teams score at different rates at different times in their innings.

At the 1992 World Cup, an alternative method was tried, based on taking the lowest-scoring overs away from each team's innings. This was dramatically exposed in the semi-final when a brief rain delay led to South Africa's target to beat England being recalculated from 22 runs from 13 balls — tough but not impossible

—
to
21



runs off one delivery, obviously unattainable, unfair to South Africa and destroying a great finish.

Duckworth said, 'I recall hearing Christopher Martin-Jenkins on radio saying "Surely, someone somewhere could come up with something better!" and I realised that it was a mathematical problem that required a mathematical solution.' The expert applied himself to the task and sent his preliminary findings to CM-J, who responded with non-committal thanks. Lesser mortals would have given up!

However Duckworth received a letter from Lewis who proposed that data already collected by students be entered and tested as part of a project. And so the D/L partnership was born. Now came the hard part... convincing sceptical authorities that the problem was solvable.

Presentations were made to the various bodies - TCCB, ECB and ultimately the ICC, then headed up by David Richards. (He was succeeded by the South African wicket-keeper Dave Richardson who had been at the crease in that dramatic 1992 semi-final). Duckworth recalled, "We presented not only to Richards, but to the entire board of chief ex-

ecutives of all Test playing nations! It proved to be the trigger for action, as it was decided to introduce the method as a trial in limited over matches in 1997.

In fact Zimbabwe was the first country to do so, on New Year's Day 1997!" Zimbabwe had scored 200 all out in 48.5 overs; rain fell before England started their reply. The lost time resulted in a deduction of eight overs, so England's revised target was 186 in 42 overs. They fell short on 179/7 having used up their allocated overs.

Since then D/L has been used in more than 2,500 matches; 97% of stoppages were caused by rain or bad light. Other reasons included floodlight failure (20 occasions), crowd disturbances (5), wind (4), helicopter landing on pitch (3), sandstorm (2), unsuitable pitch (2), plus single instances each of flying ants, snow, lightning, and an immovable sight screen.

Frank, a slightly-built man, big on intellect, summarised the D/L partnership as: "Without Duckworth, the method would never have been invented; without Lewis, the method would never have been implanted."

An unpalatable truth is that neither partner received recompense commensurate with the importance their work has produced for limited overs cricket. Shame on the game!

Frank and TV personality, Johnny Ball are good friends and share a passion for mathematics. Ball is the father of Zoe, host of Radio Two's Breakfast Show.

Frank was an unlikely housemate of John Lennon. For a time, both lived with John's Aunt Mimi. However, Frank said they only spoke once, in two years, on a bus. In response to shy Frank's friendly, 'Hello, John!' the response by the Beatle was a mere grunt!

The attendance was the second-highest of the current season and most people agreed that Frank had presented a 'dry' talk in a light, amusing and extremely interesting way.

Att. 82 (75 members, 6 guests)

OUR TRIP TO THE WEST INDIES FEBRUARY 2019

My wife Gill and I set off on what was our fourth overseas trip watching England, to witness the second and third Test Matches of the series, in Antigua and St. Lucia respectively. Following the rather shambolic performance in the first Test in Barbados (too little meaningful preparation time seemed to be the general consensus), we approached the tour, or at least I did, with the mindset of 'surely we can't be that bad again'. I honestly didn't believe that West Indies had suddenly become world-beaters overnight, nor had England suddenly become the worst team in the world. After all, the respective positions in the ICC Test rankings tell a different story, or so I wanted to believe.

I won't dwell in detail on the Antigua Test, the scorecards really do tell pretty much the whole story - a 10

wicket win inside three days, with England's second innings lasting only just over 40 overs. My rather naïve assumption prior to the Test was indeed exactly that. 2-0 down and the series lost. In trying to take a positive from the situation, the best we could come up with was at least it gave us two extra days on the beach!

On to St. Lucia, where the outcome was very different. Of course the more cynical would point to the fact that it was a 'dead rubber', but my observation of how both teams approached the game suggested to me that it was very keenly fought, and indeed some of the reported 'sledging' would bear this out. On that point, huge respect to Joe Root for the way he dealt with the remarks from Shannon Gabriel, he went up several notches in my estimation by challenging the comments in the way he did.

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MATT RAWNSLEY
Worcestershire (1996-2003)
Appointed WCCC Chief Executive
March 2018

In September 2003, Matthew Rawnsley's unremarkable cricket career at New Road ended. Fifteen years later, he returned as Chief Executive of Worcestershire County Cricket Club.

In welcoming our guest, Terry Church provided a 'Not a lot of people know that!' moment when he informed members that Matthew is a descendant of Canon Hardwicke Rawnsley (1851-1920), a co-founder of the National Trust.

Matt began his talk by saying that his post-cricket career hinged on two aspects - decisions and luck. 'Whether decisions were good or bad, I learned from the experience; luck is the unknown factor, but I try to be aware of new ideas and situations. I am accountable for my decisions, which imposes a high degree of self-discipline.'

His business career began in partnership with former Worcestershire colleague, Reuben Spiring, when the duo supplied sports clothing with embroidered badges and logos. 'We didn't make our fortunes, but we gained a heck of a lot of experience in a short time.'

Luck played its part, when he was head-hunted for Caterpillar as business development manager for Northern Europe - a territory that stretched from Iceland to Russia. 'I was away for two weeks every month, and later I was made responsible for emerging markets which included Africa, Asia, China and India until my wife Celia protested, "Enough!" In 2012, I became managing director of Barnes Group (UK) Ltd, an American company with subsidiaries in Europe, conveniently



based in Evesham, which in turn has led me back to Worcester.

Rawnsley pulled no punches of his first impressions on his return. 'There was an acceptance that the Club was an underdog and I hated that. The relationship between players and staff was fractured; one player had no idea where the offices were.' Matt's immediate priority was to get everyone together - cricketers, coaches, office staff, grounds-men, caterers, cleaners, marketing staff - to explain his expectations. 'It is simple - "One Club!" - we are all in this together.'

He turned his attention to the players. 'We have developed some superb cricketers and the recent signings of Parnell and Wessels were vital to provide experience for the younger players to develop.'

Matt referred to various grumbles - notably concerning red ball cricket. 'The game is changing, not to everyone's liking, but cricket has to adapt. Customers, particularly the youngsters, view cricket differently; they want instant gratification - action replays on their phones or tablets and they want it

now.'

Matthew Rawnsley admitted he only started playing cricket aged 16. Born in Birmingham in 1976, he

played for Warwickshire Under-17s and Under-19s. He was spotted by David Houghton who invited him for a chat at New Road. 'I had no idea where to go and walked into the dressing room and said, "Hi, I'm Matt!" to which came the reply, "Hi, I'm Graeme." I was taken on at £3,600 for a six-month contract!'

Rawnsley made his first-class and Championship debut against Glamorgan in 1996. Not required to bat, his only contribution to the drawn game was his dismissal of Darren Thomas caught by Richard Illingworth - a rare instance of two slow left-arm bowlers in concert! The best haul of Matt's career was six for 44 against Oxford University in 1998, after having taken five for 72 in the first innings. His career tally amounted to 74 first-class wickets (average 44.36) spread over seven seasons.

After his first-class cricket career ended, Matt continued to play the game at Minor County level for Herefordshire and in the Birmingham League variously for West Bromwich Dartmouth, Barnt Green and latterly Ombersley.

Matt Rawnsley provided an honest and inspiring address, which was appreciated by those present.

Unlike many former cricketers, now occupying a responsible position in the game, Matt comes with that singularly precious asset, experience of the world beyond the game. He is surely destined for a greater role in cricket in particular or the wider world in general.

Attendance: 49 members
11 April 2019

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The spell from Mark Wood in West Indies first innings was true edge of the seat stuff. His pace was upwards of 90mph, and he really seemed to frighten some of the West Indies batsmen, certainly the first time in the series we had seen them under any sort of pressure. All England need to do is keep him fit, and he will be a huge asset this summer. In the end a thoroughly deserved win, though unfortunately in an overall losing cause.

What was very noticeable at both Test matches, unfortunately, was the lack of local support. I know that this is symptomatic of the many years of decline in Test Cricket

in these parts, but I have to say it was sad to see. I hope, for the overall health of the world game, that the recent series will help to promote a resurgence in West Indies cricket and the crowds will return.

As I said at the beginning, this was our fourth overseas trip, and for the benefit of anyone wondering what such a trip is like, or maybe contemplating a trip in the future, I thought I would give a brief outline of what to expect. We travel with a specialist cricket tour company, and have found that this is an excellent way of minimising the stress!

S&DCS MEETINGS' PROGRAMME FOR 2019/20

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

24 Oct 7.30 pm	Geoff Miller OBE	Derbyshire, Essex and England One of the very best speakers – definitely not to be missed!
21 Nov 7.30 pm	Mark Rowe	Author of 'The Victory Tests – England v Australia 1945' He will talk about a 'Tour de Farce' a.k.a. The D'Oliveira Affair
19 Dec 7.30 pm	Bill Athey	Yorkshire, Gloucestershire, Sussex & England Nor forgetting one List A match for Worcestershire!
16 Jan 7.30 pm	Alan Wilkins	Glamorgan, Gloucestershire & Northern Transvaal He also played rugby for Cardiff and Bristol – he is now based in Singapore as a broadcaster
20 Feb 2 pm	Fred Rumsey & Stephen Chalke	Worcestershire, Somerset, Derbyshire & England (N.B. Afternoon Venue to be confirmed) Talking about Fred's autobiography, copies of which will be on sale at the meeting
19 Mar 7.30 pm	John Emburey	Middlesex & England – Embers will be interviewed by Bradders NB – This is a change to the previously announced programme
9 Apr 7.45 pm	Alan Ormrod	Worcestershire & Lancashire Alan's talk will follow the AGM, which will start at 7pm

THE NAME'S THE SAME!

Can you name the British prime minister who shares his name (forename & surname) with an England Test player?

(No, you cannot have David Lloyd and David Lloyd George).

Simple, but not immediately obvious! Genuine answer, no trick!

BLACK COUNTRY POSER

What is the greatest number of Black Country-born cricketers to have appeared in the same first-class match?

Answers to both questions in the next edition of *Boundary View*.

GEOFF HARPER

Former S&DCS member **Geoff Harper** died on 3 October 2019 aged 93.

He had been a member of Stourbridge CC since the Second World War and played until the mid-sixties for the club. Latterly, he was a member of the S&DCS until ill health prevented him from attending monthly meetings.

Geoff's legacy to the club was the scorebox which he single-handedly built. He used his building skills and probably a few materials obtained from his employers, coincidentally called Harpers in Silver End, Brierley Hill.

Like most cricket clubs through the years, who learnt to beg, borrow or steal, Geoff managed to recycle some redundant Midland Red Bus Company bus numbers which were used to display the 'Total Score' and the 'Batsman's Scores'. In recent years, Geoff lived in Wollaston in the apartments built on the Wollaston St. James' school site; he still had family in the Stourbridge area.

His brother **Lewis Harper**, another club and society stalwart, died many years ago. Lewis also effectively helped the club by raising money to convert the old

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It is perfectly possible, of course, to undertake such a trip on a lesser budget by booking everything independently, but this is outweighed, in our opinion, by the benefits which being part of an organised tour brings. Everything is catered for, from airport transfers, hotel bookings, match tickets, transfers to and from the stadium, plus you have a tour manager permanently available to deal with any queries. The value of this became very apparent on our trip when one of our group was taken ill and had to go to hospital, all of which was dealt with by the tour manager. Obviously if he had travelled independently he would have been, quite literally, on his own.

In Antigua, we had the added bonus of the West In-

dies team staying in the same hotel. They were very friendly and

approachable, always willing to share a few thoughts on the game. It is quite something being in the breakfast queue and turning round to see 6'7" Jason Holder standing behind you!

Each tour also has, on one of the last nights, a farewell dinner, with a talk from a cricketing 'celebrity'. On a previous trip to the West Indies we were honoured to be in the company of none other than Sir Garfield Sobers, and on this trip we were entertained by Jonathan Agnew interviewing Sir Alastair Cook. Both were excellent climaxes to the tour.

So if you get the opportunity to undertake such a trip I would wholeheartedly encourage you to do so. You will be in the company of many like-minded people who share a love for

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.

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