

Boundary View

No. 10

The Newsletter of Stourbridge & District Cricket Society (founded 1972)

Autumn 2014

England hammer India

After two poor performances at Leeds and Lord's, England looked a broken team. But at Old Trafford, they pulled off a remarkable victory, winning their second Test in a row by an innings and 54 runs to go 2-1 up in the series.

England deserve plenty of credit for the turnaround, said Alan Lee in *The Times*, but just as much contempt should be aimed at India. Their weakness when faced with Moeen Ali's spin was baffling—after all they have “a tradition of purveying and batting against” spin bowling better than any other country.

India's batsmen are just not up to scratch, said Mike Atherton also in *The Times*. Take Virat Kohli. He may be the “poster boy of the post-Tendulkar world”, but in this series he's been no match for James Anderson – in thirty balls from Anderson, he has scored just seven runs and been dismissed four times.

India simply “threw in the towel”, said Michael Vaughan in the *Sunday Telegraph*. Instead of cricket, they concentrated on fighting too many battles off the pitch”, namely their unsuccessful efforts to get Anderson banned for pushing Jadeja earlier in the series.

“Victory doesn't get more emphatic than this”, said Paul Newman in the *Daily Mail*. The Oval Test was more one-sided than any other in recent memory. The margin of victory was staggering: India were defeated by an innings and 244 runs. The turning point was the third Test when Alastair Cook managed to break out of his disastrous batting slump and Stuart Broad and Anderson started to find their best form.

India's capitulation highlights a disturbing new trend: home advantage is now “almost fatally decisive”, said Jonathan Liew in the *Daily Telegraph*. Of the 41 Tests in 2013, just two were won by away teams and both were against Zimbabwe. Test series are shorter than ever – this one lasted just 39 days – and that leaves little time for “ironing out flaws” or “lifting battered morale”.

Or could it be that “countries are now playing just too much Test cricket?” asks the editor of *Boundary View*.

This article is extracted from *The Week*.



Damien D'Oliveira

It is never easy being the son of a famous father, but very good player though he was, Damien D'Oliveira probably may be remembered as an even better cricket coach.

The 53-year-old, Cape Town-born, Worcestershire Academy manager scored over 9,000 runs during his career with the County between 1982 and 1995.

The D'Oliveira family uniquely has provided three generations of cricketers for Worcestershire at first-class level. Damian, was the son of Basil, who died in 2011. Brett, the third generation of the family made his first-class debut in 2012, but has yet to hold down a regular place in the team.

A thanksgiving service for the life of Damien D'Oliveira was held at New Road.

Save £3 on 2014/15 Subs! The Society's annual subscription fee is £15 – and is due now!

However, if you renew your membership on or before 8th October 2014, you pay only £12.

To take advantage of this offer, see details inside!

Membership renewals on the evening of the Society's first meeting of the season, will be payable at the full rate.

Chairman's View

Welcome back to everyone! Whilst we reflect upon a remarkable turnaround in the fortunes of our local county Worcestershire and are encouraged by the consistency shown at Edgbaston, despite regular calls upon international players, there does seem room for optimism, that both counties have plenty more to offer and that success could be just around the corner. I might add that I am writing this mid August and that my suggestion is more long term.

It really is encouraging to see so many of our members at county games, both at New Road and Edgbaston. I feel the support we give is vital and appreciated by both players and staff.

Talking of staff, no doubt, the coaching and introduction of young players has pushed forward the improvement throughout the Worcestershire team. Great credit should be given to the ground staff who have prepared some excellent wickets which have given us some exciting cricket. When you recall back in March the severity of the flooding, the workload and effort put in has been quite remarkable.

The season, whilst being generally sunny and warm has given us the spur to enjoy life and all the splendour of our great game. However it has not been without sadness with the loss of Damian D'Oliveira and other splendid people within and close to our Society. I feel the strength of our Cricket Society is extremely important, bringing together like minded individuals who have a love and fascination for all that cricket uniquely offers.

Our winter meetings are not to be missed. Our guests and the topics discussed give us an overall view of the current state of the first-class game.

I look forward to seeing you all back with us, along with our new members for our first meeting on Thursday, 16 October.

Mike Tomkins
Chairman
Stourbridge & District Cricket Society

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

Dave Nicklin (President) Committee Members:
Mike Tomkins (Chairman); Craig Smith (Secretary); Ken Workman (Treasurer); Terry Church (Programme Secretary)

All's well that ends well as Worcestershire go up!

Worcestershire clinched promotion when they won a topsy-turvy battle against promotion hopefuls Surrey by 27 runs.

Worcestershire return to Division One for the fifth time in 12 years, after Man-of-the-Match, Jack Shantry (pictured) inspired an unlikely win over close rivals Surrey.

Chasing 217 to win with all day to get them, Surrey looked well set just before lunch on 106-1.

But the dismissal of former Pears' skipper, Vikram Solanki for 58 started a collapse as they were bowled out for 189.

Shantry took 4-44 for match figures of 10-131. The effort completed a marvellous twenty-four hours for Shrewsbury-born Shantry, who hit his maiden first-class century the previous day to give Worcestershire the slenderest of chances of winning the match.

But it all could have ended so differently. After a three-week break from County cricket, the Pears' form fell away alarmingly with defeats against Gloucestershire and Derbyshire.

A seven wickets defeat - Worcestershire's first loss of the campaign - by their southern neighbours at Cheltenham should have sounded alarm bells, but in the next game, the County suffered their second defeat of the season.

Worcestershire's journey to the East Midlands resulted in a surprise defeat by Derbyshire by 138 runs.

It appears that Derbyshire belied their lowly position and outplayed their top-of-the-table opponents. The New Road team showed their mettle when they recovered from 221 for six to reach 385 all out and gain an unexpected first innings lead of 29 runs.

From then on, the hosts took charge and profited from a couple of costly dropped catches to compile 296 in their second innings, leaving Worcestershire a target of 268, which proved most unlikely after the first four batsmen had managed only forty runs between them.

Derbyshire's off-spinner, Wes Durston took a career-best five for 19 to help dismiss Worcestershire for a disappointing 129.

Worcestershire's last game of the season against fourth-placed Essex at Chelmsford starts on 23 September.

Finally for those who believe in omens. In 1965, Worcestershire won the Championship in their centenary year. What price a repeat success in 2015, the year of the County's sesquicentenary?

At likely odds of 200-1, it must be worth a tenner!



Stourbridge's promotion hopes revived

Stourbridge 1st XI are back in contention for promotion to Division One of the Birmingham & District Premier league, the *Stourbridge Chronicle* reports.

The Shropshire team, Whitchurch, reduced Stourbridge to 71 for five after 25 overs. A sixth-wicket partnership of 83 by Hassan and Andy Alexander (72) got Stour back on track; Bilal Hassan (92) fell eight runs short of his maiden century as Stourbridge's innings closed on 207.

Whitchurch's reply mirrored Stourbridge's innings; they were reduced to 54 for six, but after some spirited resistance by Yousaf and Ai, both of whom scored 26, Stourbridge dismissed Whitchurch for 114 to win by 93 runs.

Stourbridge banked 20 points to compensate for their humiliation, a week earlier, when they recorded their lowest total (54) of the season losing to lowly Eastnor by seven wickets.

Now Stourbridge have regained fourth place, 15 points adrift of the promotion spot, with their last fixture away to Tamworth. Victory will give the Amblecote outfit 257 points, whether that will be sufficient will not be known until the very last ball of the season.

Leamington Spa are already assured of an immediate return, following last year's relegation, but which team will accompany them is very much open to question.

The Completion of the Foster Graves' Renovation Project

The renovation of the graves of eight members of the Foster family was carried out this year and rededicated by Revd. Mike Vockins on 13 May.

The date was chosen purposely as it marked the hundredth anniversary of the death of R.E. Tip Foster, one of the finest batsmen of the Golden Age. Besides Tip, others buried in the family plot are the parents, Revd. Henry Foster and his wife Sophia, three of their four daughters - Maud, Mabel and Cicely - plus the two youngest of the seven brothers, Maurice and Johnny.

The graveside service was attended by Foster family descendants, plus members of the Malvern Civic Society, who assisted the



Before and after



writer in organising and overseeing the work. David Leatherdale represented Worcestershire CCC.

After lunch in the cricket pavilion of Malvern College, a Service of Thanksgiving was held in the College Chapel, followed by tea in the most impressive Sports Centre.

Jonathan Fisher, grandson of Johnny, presented a bronze statue of Tip Foster to the Headmaster on behalf of the Foster family. It will be awarded, each year to the batsman who scores the most runs for the College 1st XI.

Copies of the booklet, about the eight Fosters buried in Great Malvern Cemetery, published to commemorate the occasion, are available from Anthony Collis - copies will be available at meetings or phone 01384 442244.

Save £3 on Subs!

The Society's annual subscription fee is £15 – and due now!

However, if you renew your membership on or before 8th October 2014, you pay only £12.

For two adults living together, a concession fee of £20 will apply, or £15, if paid by 8th October.

To take advantage of this special offer, post your cheque, for the relevant amount, payable to Stourbridge Cricket Society, to the Treasurer at the following address:

S&D Cricket Society, 15, Ridge Road, Kingswinford, DY6 9RB

Please note: If you decide to renew your membership on or after the evening of the Society's first meeting of the season, the full amount will apply.

Society Deaths

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of the following members

Raymond Edwards

After a short time in Russell's Hall Hospital after falling and breaking his arm and leg, he developed pneumonia which led to his passing.

Richard Greaves

A long-time member of the Society, passed away in May 2014. Richard contributed various articles of interest to *Boundary View*.

The Society extends its deepest sympathy to our late members' families.

Googly!

Of which royal personage was this description written?

"He had never been much of a swimmer and had never taken to cricket, which he had once played on The Curragh, dropping two easy catches and failing to score a single run. Later, he did occasionally play at Sandringham, where he liked it rather better, as it was the common practice to bowl him a few easy balls so that he could score some runs and thus be kept in a good temper."

Answer on page 4

Obituary



Worcestershire's oldest cricketer, Norman Harry Whiting died aged 93 years 144 days.

Norman Whiting (above) made 59 first-class appearances for Worcestershire spread between 1947 and 1952, but was more comfortable in the Second XI, which he skippered for many years.

His career aggregate for the first team amounted to 1,583 runs (av. 18.62) and included two centuries. His highest score of 118 was made against Essex at Gidea Park, Romford in 1950. His other hundred (111) was scored, two years later, against Oxford University at The Parks. In the latter match, Whiting opened the batting, and, with 'Laddie' Outschoorn (120*), shared a second wicket partnership worth 177 runs. They were the only Worcestershire players to score more than ten in the first innings total of 272. In the second innings, Whiting scored 83.

Norman was full of cricket stories, nearly all of them true! He was particularly proud of his first 'senior' appearance when he was asked to act as Twelfth Man for the Australians by no less a person than the tourists' captain, Don Bradman. Needless to say, he accepted the invitation with alacrity.

Norman Whiting was a confirmed, lifelong bachelor who was wedded to cricket and New Road was his marital home. His place as Worcestershire's most senior cricketer has been assumed by H. G. Moule who will be 93 on 23 December.

*Norman Harry Whiting -
Born Wollaston, Stourbridge,
2 October 1920;
Died Worcester, 23 February 2014.*

Society on Tour!

Forty-seven members assembled on time, at 8am, at The War Memorial Ground on Thursday 27 March for our trip to Manchester.

Slightly delayed we nevertheless arrived at Old Trafford before 11 o'clock to be met by our host, Keith Hayhurst, and escorted "upstairs" in the pavilion for a welcome cup of coffee.

To describe Keith as enthusiastic would be an understatement as he told us of his love affair with Lancashire CCC which has endured for half a century. An unpaid ambassador and proud vice-president Keith took us into The Point, walked us round the ground and hosted an impromptu question and answer session in the Media Centre.

Many changes had been made to both spectator and playing areas, including the turning of the square. Amazingly part of the outfield had been dug up and resembled a building site although Keith was confident that no one would "be able to see the join" when the first game was played in five weeks time. Confidently shepherding us through one of the hospitality suites in which the delegates were taking lunch Keith arranged for us to partake of our lunch in the suite in which we had taken coffee. Using his considerable influence, no charge was made for this. The whole operation at Old Trafford seemed to be treated by Keith as his personal fiefdom!

A short coach journey and we were soon at the impressive Etihad Stadium where we were divided into two parties.

Our guide was knowledgeable and passionate about the resurgence of the "blue" part of Manchester allowed us ample time to linger for photographs in the dressing room and Media Suite where some of our members took the opportunity to enact a make believe scenario that they were the latest multi million pound signing by the club.

Expansion of the capacity was being considered either by extending upwards behind one of the goals or by sinking the playing area (this had already been done previously following the staging of the Commonwealth Games).

An insight into match day operation revealed the inhospitable (*sic*) treatment extended to visiting teams and that for eleven players and seven substitutes no fewer than twenty two non-playing staff were needed (surely some jobsworths in there!) from manager to kit man.

With delays on the M6 still being announced we made our way home on the A41, initially slowly but then gaining speed to arrive back at Stourbridge at 8.45pm, a little later than originally anticipated.

STOP PRESS I am planning a visit in March 2015 to the ECB National Cricket Performance Centre at Loughborough with a visit to St George's Park, Burton-on-Trent, home of the National Football Centre.

Terry Church

16 October Meeting: 'A Special Place'

In addition to this evening's programme, we advise that copies of:

'A Special Place' - an anthology of cricket at New Road - will be on sale @ £9 in aid of WCCC Heritage Group and the WCC Supporters' Association.

Richard Bentley compiled the 80-page A4 book in celebration of Worcestershire cricket over the past 100-odd years. He will be pleased to sign copies. It makes an ideal Xmas gift!

MEETINGS' PROGRAMME for 2014/15

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

16 October	David Fulton	Former Kent CCC captain
David played 200 first-class matches as a top-order batsman between 1992 and 2006. His career was interrupted by a serious eye injury. He had a hand in the dismissal of Viv Richard's in his last first-class innings and his own last match for Kent could not have been more spectacular. (See additional item at bottom of page 3).		
20 November	Brian Halford	Author of the acclaimed biography of Percy Jeeves
At the outbreak of war, Percy Jeeves of Warwickshire was regarded as one of the most promising bowlers in England. It was his fate to be killed in action in 1916. His name was immortalised by P.G. Wodehouse when he began writing about Bertie Wooster's famous butler three years later.		
18 December	Mark Chilton	Lancashire
The former Lancashire captain retired from county cricket after a 14-year career spent entirely at Old Trafford.		
15 January	Alan Richardson & Dave Bradley	Warwickshire CCC Coach, formerly of Worcestershire BBC Radio H&W
19 February	Alan Hill	Derbyshire CCC
19 March	Isabelle Duncan	Author "Skirting the Boundary"
16 April	Andrew Collier	Curator & Proprietor of the Cotswold Cricket Museum

Programme details of other Cricket Societies' meetings in 2014/15

Please note a charge may be payable for guests and / or non-members
Programme details subject to change without further notice

EDGBASTON (Report to Main Reception) Meetings start at 8pm		NEW ROAD (Graeme Hick Pavilion) Meetings start at 7.30pm	
7 October	Panel with Rikki Clarke, Brian Halford & Clive Eakin (AGM at 7.30pm)	14 October	Bob Carter & Derek Pearson
21 October	Jonathan Trott	11 November	John Curtis
18 November	Darren Bicknell	9 December	Graham Lloyd & John Parkin
December	No Meeting	13 January	Worcs CCC player - TBA
20 January	Richard Blakey	10 February	Patrick Murphy
17 February	Graham Lloyd	10 March	Bob Carter
17 March	Jim Parks		

The England and Wales Cricket Board is advertising for a 'People and Culture Director'.

The role involves 'driving a talent acquisition strategy and the implementation of a people agenda geared around ensuring attraction and retention of the best people including succession planning and talent pipelining. 'There is now an opportunity to elevate the function to one that helps the organisation enhance engagement with its people and develop a common culture'.

What a load of gobbledegook!

Prospective candidates are advised that applications written in plain English will not be considered.

Answer to Googly on page 3
Edward, Prince of Wales
(later H.M. King Edward VII)

Newsletter Deadlines

Deadline for receipt of copy for each *Issue* is (Last Friday of Month)

Autumn (August) *Winter* (October) *Spring* (January)

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

The editor reserves the right to edit or refuse the publication of any material submitted

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The Stourbridge & District Cricket Society is a member of the Council of Cricket Societies
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