

Boundary View

No. - Autumn 2015

The Newsletter of Stourbridge & District Cricket Society

Founded 1972

Terry Church with 19 of the '57 Black Country Sportsmen' featured in his latest book.



Standing: Terry Church, David Thomas, Roger Iddles, Peter Billingham, Ted Farmer, Alan Webb, Colin Brookes, Hugh Clark, Derek Beasley, Fred Potter, Eric Horwill, Bob Dillon.

Seated: Phil Bayton, Ron Headley, Barry Corbett, Dave Powell, Gerald Kendrick, Geoff Baxter, John Harris, Nevil Jaynes

OPENING OVER

In nine of the past twelve summers, Worcestershire's season has ended in dramatic fashion - either a push for promotion or a fight against relegation. At the time of writing this piece, the County has three matches left in which their fate will be decided.

It is ironic to note that despite their lowly position, Worcestershire have obtained more bonus points than almost all other teams in the division. Currently only Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire have more batting points and no team has more bowling points.

It is sad that the services of Gareth Andrew will no longer be available to the County due to his persistent injury problems. He joined from Somerset in 2003 and became a capable all-rounder, good enough to be named the PFA's second most-valuable player of 2011.

Members' attention is drawn to the 2015/16 programme on page 4 and to note that some meeting arrangements - days and times - are different to the usual schedule.

Members are reminded that their contributions to *Boundary View* are welcomed. *Contact details on page 4.*

S.O.S.

SAVE ON SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions are now due and unchanged for the third successive year! Members are again offered the chance to renew in advance of the new season at a reduced rate.

INDIVIDUAL Membership:

£12 if received by post by 14 October,

£15 if paid after that date.

JOINT Membership:

£15 (2 adults at the same address)

Cheques, payable to Stourbridge Cricket Society, to be posted to:
Ken Workman,
15 Ridge Road,
Kingswinford, DY6 9RB

WCCC 150TH ANNIVERSARY

The Society has presented a glass cricket bat which has been engraved as follows:

Presented by

STOURBRIDGE CRICKET SOCIETY
in 2015 to mark the

150th Anniversary of the founding of WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB in
1865.

The bat is on permanent display in the foyer of the Graeme Hick Pavilion.

CHAIRMAN'S VIEW

They say that our wonderful game mirrors life with all its ups and downs, twists and turns, great sadness and joy, suspense, failure and fine achievements. All this and more we have witnessed over the last few months.

Welcome back one and all to our monthly winter get-togethers to reflect and discuss a very memorable summer along with our Programme Secretary's fine selection of guest speakers.

It is always difficult in August to write about a non-completed season. We all shared the grief of the cricket world with the death last November of Philip Hughes. There was more sad news to follow when Richie Benaud, legend of Australian cricket passed away, Test Captain, wrist spinner, the calculated, undemonstrative voice of summer. Very few voices of the airwaves have ever been so instantly recognisable and well respected. He was a fine representative of all that is good within the game.

The mid summer failure of Australia's batsmen to deal with the moving 'Duke' cricket ball resulted in Ashes

... continued on page 3

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

Dave Nicklin (President)

Committee Members:

Mike Tomkins (Chairman); **Position vacant** (Secretary); **Ken Workman** (Treasurer); **Terry Church** (Programme Secretary)

One of the principles of our members is good timekeeping and therefore I was not surprised that forty seven members assembled on time at 8.30 am on 26 March for our 2015 trip. Without any traffic problems we arrived on time at the ECB Performance Centre at Loughborough University. A bonus was that coffee was provided free of charge although a lengthy queue ensued as only one machine was available to dispense our liquid refreshment.

Comfortably seated we were given an enthusiastic revue of the workings of the centre by Ray Baker, one time pace bowler with Surrey CCC. Ray's presentation preceded an informative DVD of the ongoing activities at the centre. Time then to view the facilities and watch some

of the England Ladies team undergoing a net session. Prior to departure there was a photo opportunity when we met England's Claire Taylor who had played Birmingham League cricket for Walmley.

A short coach journey gave us the chance to devour our packed lunch before arriving St George's Park, the Football Association's National Football centre. We enjoyed a comprehensive tour of the facilities, both indoor and outdoor, where attention to detail is paramount. With due respect, players attending there want for nothing and in the writer's opinion, the only barrier to success on the European or world stage is ability!

Before leaving we had the opportunity to purchase liquid refreshment in the lounge of the hotel based on site. Suf-

fice to say that with the drinks tariff there was no one remotely likely to be drunk and disorderly. Disappointingly, in the picture gallery one of our region's (and country's) most outstanding performers, Billy Wright, was inconspicuously displayed, and that view is not tendered through gold and black spectacles.

Although many of our party professed to have greater navigational skills than our driver we arrived safely back home in good time for tea!

I am planning a trip (our twelfth) in March 2016 to take in a tour of the facilities at New Road, Worcester, before proceeding to the Cotswold Cricket Museum at Stow-on-the-Wold. Further details will be announced at the meeting in October.

BOOK REVIEW

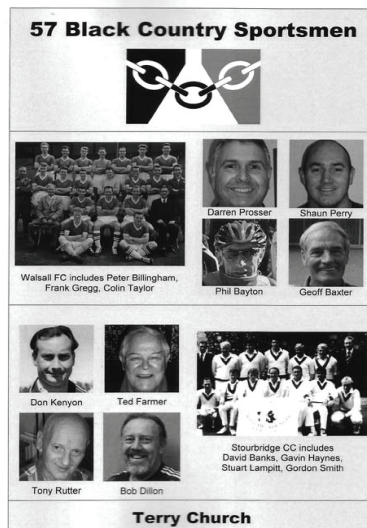
57 BLACK

Terry Church's latest publication focuses on a selection of sports personalities, who have left their mark on the local scene as well as in the wider sports arena.

The book was enthusiastically received at Wall Heath Community Centre on 1 August. In his 30-minute presentation, the author proceeded to introduce to the capacity audience nineteen of the featured sportsmen, who were all present. The stars and lesser lights come from many sports – athletics, boxing, cycling, horse-racing, walking and chess (!) – not forgetting cricket and football. Terry's research reunited two men, present at the launch, who had not seen each other since they left school in 1958!

Of the book's 57 subjects, nineteen are no longer alive. These include legends, Steve Bloomer, Duncan Edwards, Eric Hollies, Don Kenyon and Jack Flavell.

Review by Anthony Collis



The 180-page book will be of interest to all followers of Black Country sport and will doubtless evoke memories of matches and personalities. It may also provoke debate as to the absence of other worthy contenders for inclusion, but perhaps a 'second 57' may be in the offing. Maybe the tireless author knows his limits, or does he? In his own pen portrait he admits that he still has ambitions to play for both Albion and Worcestershire!

The profusely-illustrated book will be welcomed by residents and supporters of local heritage alike. It is good to see the Black Country flag adorning the front cover.

Terry's labour of love is a worthy tribute and will make an ideal gift choice for local sports enthusiasts and nostalgic expatriates. On sale at meetings!

BBC TV MASTERMIND GRAND FINAL - 28 MARCH 2015

All questions relate to various Ashes series during 1964-81

- Who captained England on the 1970/71 tour?
- Who took 41 wickets in the 1978/79 series to set a new Australian record for most wickets in an Ashes series?
- At Headingley in 1981, Bob Willis took 8-43 to achieve victory after England had been forced to follow-on – who was the last batsman to be dismissed?
- In 1977 at Nottingham, Boycott scored a century on his return to Test cricket. Which Nottinghamshire batsman did he run out?
- A famous photograph at The Oval in 1968 shows the entire England side fielding close to the bat as Derek Underwood took the last wicket? Which batsman had he trapped lbw?
- A series of injuries to the touring Australians led to Mike Whitney being brought into the side for the Old Trafford Test in 1981. He started the summer playing for which club in the Lancashire League?
- Who captained Australia in the 1978/79, when the team was missing most of its best players due to WSC cricket?
- Who set an Australian record by taking 16 wickets on his Test debut at Lord's in 1972?
- In which year did the Ashes series consist of only 4 matches?
- Who was bowling when Boycott hit the boundary that took him to his 100th first-class hundred at Headingley in 1977?
- Who was captain of the 1974/75 England team and dropped himself from the Sydney Test?
- What was the name of the ship's cook that became the first staker at Lord's in 1975?
- At which ground was the Third Test of the 1970/71 season abandoned with a ball being bowled?
- When Colin Cowdrey joined the 1974/75 touring party it meant that he had appeared in how many Ashes tours?

Answers on back page

ISABELLE DUNCAN – 19 MARCH 2015

Isabelle Duncan is a leading woman cricketer and qualified coach, who runs her own cricket coaching organisation for boys and girls, aged 4–13. She captains an all-male (apart from her) side at Albury CC in a Surrey League, is a member of the main committee at MCC and sits on the board of Girls on the Front Foot at Chance to Shine. Izzy Duncan is a medium-pace bowler who used to play for, amongst others, Tim Rice's cricket team, the Heartaches.



Isabelle's presentation focused on the history of women's cricket. The earliest match of which records still exist occurred in 1745 when eleven maids of Bramley met eleven maids of Hambledon on Gosden Common near Guildford. The Bramley team got 119 notches and the Hambledon 127. Married v. Maidens was another popular fixture, besides inter-village contests, which attracted numerous spectators, many of whom came for the gambling aspect. Most matches were played in Hampshire, Surrey and Sussex.

In 1777, the Countess of Derby arranged a match in which Elizabeth Ann Burrell got more notches than any other lady in both innings. Her performance enraptured the 8th Duke of Hamilton, who fell in love, proposed and wedded her before the following season. Unfortunately, his mother disapproved of the match which ultimately led to their divorce.

In the next century, Martha Grace, mother of the most famous cricketing family, was 'an imposing presence at matches, whose booming voice could be heard near and far', unlike the squeaky voice of her famous son.

In 1887 the first club, White Heather, was formed, and it survived to 1957. In 1890 two professional touring teams known collectively as the Original English Lady Cricketers were in action, until the male organisers absconded with the takings! By the end of the century, cricket was being played in girls' schools such as Roedean and Wycombe Abbey.

The Women's Cricket Association was founded in 1926, and in 1934–35 it sent a team to Australia and New Zealand. Australia paid a return visit in 1937, and, since World War II, tours have increased.

Early international matches were mainly contested by England and Australia. The top players included Myrtle MacLagan who routed Australia for 47 with seven for 10 in the first-ever women's Test in 1934/35 and scored 119, the first century v. Australia in 2nd Test. Molly Hide captained England in 15 Tests spread over two decades. Australia's greatest player was Betty Wilson, who was featured in the previous edition of *Boundary View*. Local girl, Rachel Heyhoe-Flint captained England from 1966 to 1978, and was unbeaten in six Test series.

Isabelle also lauded players of the present day – notably Clare Taylor (Wisden Cricketer of the Year 2009) and Charlotte Edwards (current England captain and most capped female cricketer in the world).

The admittance of women as members of MCC was finally achieved in 1998; four years later Isabelle Duncan became a full member. She is pleased to report that in neither case has the world come to an end.

Eighty-odd members warmly applauded Isabelle for a most enjoyable evening for her enthusiastic talk of a part of the game that is growing in popularity and success with each passing year.

ANDY COLLIER – 16 APRIL 2015

Talks about museums are often boring but when the museum belongs to our final speaker of the season the topic suddenly becomes meaningful and interesting! This was the case with Andy Collier, the creator and curator of the Cotswold Cricket Museum at Stow-on-the-Wold.*

It clearly is his pride and joy! He does not intend to let it stand still. He is constantly on the look out for more memorabilia whether from private donations or if necessary purchases from eBay.

He gave an enthusiastic presentation which included a virtual tour of the museum with the aid of slides of the exhibits and their layout.

Andy is very proud of his links with Surrey CCC and especially a recently acquired bat and stump from the 100th Test of Alec Stewart.

An earlier and much-prized possession was in connection with Alfred Mynn. Andy had obtained letters written to 'The Lion of Kent' by his children when they were 10 and 11 years of age. The writing was immaculate and affectionate but lacking in warmth.

Another section that caught the eye was the accumulation of caps, blazers and bats. There was a tale to tell for most of them. There was also plenty on display of WG and The Don – a surprise if there hadn't been!

There was not time for everything. If you want to see more, visit the museum. It is not expensive but allow at least two hours viewing time and even that may not be sufficient.

I am sure that he will have many S&DCS members visiting in the near future – some perhaps for the second or third time!

Dave Nicklin

* Not Stroud as incorrectly stated in the previous edition of *Boundary View* - My apologies, Ed.

CHAIRMAN'S VIEW - *continued*

despair down under and great joy for English cricket. A wonderful application of bowling skills by England and skilful batting by Joe Root in particular, a product of County Cricket's four day championship. (Please don't destroy it Mr Graves - it works!).

Michael Clarke retires at the end of this series as a direct result of failing to win an Ashes series in England as an Australian captain. Much maligned by many Australians for not being your 'typical Aussie' cricketer. He does however average close on 50 and has been one of Australia's finest batsmen. His aggressive leadership and spokesman for Australian cricket following the sad loss of his colleague and best mate Phil Hughes, endorsed the quality of the man and won him many admirers around the world.

Domestically, have we ever witnessed a more hard fought first division County Championship? With the exception of Yorkshire, who are slightly better than most, a large percentage of games have produced absorbing cricket. There seems plenty of very good young players around, proving that the English coaching system is working well.

With few matches left of this season, may I wish you hours of joy throughout the coming winter and on behalf of our Committee, request your attendance and support at our meetings.

Mike Tomkins

2015/16 MEETINGS' PROGRAMME

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

October 15 Paul Horton (Lancashire)

Once regarded as a batsman whose measured style was best suited to four-day cricket, Sydney-born Paul Horton has become a versatile performer in all forms of the game. He has also become one of the best slip fielders on the English county circuit.

November 19 Stephen Chalke (Author & Publisher)

This evening's guest runs his own publishing company, Fairfield Books, specialising mainly in cricket. He has just completed a history of the county championship *Summer's Crown*, and copies will be available to purchase.

December 10 * Darren Maddy (Leicestershire & Warwickshire)

Darren first played for Leicestershire and was part of their Championship-winning teams of 1996 and 1998. He moved to Warwickshire in 2006, elected captain in 2007 and 2008, leading them back to Division One of the Championship.

January 21 Ken Burney (W.G. Grace)

Ken will eulogise 'The Champion' whose first-class debut sesquicentenary and death centenary both occur in 2015. He will also discuss Grace's two amazing seasons of 1876 and 1895. Some of Ken's collection of WG Grace cricketana will be on display.

February 18 ** John Barclay (Sussex)

The inimitable Bonn-born, Old Etonian never fails to captivate his audience and this lunchtime presentation is sure to be no exception. His career occurred too late for him to appear for the Gentlemen v. Players. He would have been in his element!

March 17 David Steele (Northamptonshire and England)

At the age of 33, he was chosen to make his debut for England – against Australia with both Lillee and Thompson at their peak. During his 1975 benefit season at Northants, David received a meat chop for every run he scored from a grateful local butcher!

April 14 David Houghton (Zimbabwe) with Dave Bradley (BBC Hereford and Worcester)

Dave Houghton, Zimbabwe's first Test captain, holds the record for the most runs in Tests without a duck, with 1464 runs in 22 Tests for Zimbabwe without ever being out for nought. He is highly rated as a coach at both national and county level.

NOTES

* Both the December and April meetings will be held on the second Tuesday
** The February meeting will be held at lunchtime; further details to be announced

DON KENYON BOOK

The launch of the biography of Don Kenyon, *His Own Man*, will be held at 9.45 am on 22 September in the Graeme Hick pavilion.

The book's author Tim Jones, SCS member and Worcestershire CCC board member, will be present to sign copies on the opening day of the match against Middlesex.

Members unable to attend the book's release at New Road will be able to purchase the book, priced at £15, at SCS monthly meetings.

ANSWERS TO ASHES QUIZ

1. Ray Illingworth
2. Rodney Hogg
3. Ray Bright
4. Derek Randall
5. John Inverarity
6. Fleetwood
7. Graham Yallop
8. Bob Massie
9. 1975
10. Greg Chappell
11. Mike Denness
12. Michael Angelow
13. Melbourne
14. Six.

The *Mastermind* finalist, David Greenwood, scored 12/14

TREASURER'S NOTICES

COFFEE COLLECTION

The collection box for Mary Stevens Hospice raised £186 - the highest amount to date!

The money is raised through donations for cups of coffee at the meetings.

Let us set a target of £199 for the coming winter season – and beat it!

NON-MEMBERS / GUESTS

Members are reminded that although we do not charge NON-MEMBERS and / or GUESTS for admission to our monthly meetings this concession is limited to ONE meeting in a season.

FINAL REMINDER

The reduced subscription offer only applies to renewals received by post by 14 October.

The full membership fee is payable after that date.

ASHES SUCCESS FOR MOEEN

Moeen Ali made history via his form with the bat as part of the England squad which won the Ashes this summer. Moeen ended as England's third highest scorer in the five match series with 293 runs from eight innings at an average of 36.62.

It meant the 28-year-old scored more runs than any other England batsman in a series in Test history batting at number eight or lower.

Moeen even went in at number nine if England opted to send in a night-watchman - as was the case with Mark Wood on the penultimate evening at the Kia Oval.

Only Joe Root (460 at 57.50) and skipper Alastair Cook (330 at 36.66) scored more runs for England during their 3-2 triumph. Moeen contributed with the bat in every Test, his scores being 77 and 15 at Cardiff, 39 and 0 at Lord's, 59 at Edgbaston, 38 at Trent Bridge and 30 and 35 at The Oval.

With thanks to Worcs CCC website

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 refuse the publication of any material submitted without further reason.

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