

Boundary View

Spring 2015

The Newsletter of Stourbridge & District Cricket Society

Founded 1972

Chairman's View

We approach the new cricket season with both our local counties playing first division cricket with a midsummer Ashes to look forward to. Our local clubs will be starting nets and hoping to recruit new players to freshen up their teams.

Here at Stourbridge our Society's membership is strong although there is always a need for a little fine tuning i.e. young members and a few more ladies to bolster our numbers. This will in turn give us all a more rounded view of what they like or dislike about cricket.

Colin Graves ex-Chairman of Yorkshire has been elected Chairman of the E.C.B. and says he wants to "reinvent and rejuvenate cricket in this country over the next five years".

There does not seem much fine tuning there, does cricket need this approach? I am a mere cricket follower and think not. Why change something that works extremely well, three day cricket instead of four? Four day text cricket to replace five? Surely the longevity of the game is what makes it fascinating and different. We don't all want to eat at McDonalds!

Remember the bad old days of three day cricket, joke bowling to set up declarations, endless hours waiting

around in sunny conditions whilst the uncovered square dried out. A county championship where counties did not play certain counties twice.

If we look at the possibility of introducing franchise cricket to these shores which Colin Graves suggests, it could spell disaster for two thirds of our counties. Inviting international cricketers here in large numbers to play T20 cricket at Test grounds without a roof cover is scary. Imagine trying to explain to first time cricket spectators who have never played the game. "We are not playing tonight because it's raining". They then reply "it's only drizzling". You try and explain. "Yes, but it's been drizzling all day"!

India and Australia have the climate which equals large crowds, which equals big profits, we don't.

I truly feel the best way forward is not to drastically change cricket yet again but to explore ways of selling cricket which is already a good product through media and advertising.

There is very little terrestrial TV coverage and although we are told that more schools than ever are targeted by our development personnel we don't see many boys and girls walking around with cricket bats. I would suggest that cricket doesn't need more changes it is a superb sport just go out and sell it.

Two Toms . . .



Tom Fell and Tom Kohler-Cadmore

are two young men who are key to Worcestershire's prospects of success in the County's return to Division One.

Fell (left) already has two County Championship hundreds under his belt, but Kohler-Cadmore has yet to score a first-class century; his highest to date being 99. Expect the runs to flow once that monkey is off Coca's back.

[Sorry, cricketers are not known for subtlety when it comes to nicknames!]

. . . and Two Tims

SCS member and Worcestershire CCC Heritage Group Chairman, Tim Jones, which was commisioned by Mrs Root to latest antiques programme, *The Great Antiques Map of Britain* hosted by Tim Wonnacott.

Many items of Worcestershire's heritage collection could have been included, but only two were featured.

Tim introduced a memento that consisted of one half of a ball that was hit by W. L. Bill Foster and his brother 'Tip', when each scored centuries in both innings against Hampshire in 1899. Wonnacott estimated that today the item might fetch £1,000 -£1,500.

Also featured was a beautiful hand-painted Royal Worcester plaque which was commisioned by Mrs Root to commemorate the feat of her husband Fred, when he took 207 wickets (av. 17.52), in 1925.

Fred's achievement remains a Worcestershire record.

The plaque showed the familiar scene with Worcester Cathedral providing the backdrop to a match in play.

In spite of a hairline crack, Wonnacott valued the plaque between £3,000 and £4,000.

[I think the other half of the cricket ball is on display in the pavilion at Malvern College—Ed.]

Cricket Memorabilia Day

Worcestershire v. Durham

Sunday 24 May 2015

No charge for admission to the marquee

Browsers and Buyers welcome!

For further info, contact:

Mike Niccolls – 01905 29197 – mandniccolls@gmail.com

New Members

We welcome the following persons who have recently joined the Society:

Roy Davies (Wollaston)
Michael Evans (Brierley Hill)
Frank Jones (Oldbury)
Gerald Kendrick (Sedgeley)
Peter Parsons (Stourbridge)
Robin Viner (Stourbridge)
Richard Williams (Stourbridge)

AGM Reminder

Members are reminded that the AGM will be held at 7.30pm on 16 April in Stourbridge CC pavilion.

The Committee will welcome any ideas as how the Society may be improved.

The last meeting of the season will commence at 8pm or as soon after the AGM has been concluded.

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)



Test Ton & 10 Wickets

Following the report* of Shakib al Hasan becoming only the third cricketer, after Ian Botham and Imran Khan, to score a century and take 10 wickets in a Test, I have found evidence of the feat being achieved earlier.

In the second Test against England, played at St Kilda's, Melbourne in 1957-58, Australia's Betty Wilson (above) became the first cricketer, male or female, to score a 100 and take 10 wickets in a Test.

On a wet wicket, she took seven for 7 in the first innings, which included the first ever hat-trick in a women's Test and went on to take four wickets in five balls. She top scored with 12 in Australia's low first effort of only 38, and made exactly 100 in the second innings.

Wilson's match bowling figures of eleven for 16 (7/7 & 4/9) stood as a record until eclipsed by Shaiza Khan (13/226) for Pakistan Women v. West Indies Women at Karachi in 2004.

The Australian could have achieved the feat twice before.

On her debut in 1948, she scored 90 against New Zealand Women and had bowling figures of 4/37 & 6/28. On her next appearance, in 1949 against England Women, Wilson scored 111 (the first Test century by an Australian woman) and had bowling figures of 6/23 & 3/39.

Betty Wilson played 11 Tests between 1948 and 1958. She scored 862 runs (av. 57.46) with 3 Test hundreds (HS 127) and took 68 wickets (av. 11.80).

Elizabeth Rebecca Wilson died in Melbourne, aged 88, in 2010.

* *Boundary View*: No.8

Cricket Memories - DON KENYON by Terry Church

I watched **Don Kenyon** many times during his career and more often than not I was seeing a master craftsman at work as he reached his half century, often proceeding to reach three figures, setting Worcestershire on their way to a good score. Strangely, however, I have to admit that high in my subconscious is a match at Dudley against Nottinghamshire in June 1952 and as we left the ground the Express and Star placards harshly proclaimed "Kenyon out second ball at Dudley".

My memory reminds me that on the days that I journeyed to New Road the visitors were inevitably dismissed after tea on the first day leaving Don and **Martin Horton** to bat for an hour or so to the close of play. Cap clad and similar in build they kept the scoreboard ticking along with boundaries and a seemingly telepathic understanding as they scampered singles and twos with seeming abandon. Of course it couldn't always have been like that but fifty years on it seems so.

I was first introduced to Don in the mid 1970's when I was a representative from Worcestershire Cricket Association on the County committee, although any conversations that I had with him were not easy, however much he tried to put me at my ease, as I was so much in awe of him. A couple of years later I assumed the position of secretary of the Don Kenyon Knock out Competition, by which time I had gained in confidence and found it much easier to converse with him when he attended meetings, inevitably accompanied by **Norman Whiting**. Don observed, made a pertinent point when necessary but never interfered.

I believe I soon had reason to be grateful that I had made some impact on Don. The County chairman, **Geoffrey Lampard**, nominated me for membership of MCC and Don agreed to second my application. A twenty year waiting list for membership? I became a member in less than two years! Don's influence? I like to think so.

Don was born in Wordsley in 1924, attending Brook Street School and Audnam, completing his education at Brierley Hill Technical College, leaving to join Lunt Brothers in Lower High Street, Stourbridge. Taken along to the nets at Stourbridge he soon broke into their Birmingham League First Division side. Consistent displays soon attracted the attention of Worcestershire and he was taken on the staff in 1946 and made his debut against Surrey, at New Road.

His contribution to Worcestershire cricket over the next fifty years was immeasurable. Following service in the RAF he was regularly available in 1947 when he was awarded his cap passing one thousand runs for the first time, with his first century coming against Nottinghamshire at Dudley, sharing a partnership of one hundred and twenty eight with **Charlie Palmer**. In 1950 he was chosen for the Test trial at Bradford and also appeared for The Players in their annual fixture against The Gentlemen, at Lord's. His form remained remarkably consistent for the next sixteen years as he inspired Worcestershire to honours that earlier looked unobtainable. In 1953 his one hundred and twenty two was the first century made by a Worcestershire player against the Australians.

The tradition of an amateur captain was abandoned when Don was appointed to the post in 1959 and over time he was able to shape the side to his requirements, as it became a force to be reckoned with. They reached the first final of the Gillette Cup although they were defeated by Sussex, and in 1964 gaining the ultimate prize, becoming County champions, winning eighteen of their twenty-eight matches. The feat was repeated in the following season that Don put down to "complete team spirit and effort and a happy smile". Much of that must be credited to Don's astute captaincy and man management. Statistics do not tell the whole story but Don's career stands comparison with most - 37002 runs, 74 centuries, including seven double hundreds, 2000 runs in a season on six occasions, eight England caps, Captain of Worcestershire 1959-1967, Wisden Cricketer of the Year 1963 Worcestershire President 1986-89, Test Selector 1965-1972. Oh, and one first class wicket in the game against the 1967 Pakistan Tourists with the scorecard reading "Arif Butt c&b Kenyon 1".

Don died suddenly in 1996 whilst attending a Worcestershire Cricket Society meeting at New Road.

Stourbridge Cricket Club was where it all started for Don and he was a supportive President of Stourbridge and District Cricket Society from 1972 until 1995 attending their meetings, held in the club's pavilion, when he could, again accompanied by his old friend **Norman Whiting**. The link with Stourbridge remains as Don's widow, Jean, and daughter, Sue, often travel from Worcester to the Society's meetings, always being assured of a warm welcome.

Become a Friend of the Cotswold Cricket Museum!

The Museum at Stroud has announced a great money-saving offer!
For the sum of £20, you can enjoy unlimited entry to the museum for one year.
In addition, each Friend will receive a copy of the quarterly newsletter.
The Grace Tea and Coffee Lounge is open for drinks and snacks within the museum.
Please note that the Museum and facilities are closed on Mondays.
Further details are available on: www.cotswoldcricketmuseum.co.uk

MARK CHILTON – Lancashire

18 December 2014

Most entertaining evening with the former Lancashire captain Mark Chilton was enjoyed by another house-full audience. Although Yorkshire-born, Mark regards himself as a true Lancastrian, having returned to the County as 2nd XI coach - after retiring as a player in 2011.

Chilton's path to first-class cricket began at Manchester Grammar School where he followed in the footsteps of Mike Atherton and John Crawley. Mark had trials with Lancashire alongside Andrew Flintoff and Phil Neville; the latter was as good at cricketer as he was at football. In one match both Chilton and Neville scored hundreds. It was customary for the club to present the batsman with the ball, duly-mounted. Rather than splashing the cash, Lancashire had the ball split in two. "Mine is in pride of place on my parents' mantelpiece; I wonder if Phil knows where his half his!" quipped Chilton.

Thence to Durham University, where Mark rubbed shoulders with the likes of Andrew Strauss, Ben Hutton (grandson of Sir Len), Martin-Jenkins (son of Christopher) and his future Lancashire colleague, Luke Sutton.

Having gained a Degree in Economics, Mark made his first-class debut for Lancashire in 1997, but it was not until 1999 that he cemented his place in the side. In all, Chilton played fifteen seasons for Lancashire and scored 9,556 runs (av. 32.72) with 21 centuries, the highest of which was 131 against Kent in 2006.

He succeeded Warren Hegg as captain in 2005 and set about imbuing his team with the true spirit of cricket, a philosophy not always shared by the likes of Flintoff and Dominic Cork. However, Mark led Lancashire to the 2nd Division title that season and a year later finished as runners-up in both the Championship and the C&G competition. Mark rued: "Although I came second a lot, I enjoyed - and still enjoy - every cricket moment."

In the Q&A session, Mark assessed his former colleagues: Crawley was the best batsman; Sutton the easiest to captain, whereas Stuart Law, Cork, Mike Watkinson and Sajid Mahmood were the most challenging. Chilton thought that Alastair Cook should step down as captain of the ODI side and take a break before The Ashes next year. He worried about the gulf between the two divisions and thought overseas players should be contracted to play for six months - not six weeks. He hoped Saeed Ajmal's new action would pass muster, but thought he should have been banned long before. The evening ended with a Christmas sing-along as the former skipper turned busker.

ALAN RICHARDSON – Derbys, Warwks, Middx and Worcs with Dave Bradley BBC H&W - 15 January 2015

In cricket terms, Alan Richardson can rightly be described as a late developer.

Born in 1975, Alan played worked his way up with his native Staffordshire and came to the attention of Derbyshire. In 1995, he played only once, against Oxford University, for the East Midland side and promptly returned to Minor County cricket and various jobs for a living. Four years after his first-class debut, he faced the same opponents, having been given now a fresh start with Warwickshire. He played 63 matches over five seasons for the Bears and took 163 wickets (av. 32.87). He admitted that his Warwickshire playing days were affected "by a fractious dressing room". However, he is proud of a batting record which he holds with Nick Knight, when the duo put on 214 for the last wicket against Hampshire in 2002. Alan's share was a swashbuckling 91, which remains the only fifty of his career. He was at the crease for an unfamiliar 256 minutes and his innings contained ten fours and a six. Two years later and unable to command a regular place in the side, Alan was shown the door by Warwickshire. Richardson confessed: "I had a stinking season. It was almost a relief as the Edgbaston crowd were very unforgiving, which duly affected my performances."

Interest was shown by Yorkshire and Middlesex. "I didn't fancy Yorkshire, but relished the prospect of playing for Middlesex. I went from twelfth man at Edgbaston to opening bowler at Lord's." Unfortunately, Alan's stay was beset by injuries and he played only 43 matches spread over four seasons.

Eyebrows were raised when news was announced that Richardson's next cricket home would be at New Road. "Vikram Solanki and Bumpy Rhodes showed confidence in me and I knew this was my last chance." Richardson repaid Worcestershire's faith with the four best seasons of his career with a haul of 254 first-class wickets (av. 22.07). During that time, he never took less than 50 wickets a season and in 2011 bagged 73 which earned him the accolade as one of *Wisden's* Cricketers of the Year. "I was a bit miffed when all I got was a book; I'd rather have had the cash!" He is one of the relatively few choices not to have played Test cricket.

It came as a surprise to many when, in January 2014, Alan quit Worcestershire to take up a coaching position at Edgbaston. "I loved my time at Worcester, but it was far too good an opportunity to miss. I knew also it was the right time. Although I wanted to play, I was finding it very difficult physically."

Alan is optimistic about Worcestershire's chances in 2015. "They'll have an uphill battle, but they are a young side that is maturing. There is a great team spirit and superb backroom staff. Mitchell is a brilliant leader, Shantray bowled superbly and hopefully Andrew will have regained his fitness. The outlook for Ajmal looks promising and Alex Gidman will bolster the batting. The youngsters to watch are Fell, Kohler-Cadmore and Morris." Richardson admitted: "Throughout my career, I seem to have been lucky to have been in the right place at the right time." That sentiment could also apply to the capacity audience present on a cold winter's night in Stourbridge.

ALAN HILL – Derbyshire

19 February 2015

As Derbyshire's opening batsman, Alan Hill admitted that his dour batting style won him few friends among spectators, the press, umpires and fellow players. But thirty years later, he won the hearts and minds of those attending February's meeting. At Old Trafford, a wag barracked Hill, 'I've counted more trains passing by than runs you've made.' One pressman likened the opener's batting to that of 'a reckless stalactite'. On spotting Hill's name on the team sheet for a Gillette game against Suffolk, the acerbic umpire, Arthur Jephson queried, 'Have you come for a draw then?' Playing Yorkshire, pace bowler, Tony Nicholson shouted to his obstinate opponent, 'If you were batting on my front lawn, I'd draw the curtains!'

But these thorny quips only serve to belie the man who has blossomed into a humorous and engaging raconteur. Alan Hill played 253 matches for Derbyshire during 1972-86 and scored 12,043 runs. He hit 17 centuries, the highest being 172* against Yorkshire in his last season. In that match, Jean-Jacques from Dominica scored 73 on his first-class debut and helped Hill add 132 for a tenth wicket record against their neighbours. Thereafter, Alan enjoyed one season in South Africa where for Orange Free State against Griqualand West, he made 103. The score did not include a single boundary! "The grass was so long, the ball never reached the ropes!" he recalled. His unique record did not last long as Paul Hibbert did likewise in Australia in the same year.

Alan recalled the match at Buxton in 1975 when snow fell in June! On Saturday, the first day, Lancashire amassed 477 for five in their allotted 100 overs and by the close, Derbyshire were 25 for two (Hill 0).

Next day Hill, who lived a few miles from Buxton, awoke to be greeted by a covering of snow and feared the worst, as the cricket ground was the highest in the country. Play was ruled out on Monday, but a thaw - and umpire Dickie Bird - ensured that play would start on time on Tuesday. Alan's worry was not misplaced. Derbyshire were all out for 42 and 87 to lose by an innings and 348 runs! The pitch was so bad that Ashley Harvey-Walker wrapped his false teeth in a handkerchief and passed them to Bird for safe-keeping!

He took up umpiring after retirement, but packed it in after two seasons. Apart from Jephson and Bird, Alan best remembered Bill Alley, who seldom forgot or forgave any batsmen who tried to con him.

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

19 March Isabelle Duncan - Author of *Skirting the Boundary*
16 April AGM followed at 8pm by Andy Collier (Creator and Curator of the Cotswold Cricket Museum)
Reports of these presentations will appear in the next newsletter in Autumn 2015

E.G. Ted Arnold

Inspired by Ken Workman's most interesting guide to Worcestershire all-rounders in the Winter 2014 edition of *Boundary View*, I opted to examine the deeds of the third man on the list.

Although Edward George Arnold was not Worcestershire's greatest all-rounder, he most certainly was the first. His all-round ability (18 first-class centuries, and close to 1000 county wickets) enabled his adopted county to take on any opponent.

He was an ever-present in the side when the county gained first-class status in 1899 and gave valuable service until 1913. Actually his career for Worcestershire began when he helped the county jointly win the inaugural Minor Counties Championship in 1895. The trophy was shared with Norfolk and Durham. Worcestershire ensured they were champions outright for each of the next three seasons, which culminated in the county becoming the fifteenth side to enter the Championship.

Together with the three senior Foster brothers, Arnold was largely responsible, on the field, for the elevation of Worcestershire to first-class status.

Ted Arnold was born near Exmouth and was certainly the first Devonian to appear for Worcestershire. It is said that an agreement made between E.G. Arnold Snr., on behalf of his son, then 17 years of age, and Paul Foley for the county, ensured that Ted received a weekly wage of two pounds, throughout the year.

Arnold played a total of 301 first-class matches for the county and ten Tests for his country.

Wisden described Ted Arnold in his obituary as "an all-round cricketer of sterling merit". He was three times part of England teams that won Test series, notably that of Warner's 1903-4 Ashes tour. His Test debut was impressive - he removed the illustrious opening pair of Duff and Trumper with just nine on the scoreboard; R.E. Foster also made his debut in this match and held a stunning slip catch to dismiss the latter opener.

Arnold played an important role in England's win in the crucial fourth Test. His four first-innings wickets, and second-innings dismissal of Victor Trumper more than compensated for his pair of ducks.

Ted Arnold bowled at medium pace or faster, varying his pace well, and moving the ball off the wicket. He used all his considerable height with an upright delivery, developing lift, particularly on rain-affected wickets where his bowling was particularly effective. He was one of the early exponents of swing bowling, following the example of Hirst, with an excellent away-swing. Arnold had a solid defence, and a range of powerful strokes, although his batting was not seen at its best in Tests. He usually fielded in the slips, where he had a safe pair of hands.

In many team photos of his day, Ted Arnold could often be readily identified by a cigarette drooping from the corner of his mouth.

Anthony Collis

Alan Hill continued

Alan recalled his greatest hero, Gary Sobers. "He made a century against us and got his runs only in singles, fours and sixes as his knees were crocked," Alan said.

He has concerns about the game's future. He worries that the money pouring into the game will not reach the areas where it is most needed - at grass roots level. Why does England need ten different Test venues? He fears that India, England and Australia are dictating the game far too much and deplores the lack of control in West Indies cricket.

An indication of the value that Alan Hill's batting meant to Derbyshire was that the two counties he made most runs against in his career were Lancashire and Yorkshire - enough said.

Don Kenyon - His Own Man

Tim Jones's biography of Stourbridge's greatest cricketer is due to be published in September 2015.

The Wordsley-born batsman became a hero when he led the County to its first Championship success in 1964, and did so again a year later!

He was 'a leader of champions' and 'a champion of leaders'.

The book is sure to be a success and SCS members may order their copy in advance at meetings or email to: timajones405@aol.com. The price will be around £13 post-age extra if relevant)

Diary Date - 3 September 2015

Stourbridge Cricket Club is holding a VIP Day at New Road on the opening day of the Championship match against Sussex.

Members of the Cricket Society are invited to spend the day with Stourbridge CC members in the marquee, where a two-course lunch will be served. A fully licensed bar will be available to provide further enjoyment.

The cost of the day is £40 per person, plus transport, if required from Amblecote.

A 50% deposit is required to reserve a place which must be received by Ken Workman by 16 April 2015.

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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