

Boundary View

The newsletter of Stourbridge & District Cricket Society

www.sdcs.cricket

Founded 1972

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GROUNDHOG DAY

Even by England standards, this was a “complete fiasco”, said Paul Newman in *The Mail on Sunday*. Their Caribbean tour went from bad to worse last week when they stumbled to another “shambolic” defeat.

The second Test against West Indies was wrapped up in only three days: England were beaten by ten wickets, scoring only 319 across their two innings. With another Test still to play, they have already lost the series to a team ranked a lowly No. 8 in the world. So far, England have averaged a pathetic 16.05 r.p.w – their worst return since the 1880s.

What is it about England and batting collapses? Mike Atherton asked in *The Times*. Whoever the opponents, whatever the conditions, they keep collapsing. That’s because they have only one way of batting, said George Dobell on *ESPN crickinfo*. They react to every challenge by “trying to hit the ball harder, further and faster”. The top-order batsmen, in particular, lack the discipline to grind out results, but there are no obvious alternatives: never in the history of English cricket has there been “such a dearth of top-order batsmen”.

“Blame County cricket”, said Geoff Boycott in the *Daily Telegraph*. It keeps devoting more and more time to white-ball cricket, while marginalising the longer form of the game; as a result, too few “decent” Test batsmen are rising up the ranks. Meanwhile, the captain, Joe Root, and coaching staff encourage the players to attack when they bat, no matter the cost.

[The third Test appears to have upset most, if not all, of the above lamentations. It will be interesting to hear what S&DCS man-on-the-spot, Kieron Weatherstone has to say on the matter, when he returns home].

BELBROUGHTON CC

An undated team photograph (definitely pre-WW1) has been submitted by Bromsgrove historian John Weston, in an appeal for help in identifying any persons. The picture can be seen on the S&DCS website. If your family has links with the area, you may be able to help!



Stuart Lampitt

See page 2

TREASURER’S ILLNESS

As you may know, S&DCS Treasurer, Robin Viner was admitted to Russell Hall Hospital at the end of last year and, as at the time of writing (early-February), he is still there.

Various members have been to visit him and he is reported to be responding, to treatment, slowly but surely.

We have obtained a cricket photograph, which we invite members to sign. Please note that the card will only be available for signing by those attending the meeting on 21 February.

FUTURE PUBLICATIONS BOUNDARY VIEW

The newsletter’s next issue will be published in August, together with the 2019/20 subscription renewal form.

EXTRA COVER NO. 2

The next edition of Extra Cover will be available at the first meeting of 2019/20 season.

Further items received for potential publication include:

- Stourbridge district’s first Test cricketer by John Weston
- Delhi v Bombay - 1986 Attended by Brian Gittins
- Black Country-born first-class cricketers - a potential jubilee project

CHAIRMAN’S VIEW

Amidst all the current economic gloom we have a spring of opportunity before us in the world of cricket. With the World Cup starting at the Oval on 30th May, England v South Africa and ending at Lord’s with the final on Sunday 14th July, high expectations of large crowds and an England team with great potential, there is at least an opportunity to exit the gloom of winter.

The ECB must not allow a repeat of the errors of 1999, a tournament organised by the ICC with a damp squib of an opening ceremony of daylight fireworks at a wet Lord’s. Cricket deserves better.

The summer Ashes begin on the 1st August at Edgbaston which will offer a chance for England to put right the batting weaknesses of a disappointing tour of the West Indies and seek to gain some respect from the many who follow overseas tours.

County cricket I believe is competitive and well worth watching. This is not helped I may add, by the congested nature of the domestic fixtures which railroad the competition more or less to early spring, late summer, thus putting immense pressure on grounds-men expected to produce to coin a phrase “a good cricket wicket”.

Our Society encouragingly is strengthening growth, reversing the downward numerical trend which we saw over the last eighteen months and now reaching the numbers we expect and deserve with the quality of guest speakers Terry is producing. We still, however, have to sew the seeds, all of us, to introduce younger members and ladies to encourage future growth in our Society.

Enjoy the rest of this year’s programme and please come along to our AGM on the 11th April which will be followed by our guest speaker for the

NEW MEMBER

We welcome our latest new member:
David Burke - Halesowen
We hope you will enjoy many pleasant meetings with S&DCS
Please introduce yourself, on arrival, to Kieron, our Membership Secretary.

Supporting Cricket Is as Important as Playing Cricket!

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

Dave Nicklin (President)
Anthony Collis (Secretary / Editor)

Mike Tomkins (Chairman)
Brian Lester (Special Projects)

Terry Church (Vice-Chairman / Programme Secretary)
Robin Viner (Treasurer)
Kieron Weatherstone (Membership)

ALAN FORDHAM (Northamptonshire & ECB)

Since his retirement from playing, Alan has taken on the perplexing task of arranging the season's domestic fixtures, an assignment he has performed creditably for the past twenty-one years.

What S&DCS members did not expect to hear from Alan Fordham was a frank and genuine admission about the pressures he endured in his playing days.

Alan Fordham was born and bred in Bedford. Alan paid tribute to Andy Curtis (Oxford University & Bedfordshire) who coached him in his early days at Bedford Town CC and no doubt tipped off Northamptonshire. 'In 1983 – after a fourth-ball duck – I was approached by the late Brian Reynolds and joined the only county I played for.' His cricket career with Northamptonshire was interrupted by a couple of years at Durham University followed on his return south by an attack of appendicitis.

He resumed his cricket career in 1989 under the captaincy of Alan Lamb who Fordham described as 'not the sharpest knife in the box'. He said he wanted me to open the batting next season. 'I thought he would forget, but he didn't! I duly made 206 not out against Yorkshire in 1990.' In the process, the two Alans set a new County third wicket record of 393. [Alan Fordham's double-hundred was his career highest score, beating by seven his previous best, made the year before, also against Yorkshire.]

Of the 25 first-class centuries he scored in his career, seven were big hundreds, in excess of 150, but it was the low scores that troubled him most, on which topic he focused the start of his talk. For some unknown reason his sequence of scores against Sussex* resulted in an average of 11, far below his overall career average of 40, the accepted benchmark of a good batsman. Were it not for three not-outs, his performance against Sussex would have been in single figures. The only comfort he now takes from his first Sussex dismissal (a duck) was caused by the future President of Pakistan!

Alan has an analytical approach to life – be it as a batsman or in his present-day occupation. 'Former Essex batsman Gordon Barker gave me sound advice that I must aim to score 90 because, on the law of averages, I would

fail in two out of three innings.' This self-imposed target enabled me enormously (but not against Sussex!). In Alan's last-ever match he calculated that, after a first innings score of 35, he needed to score either 75* or 115 in his second innings to secure a career average of 40. 'It was against Warwickshire; I managed to score 85 not out.' [He finished with an average of 40.07]



Despite his scoring target, Alan admitted to suffering fears. 'Almost every night, I imagined that next day every ball was going to get me out or hit me on the head. It was all in the mind. It was the difference between amateur and professional cricket. But it was nothing like the torment suffered by Marcus Trescothick or Jonathan Trott; mine was just scratching the surface. In my playing days, few people discussed such matters; there was no one to talk to in confidence. But I have since found out that probably three players in every team may be affected. To emphasise his point, Alan referred to his fellow batsman: 'Nigel Felton admitted that throughout his career, he was constantly in fear of failure. He was not only my opening partner, but my best friend ... and best man! Nowadays, there is more openness and there are people to help.'

Today, he heads up a team of seven at the ECB that is responsible for everything 'on the playing side of the boundary rope', which covers seven functions including competition rules and regulations, players' eligibility, registration of players, umpires, pitch consultants, and the small task of arranging the fixture list. Alan explained the process:

'We begin with international, national, and county requirements. In

2019, we host the World Cup, which takes up June and two weeks of July. All other cricket has to be arranged outside that period. The next priority is at Test level; in addition to The Ashes (the 5-match series starts in August with the last two in September!), we shall host an inaugural four-day Test against Ireland at Lord's in July), a Test between Australia and Pakistan plus a series of England v West Indies women's matches.

'County matches not only have to be arranged over the three competitions, but county preferences are taken into account, such as Worcestershire's early matches being played away due to flood risks. If we have to change a particular fixture, it can require dozens of knock-on amendments.'

After the interval, members with visions of Fordham burning the midnight oil to complete his task, were somewhat dismayed to learn that Alan now supplies the basic information to a boffin at the University of Lancaster who has devised various algorithms to do the job almost instantly.

Alan explained the "Hundred" competition in which each team will be limited to ten overs of ten balls, or twenty five-ball overs; whether five or ten, each will be bowled from the same end. A two-minute time-out break will be introduced. No overseas players will be eligible to compete.

The 100 competition is being introduced to help ensure that cricket's finances are sound as there is concern that the present degree of sponsorship, equal to 75% of total income, cannot be sustained. It is the ECB's aim that cricket must stand on its own feet within the next six years.

Other questions raised included the attitude of touring teams dictating terms such as down-grading matches from 3 to 2 days, maximising the use of subs, which produced farcical cricket, and the outrageous cost of Test tickets, which meant that bona-fide supporters are priced out.

Alan Fordham was thanked by John Huband for a most interesting and thought-provoking evening. Alan declined payment for his time and instead asked that a donation be made to the Professional Cricketers' Association.

Att: 62

13 December 2018

* Alan Fordham's sequence of score against Sussex reads as follows: 0; 3, 20*; 9, 26; 0, 14; 0*; 4; 6, 25*; 4 and 3.

Supporting Cricket Is as Important as Playing Cricket

Please spread awareness of the Society when you attend matches in the coming season!

Further information can be found on www.sdcs.cricket

STUART LAMPITT (Worcestershire)

Our first guest of 2019 was introduced as “one of Wall Heath’s Holy Trinity” by the aptly-named Terry Church. The other two were the late Jack Flavell, who, sadly, never addressed S&DCS and Paul Pridgeon who was our guest two years ago. Stuart Lampitt presented to our Society in 2000.

Stuart conceded that his match appearances for Worcestershire were often confined to deputising for Ian Botham, when he was on other duties. He greatly admired the Test star and his relaxed yet determined approach to cricket. ‘Ian’s idea of a pre-match warm-up was simply to enjoy a hot bath. I needed to have a pre-warm-up before I had a pre-match warm-up!’

Stuart Lampitt was born on the eve of England’s World Cup victory in 1966. His earliest childhood memories consist of playing cricket or football on Top Park, a recreation ground, immediately behind his home, above the family shop, at Wall Heath. ‘Because of the amount of time I played sport, Mum said that my middle name should have been “Cricket”.’

In recalling his career in cricket, Stuart owed his success to ‘fate and fortune’. He was fortunate in the help and advice he received from various sources; S&DCS committee member, Brian Lester advised Stuart at football; Jack Breakwell, Ron Headley and Gordon Smith inspired and encouraged him at the various cricket clubs of his youth. Lampitt hesitates to use the word “coach” as he says ‘Too many coaches are over-

protective and remove individual flair. I believe that aspiring, young cricketers learn from experience and from their mistakes. The charge of over-protection is the outcome of health and safety procedures.

‘It was at Himley CC where I developed my love for the game and was encouraged by Jack Breakwell, whose nephew Dennis played for Northants and later for Somerset. Not many people know that I started off as a wicket-keeper! The occasion that made the greatest impression on me was an Under13’s Texaco Cup Final when we lost to Ombersley. It was a baking hot day and all I can remember was suffering later from terrible sunburn! But that match whetted my appetite. Another game I recall was at Himley Hall when the game was halted by a swarm of bees, in which few if any of us were spared.

‘I was encouraged to move to Dudley CC who had a very strong team which won the Birmingham League in 1981. The side included Ron Headley, Gordon Smith, Joey Benjamin, Mike Moseley, Peter Moores who would play 11 matches for Worcestershire and was destined to become the England coach. I recall a 2nd XI match that I scored 150 against Brierley Hill and their captain, David Banks, matched my score, run for run.

‘My next cricket move was to Stourbridge in 1984, the year before Dudley’s ground caved in because of subsidence. There, Dave Collins was my next inspiration. In 1987, Stourbridge won the Birmingham League and did so again two years later. By now, Gordon Smith had also moved over from Dudley and the

Stourbridge team also included Banks, Chris Tolley and Gavin Haynes – all three plus myself would appear for

Worcestershire in due course. The Birmingham League was a very strong, testing ground indeed. Old Hill CC was another very good side at that time.’

History might have been different, when Lampitt moved into the realms of county cricket. In 1985, he played two 2nd XI matches for Worcestershire against Gloucestershire and Glamorgan, and less than a month later, he was invited to play for Warwickshire 2nd XI against their Yorkshire counterparts! He has reason to remember the match at Edgbaston. ‘I was 48 not out and unaware of the earlier time for lunch on the last day; consequently the declaration came and I missed out on my first fifty! ‘Next day, Basil D’Oliveira phoned and asked me to join Worcester, which I did as I preferred the more pleasant atmosphere.

‘In 1987, Messrs Botham and Dilley joined and New Road was transformed overnight. An upsurge in membership plus celebrity stars popping into the dressing room gave us all a great boost. Botham had an answer to everything – nothing was ever his fault! Once, after he was caught, he said, “The fielder wasn’t there when the bat hit the ball!”’

Stuart Lampitt played 235 first-class matches for Worcestershire. He is now administrator of the Worcestershire County League and manager of the Junior Competitions. ‘I am just so lucky to stay involved in the game that I love so much.’ Judging by the meeting’s closing applause the sentiment was echoed by the evening’s audience.

Att. 79

17 January 2019

TOM HILL

(Worcestershire Cricket Board)

Before the above talk, warm-up man Tom Hill, the Board’s Cricket Development Director delivered a short presentation

The WCB’s primary objective is to lead, support and influence the growth, quality and accessibility of recreational cricket within Worcestershire.

The WCB aims to provide opportunities for school children to enjoy the many health and social benefits that cricket promotes. Tom reminded the audience with some unpalatable truths that his team is striving to overcome.

He pointed out how far cricket had fallen down the pecking order with youngsters. Far from being a national sport—only 2% of 7-15 year-olds rate cricket as their top sport, and three out of five respondents failed to mention cricket at all. Perhaps this is not surprising when

cricket is ranked as low as the 13th-preferred choice in schools.



‘Since cricket has not been shown on terrestrial TV, the game has little or no connection with the present generation,’ said Hill, ‘They get their enjoyment and interest from their mobile phones and

tablets. We are now tapping in to those opportunities.

‘Having started playing cricket on a playground in Worcestershire I am now in the fortunate position to provide the next generation of young people with the same opportunities I had in learning and benefiting through sport.

‘As founder of *Street6’s* which brought literally cricket to Worcester’s High Street and leading a team who have secured over £1m for local community facilities, introducing over 24,000 young people to cricket in the last 3 years. We must appeal to the family as Mum makes 70% of family decisions especially as women’s cricket is on the up!

‘I am passionate about making Worcestershire cricket better and believe I can help achieve that by supporting the next generation to learn from the many benefits cricket has to offer. It creates friendships, builds teamwork and generates self-confidence!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

21 March 7.30pm	Frank Duckworth	All you need to know about DL told by the man who is the 'D' in Duckworth-Lewis! We are sure to be enlightened, if not experts, about DLS, by the evening's end!
9 April 8pm Edgbaston	Book Launch	2019 marks the 25th anniversary of Warwickshire's highly-successful season in 1994. The Midlands CS has been invited to host the launch of a book about the season. Among those present will be Patrick Murphy (the author), Stephen Chalke (the publisher), Tim Munton and others
7pm 11 April 7.45pm	47th AGM of S&DCS	All paid-up members are entitled to attend. The committee works hard to provide enjoyment for our members and we welcome any feedback and suggestions you may have. It is your society!
	Matt Rawnsley WCCC CEO	Much has happened in Matt Rawnsley's first year at the helm. His outgoing approach has proved popular with the New Road faithful, and we are certain he will provide us with a superb evening.
18 April 7.45pm	"The Long Walk Back"	This is a play about the catastrophic end to Chris Lewis's cricket career. Venue: Blue Orange Theatre, Jewellery Qtr. Further details: www.roughhousetheatre.com
27 - 30 May New Rd	Worcestershire v Middlesex	Not so long ago, Graeme Hick would have been nearing 1,000 runs in May! This is Worcestershire's first home match of 2019!
13 - 16 July New Rd	Warwickshire v Essex	Due to Edgbaston being needed for the World Cup, Warwickshire will be playing this 'home' fixture at New Road!

HELP NEEDED!

Richard Evans writes:

My cousin has a cricket ball in her possession, as the result of a house clearance. It has a silver shield with the engraving:

*Brierley Hill Athletic Club
Season 1913*

*Presented to: F. MOORHOUSE
Best bowling analysis**

It's a long shot, but can anyone help or provide any information?

If so, please contact Richard at the monthly meetings.

*The bowling figures are not shown.

BEEN OR GOING ABROAD?

S&DCS members have been afar:

Chairman **Mike Tomkins** missed the December meeting because he was in India. Committee member, **Brian Lester** followed England on their pre-Xmas tour of Sri Lanka. Membership Secretary, **Kieron Weatherstone** has just returned from a fortnight in the Caribbean.

Each has been asked to write a brief review of their respective trips for the next edition of *Extra Cover*.

If you are going on a cricket trip, somewhere different, we hope you will tell us

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE OF MEETING

The 47th AGM of Stourbridge & District Cricket Society will be held on 11 April 2019, starting at 7pm in the pavilion lounge of Stourbridge CC.

All paid-up members of the Society are entitled to attend. Any items that members wish to raise must be notified in writing to the Secretary no later than 21 March 2019.

The regular monthly meeting will begin soon after the AGM.

BRIAN LESTER

Although Brian Lester was co-opted to the committee, his particular responsibility was not defined. That matter has now been corrected and we are pleased to report that Brian will head-up Special Projects. He will be formally appointed to the committee at the AGM.

In his personal capacity, Brian won the regional award in the NatWest Oscas for his contribution to grass roots cricket. He was invited to attend the national OSCA awards at Lord's, which was attended by 300 people including former England captain, Michael Vaughan.

Brian co-ordinated the Ted Dexter caricature (a few signed copies remain) and is a key figure in the Dementia Café project at New Road. More of that later!

CLERICAL CRICKETERS

My wife and I attended Malvern Priory last Thursday lunchtime for a talk: 'Worcestershire Clerical Cricketers'.

With the aid of pictures, Anthony Collis took us through stories and anecdotes about the families who produced early players at Worcester-shire Cricket Club.

A story involving a well-known character at New Road, 'Loppy Lugs' and his encounter with Rev Mike Vockins brought laughter from the attentive audience.

At 1.30 pm, when stumps were drawn, everyone agreed that we could have listened to Anthony for another half-hour and more! Thank you - it was most enjoyable.

John Millward

[A companion booklet was compiled and a few copies remain which can be purchased at the monthly meetings, priced at £5 — *Ed.*]

THE CRICKET PAPER IS BACK ON SALE

The Cricket Paper returns after a 3-month lay-off and is on sale every Friday, priced £1.80.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

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