

# Boundary View

Winter 2013

The Newsletter of Stourbridge & District Cricket Society

Founded 1972

## Raking over The Ashes

The Ashes has a history of presenting the best and the worst examples of Test cricket. The current series has the hallmarks of repeating examples of behaviour at both ends of the spectrum.

The Brisbane Test kicked off the series in dramatic style with displays of unbridled passion, bordering on hate, clearly shown – mainly from the hosts. The home crowd let England all-rounder, Stuart Broad know their views about 'walking'. They should be reminded that one former Aussie skipper only walked when his Lawry broke down.

Broad responded in the best way by taking six for 81 plus two more in their second innings. However, Mitchell Johnson went one better with a blistering nine-wicket performance and chipped in with scores of 64 and 39\*.

Debutant George Bailey saw fit to rile James Anderson who gave back as good as he got, which resulted in Aussie skipper Michael Clarke saying Anderson could expect a 'broken f....g arm'. This resulted in Clarke losing 25% of his match fee. Only one word can describe Warner's humiliation of Trott - appalling.

Who is to blame for this sorry mess? Unquestionably, the authorities must take the major share for arranging back-to-back tours, with just three months between. There was no time for old sores to heal and fuelled the need to settle old scores.

The umpires need to take much firmer control. But they must be empowered to do so.

Cricket could do worse than should take a leaf out of football's and rugby's respective rule books. If players faced the prospect of being cited, sin-binned, sent off and the expectation of being banned for one match and possibly the series, maybe their captains would get the message.

Finally, who is to say the media are not behind the shenanigans - TV ratings have to be maintained and papers sold - but not at this cost.



Black Country sportsmen, from both cricket and football days of yore, turned up at Stourbridge CC, in early November, for the launch of Terry Church's book (shown above).

The book is an invaluable source of reference for anyone interested in the grass roots heritage of the two games in the area.

Book sales were so successful, that a reprint has already been ordered! Copies of the book may be obtained at cricket society meetings.

Tim Jones is researching information for the much-awaited biography of Don Kenyon.

Tim invites members to contact him, at meetings, with any anecdotes and information not already in the public domain.

Anthony Collis is researching the lives of the Foster family and spear-heading the campaign to restore the family graves for completion to mark the centenary of R.E. Foster's death in May 2014.

A crystal whisky glass bearing the image of 'Tip' Foster has been produced by Stourbridge Glass Engravers, with all profits going to the Graves Renovation project.

One amazing and sad fact to emerge from his research is that there are now no male progeny to continue the Foster name.

## Chairman's View

The newly-elected Chairman of the Council of Cricket Societies, Barry Rickson got our October meeting off to a great start. His talk was titled 'Century on Test Debut'.

Barry's vast knowledge of some of the achievements of the great legends of cricket and his 'look back' at golden summers, allowed us to imagine the impact such men would have had on this great game of ours.

The questions that flowed from our members confirmed that the audience was well-read on the history of cricket.

I could not help but wonder several things for instance, where, after one of his long iconic innings would W.G. have placed himself in the field? Not far off the square I would imagine. Would Hadley Verity ever have done fine leg to third man? Who would have been at cover point, diving full length and returning the ball with a hammer-like throw to stop the second run!

It would be wonderful, if it were possible, to look back on film at some of these cricket matches played on uncovered wickets. The game was played so differently then.

This would not detract of course from the individual or team performances, but would highlight how good these household names of the past were and how they met the accepted requirements of that Golden Age.

Their records and achievements would have been quite outstanding in any era and form what is now part of cricket history.

I am looking forward to my trip to Australia and shall regale members with news and views from down-under when I return. Finally, I wish all members:

*Merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year!*

*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)

## A MEMBER REMEMBERS

By Richard Greaves

Having had great pleasure over some thirty years in playing our wonderful summer game, it is amazing how many characters have left their mark on the memory.

Club cricket at all levels attracts individuals of all shapes, sizes, and ability so it little wonder that a certain comedic value reveals itself in the conduct of the game and the people who play it. *Here are a few snicks that spring to mind from personal experience.*

A certain middle order batsman was so confident in his own ability that he laid a bet with his workmates that he would pay them £1 for every duck if they would pay him 1p. for every run he scored. He rubbed his hands in expectation at the start of the season only to call off the bet about six weeks later after five ducks and a score in single figures!

The Laws of the game state that a player acting as a runner must be similarly attired as the injured player-gloves, pads, etc. One rather corpulent player in need of such, was amazed to see his runner emerge from the pavilion with not only the normal accoutrements but with a rather large cushion stuffed up the front of his sweater!

Bowlers always try to relay surreptitious signals to a wicket keeper to convey the type of delivery they are intending to bowl. These are best done before the batsman has taken guard as otherwise it would negate any intended surprise at a later stage of his spell. One unfortunate quickie was about to bowl the first over when he paused at the start of his run and hailed the keeper at full

voice, raising his bowling arm above his head, 'When I do this, it's me slow-un'.

When fielding in the deep it is accepted practice to walk in with the bowler so one is prepared for any further activity should the ball be propelled in your general direction. The bowler also sets a field so as to maximise his chances of getting a batsman caught - especially a spin bowler. One player having completed his bowling stint was dispatched to the long-on boundary by the off spinner taking the next over.

His concentration must have begun to wane as the skipper was constantly having to remind him to 'walk in'. Eventually, having been tied down by some accurate deliveries, the batsman decided he needed to try and remove the shackles so lofted a drive in the general direction of long-off. The bowler exhorted the fielder to catch it, only to hear a reply of 'yes, boss' right behind him as the unfortunate player had obeyed the instruction to 'walk in' but had not realised the need to walk back again before the next delivery.

Most players regard keeping their kit clean and tidy as the norm. Some have been known to keep kit just for use in away fixtures being desirous of creating a good impression, especially when visiting a new club. (It has been said that all players sporting the same headgear in club colours is worth 20-30 runs.) Hence it was never any surprise when a clean plastic shopping bag was carefully extracted from the kit bag containing the 'going away trousers'.

Bats are always looked upon as especially personal equipment; their owners religiously guarding their use by

colleagues and even personifying them with epithets such as 'old faithful' one such player was known to only allow the number eleven to use his bat as 'he was unlikely to damage it'. Unlike yours truly who being rather green bought a brand new Gray Nicholls for the princely sum of £16 (this shows how long ago this was) - and after carefully knocking in for quite some time, proudly sported my acquisition in the dressing room. The number three asked if he could borrow it and not being required until the fall of the sixth wicket I agreed. When he returned to the pavilion my brand new bat was in a sorry state as he had bludgeoned 138 to all parts of the ground. He did offer to buy the bat but I hadn't the heart to part with it after that - his luck might just rub off!

Finally, talking about clean bats, one player I remember had one such implement - for this was the best way of describing it - which was in need of some TLC. The skipper told him it looked as though it was kept in the 'coal-hole'. It was dirty, split across its toe with a tatty rubber on the handle. The words were taken to heart. The next week the player proudly displayed his handiwork. The face was pristine, the rubber replaced and the toe glued and bound. It now looked like a proper blade until one examined the splice. Attached to the bat where the makers mark would normally be found was a Dewar's Scotch label. On enquiry, the unabashed owner declared that as we all had a Gray Nicholls or a Gunn and Moore or other such makes - he was the proud owner of a 'DRUNKEN FERNLEY'!

### TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS QUIZ

The number in brackets is the respective day. Answers on back page!

1 (25) Which Test captain was born on Christmas Day?

2 (26) On Boxing Day 1946, the second instance of a fielder completing a hat-trick in a first-class match occurred. In which country did the match take place?

3 (27) Name the wicket-keeper, who died on this day. In 1965, he played seven consecutive first-class matches without conceding a single bye.

4 (28) Born on this day in 1910, he was generally acclaimed to be the worst Test cricketer of all time. Who was he?

5 (29) Who, on this day, was the first batsman ever to be dismissed by the first ball in a Test Match?

6 (30) Name the England bowler who had figures of five for 6 in his opening



spell of 11 overs in a Test match on this day?

7 (31) I played in the first two Tests ever played. On this day, I played for the country of my birth and later, I switched sides again. Who was I?

8 (01) Who scored a hundred on his first-class debut and, on this day, a double-century in his final first-class match?

9 (02) Name the South African player who figured in two tenth wicket partnerships - the second on this day - each of which exceeded 100 runs - a feat unique in first-class cricket. His son also played at Test level.

10 (03) On this day at Melbourne in 1925, Hobbs and Sutcliffe became the first players to do what?

11 (05) In a Test match which ended on this day, I was the first person to be given out 'handled the ball'. Who was I?

12 (06) Born on this day in 1959, he played for Worcestershire and became a great all-rounder. Who was he?



### Where's Terry?

**W**all Heath CC was founded in 1964 and disbanded in the late 1980s.

Former captain Bob 'Dickie' Drake organised a reunion in February 2009. Terry Church was a prominent member in the team and recalled the reunion 25 years after the club's formation.

"We met for lunch at La Brasserie in Kidderminster.

We sat down at 1 o'clock and over four hours later, the restaurant manager agreed we could claim an extra half-hour before we dispersed, vowing to meet up again in the not too distant future.

"Dickie reminded us that although we were not the best team of the day, we were competitive and had team

spirit in abundance. Players such as Eric Edwards and the late Jeff Perkins consistently produced outstanding performances and both could have played at a higher level, but preferred to stay loyal to the lads at Wall Heath CC.

"Sadly, not all players could attend. Bill Bagley, Tony Fasey, Mike Lilley and Jeff Perkins were represented by their widows. Three other

survivors, Steve Ellis, Derek Waterfield and Allan Webster were unable to attend. Members travelled from as far afield as Macclesfield, Sheffield and Swansea to attend the get-together."

Terry Church is well-known today to Stourbridge Cricket Society members, but can you spot him in the above team photo taken in 1975?

See details on the back page!

### MISSED A RECENT MEETING?

**B**arry Rickson opened the 2013/14 season with an excellent talk about England batsmen who had scored a century on Test debut.

Surprisingly few of those men were destined to be great cricketers—WG Grace, Ranjitsinhji and May stood out among lesser mortals such as Foster, Warner, George Gunn, Valentine, Gibb, Griffith, Milton, Hampshire, Hayes and Crawley. Time prevented Brian from addressing recent debutants such as Thorpe, Strauss, Cook, and Trott—each one a great batsman.

Of those mentioned, possibly **Paul Gibb** (1913-1977) was the saddest. He was a loner, seemingly destined to live on life's periphery.

His Test debut in 1938/39 was at Johannesburg, where he failed by seven runs to be the first man to score two tons on debut. He scored 93 & 106 and in the other 4 Tests scored 58; 38; 9 & 45; 4 & 120. The last pair being in the Timeless Test.

He was awarded his blue at Cambridge and scored a century on debut for Yorkshire—the first amateur to do so. In the 1950s, he turned out for Essex, living in a caravan. He became an umpire and stood in several Tests.

Gibb ended his days as a bus driver and was so reserved that none of his workmates knew anything of his performances in cricket, until they noticed his obituary.

**K**evin Sharp spoke, to 85 members in November, about his 14-year first-class career with his native Yorkshire.

The left-handed batsman has a fond memories of New Road, where he made 260\* for Young England v. Young West Indies. Sharp was the third youngest player, after Close and Padgett, when he made his debut for Yorkshire vs. Northants at Scarborough.

He played 218 first-class matches, scored almost 10,000 runs and hit 14 hundreds.

He was proud of his usefulness, to the team, as a 'declaration bowler'. The skipper agreed Glamorgan would 'get' 75 runs in 3 overs; Sharp

was hit for four consecutive 6s by Matthew Maynard. "I was gutted when his fifth shot fell 2-ft inside the ropes!"

Sharp took twelve first-class wickets in his career and promptly named each victim. Kevin regaled members with amusing tales about Boycott, Gough and Trueman.

On a more serious note, Kevin recalled the first time he met Joe Root, who at 13, was full of belief in his own ability. "I gave him the full net workout, and he dealt with each ball perfectly; I knew immediately he'd open for Yorkshire."

Sharp rated Hadlee as the best all-round player and Vivian Richards and Holding as the best batsmen and bowler respectively, he played against.

## WHO'S COMING TO STOURBRIDGE IN 2013/14

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

**December 12** **Tony Borrington** played 122 first-class matches for Derbyshire. He scored 70 on debut v Essex in 1971 and scored three centuries (HS 137 vs. Yorkshire in 1978) in his career aggregate of 4,230 runs (av. 23.63). After retiring in 1981, Tony took up teaching and progressed to headmaster. His son, Paul also plays for Derbyshire.

*We are very grateful to Tony Borrington for stepping in as a replacement for Andy Collier, who is unable to attend.*

**January 16** **David Leatherdale** was appointed Chief Executive of Worcestershire CCC in 2010. Yorkshire-born, David made his debut for Worcestershire in 1988. He went on to score 10,017 runs (av. 32.73) which included 14 centuries. David became the county's Commercial Director in 2005 and also deputised for Mark Newton who he succeeded as CEO.

**February 20** **Ian Davidson** has held the position of Commercial Manger at Leicestershire CCC for the past 2 years, facing the challenges of a provincial non-Test match cricket ground. He will cover aspects surrounding relationship between the counties and the ECB. He will also suggest ways that county clubs can sustain themselves as businesses in the modern sporting economy.

**March 20** **Jack Birkenshaw MBE** has been a loyal servant of the game with his native Yorkshire, Leicestershire and Worcestershire in various capacities as player, umpire and coach. His career spanned 1958-1981. He played 5 Tests (all abroad) in the early 1970s and stood in two Tests in 1986 and 1988. He was awarded an MBE in 2011.

**April 10\*** **Bob Carter & Derek Pearson** represent an end of season double act! Their separate careers covered the period from 1954 to 1972, but only in 1961 did they play together. Derek took 210 wkts (26.38) in his career with 6/70 against Leicestershire in 1959 as his best performance. Like Derek, Bob also bowled right arm fast-medium and his best bowling return was almost identical 6/71, against Yorkshire in 1971. Neither man threatened to break any batting records!

\* Please remember Bob & Derek's appearance will follow the AGM

### Other local Cricket Societies programmes

Cricket Society - Midlands Branch (Edgbaston, 8pm)		Worcestershire Cricket Society (Graeme Hick Pavilion, 7.30pm)	
21 Jan	Kevin Sharp	14 Jan	Malcolm Ashton
25 Feb	Peter Walker	11 Feb	Peter Wynne-Thomas
18 Mar	John Barclay	11 Mar	Jon Abrahams

An admission charge is payable by guests at each meeting

### New Members

We welcome the following people who have joined the Society.

Norman Beaman (Kingswinford)  
Gary Collins (Pedmore)  
Cedric Grove (Kingswinford)  
Leigh Weston (Kingswinford)

### Old Trafford Trip

*Terry Church reports:*

**All seats on the coach have now been booked.** However, members are reminded that seats must be paid for at the January meeting, if not before.

There are now several names on the waiting list and, after the meeting, they will be offered places for any unpaid bookings.

### Quick Singles

*'I congratulate you on an excellent Newsletter' - John Huband*

*'Good to see Stourbridge in active mode' - Murray Hedgecock*

#### Where's Terry?

Wall Heath CC (1975) team photo:  
Standing: John Jordan, Bill Bagley, Jack Green, Dennis Bentley, Gordon Rowley, Bob Hughes. Seated: Brian Shepherd, Dickie Drake, Barry Hickman (Capt.), Bernard Clapton, Terry Church.

#### 12 days of Christmas - Answers

1) Alistair Cook 2) South Africa  
3) KV Andrew 4) Vijaya Viziana-gram 5) AC MacLaren 6) SF Barnes  
7) WR Midwinter 8) AC MacLaren (again!) 9) Len Tuckett 10) First pair to bat through a complete day's play  
11) WR Endean 12) Kapil Dev

### Members' News

Congratulations to **Rob Wood** who was recently presented with the lifetime achievement accolade at the Worcestershire Cricket Board's Bill Jones Memorial Volunteer Awards.

Rob spent twenty five years nurturing burgeoning young talent at Victoria Carpets and then Kidderminster Victoria CC before putting down his coaching manual last year.

Many of those who started under his wing have gone on to play good quality senior cricket at KVCC, Worcestershire and other clubs, with his most famous student probably being Surrey wicketkeeper Steven Davies.

Rob has been a member of the Stourbridge CS for more than twenty years.

### 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.