

Stourbridge Cricket Society

www.sdcs.councilcricketsocieties.com

A Member of the Council of Cricket Societies

Autumn 2011

From the Chair

The Things They Say

"I have often wondered whether some members of the media actually enjoy England winning"

Duncan Fletcher

"We looked at the averages and how the teams performed as a unit"

Clive Lloyd
explaining how the
ICC Test Team of the
year was chosen

Welcome back one and all to our regular monthly winter cricket evenings. I do hope that you will be able to support the Committee by coming along and welcoming our Guest Speakers at the new time of 7.30pm.

I must admit looking at the programme of speakers, we should again be in for a very enjoyable winter.

Following the Spring AGM our Committee is unchanged, as are the subscriptions. All we ask you to do is come along as often as possible, support our raffles and if at all possible, introduce a new member. We need a good audience, atmosphere and plenty of interesting questions.

Twelve months ago I wrote of the encouraging way England were progressing, winning two test series and of the possibility of retaining The Ashes by winning in Australia.

The team have since progressed further by winning convincingly in Australia, beating Sri Lanka and humiliating India the World's top test team. In fact, the sporting standards they display on and off the field, the very way they go about winning, is something we haven't seen before in our Country and as cricket lovers is something we should all be proud of.

Writing this in mid-August not knowing the final outcome of the cricket season is a little difficult. However, Worcestershire are currently battling hard to stay in Division One on a limited budget, Warwickshire are having a good season, as are our local clubs with Stourbridge taking the honours for sheer consistency - must be something to do with those new nets!

Thanks again to Stour for providing us with an excellent meeting place and we wish them every success in getting back into the Birmingham League.

Mike Tomkins
Chairman

Future Speakers

20 October
17 November
8 December

Steve O'Shaughnessy Lancs and Worcs
Murray Hedgecock Author and Broadcaster
Jason Ratcliffe Deputy CEO PCA

7.30pm start

Views expressed in this Newsletter are those of individual contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor or the Committee of the Stourbridge and District Cricket Society.

The Newsletter of Stourbridge and District Cricket Society

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New Start Time

In order to address the issue of our falling membership (we have "lost" 40 members in two years) we propose to start our meetings this year at 19.30 with a view to finishing by 21.30. We believe that this will be welcomed by both members and visiting speakers. We are of course always looking to recruit new members. Can you help?

Stourbridge Cricket Club

To regularise the position with regard to the purchase of alcohol and the club's licence, Stourbridge Cricket Society members will be "associate Members" of the Stourbridge Cricket Club at no extra cost to you.

Subscriptions 2011/2012

.....remain unchanged at £10 (£15 per couple). It would be greatly appreciated if you could post a cheque, payable to **S&D Cricket Society**, to our Treasurer Ken Workman at 15 Ridge Road, Kingswinford DY6 9RB

MCCC Quiz

After an absence of several years The Midlands Club Cricket Conference have revived their Inter-Club Sports and General Knowledge Quiz and we have entered a team in the competition.

The Quiz will be at Moseley Cricket Club on Friday 30 September commencing at 7.30pm. We will be represented by Murray George, Brian Hilson, Dave Nicklin and Ken Workman. Supporters are welcome!

The Secretary writes

I would like to start my contribution to our News letter by paying tribute to the Indian captain M.S. Dhoni's sportsmanship at Trent Bridge. He has restored a standard for present and future Test Captains to adhere to and maintain-something several ones in the past forty years did not do!

Our A.G.M. last April was again poorly supported, attendance being in single figures. Our major concern was our reduction in membership; though it is something in common with a majority of other societies are having. We will be having a special committee meeting before our winter programme begins to see how to "buck the trend"

I stated the disappointment in not being able to organise an outing this year. However, a couple of weeks ago, I met up with Alan Oakman at the splendid new building at Edgbaston, and they would be happy to welcome us late March next year; I hope this idea will meet with your approval. If this is successful, perhaps we could go to Trent Bridge and hopefully 2014 to the Lancashire Head Quarters in Manchester as all the building projects should be completed. But as the late Australian Cricket commentator, Alan McGilvray used to say, "That's for the future".

Finally, to help maintain and increase our membership, can I ask all of you to make a concerted effort to attend our first meeting, in October with a friend, work colleague, family member, or more than one- to get them interested in becoming a member themselves.

Murray George
Secretary

Page 2

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In The Press

From the letters page of *The Times*

Sir

Men should not wear shorts. Their legs are simply not sufficiently appealing. The only exception could possibly be the legendary **Jim Cumbes** who was goalkeeper for Aston Villa and also played cricket for Worcestershire, although, sadly in long trousers.

Philippa Cavell Worcester

Sir

In response to your correspondent regarding my legs (letters April 8) I can assure Ms Cavell that they are still in reasonable shape, although no doubt more wrinkly and a whiter shade of pale than they were some 35 years ago. I do venture out in shorts when the weather allows, but no wolf whistles are forthcoming. Sadly, I fear that is due to the passing of time and not political correctness.

Jim Cumbes
Chief Executive
Lancashire County Cricket Club

From the Letters to The Cricketer
September 2011

Breakfast conversation.

Me to un-interested-in cricket wife "Who are the three best-ever cricketers in the world?"
Un-interested-in-cricket wife "Don Bradman, Viv Richards and Garry Sobers"

How do I explain that two of those didn't make the ICC all-time Test X1?

Terry Church
Wall Heath

Pavilion End

Anthony Collis is producing Pavilion End-the inaugural year book containing reports of cricket society meetings held during 2010/11. The year book will serve as a written record of the activities at Edgbaston, Stourbridge and Worcester cricket societies plus other items of cricket interest.

Anthony anticipates having the book available for sale to members at the start of our season. And once costs are covered he proposes to donate part of the proceeds to relevant societies. It is hoped that the book will be interest to members generally and may also provide a link with persons unable to attend meetings due to reasons such as ill-health, lack of transport or a reluctance to venture out on dark winter evenings. A summary of each evening's presentation is featured together with a photo of the guest. A couple of sample reports may be viewed on our website:-

<http://sdcs.councilcricketsocieties.com/Reports/index.html>

The Australian view

"Best English team ever? Hope yr well. 41
(text message received from
Rodney Hogg)"

DON'T FORGET MEETINGS

NOW START AT 7.30PM

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Christmas Quiz

A bottle of something special to the entry scoring the highest marks, to be drawn at our December 8th meeting. Entries to Ken Workman by 7.30pm on December 8.

Who Am I?

1. "Shrimp"
 2. "Plum"
 3. "Dolly"
 4. "The Master"
 5. "The Governor General"
 6. The last man to bowl underarm in a Test match
 7. The first man to be capped by three different first class counties
 8. The last man to play soccer and cricket for his country
 9. The only man to have played first class cricket **before** WW1 and **after** WW2.
 10. I played Test cricket for **two different** countries either side of WW2. My son played Test cricket for the latter country. We were both Oxford blues and we played 1st class cricket in England for different counties.
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Outgrounds - the future or the past?

In the September issue of The Cricketer there is an article on the impressive new Edgbaston completed at a cost of £32million. It is accompanied by a photograph of two Somerset batsmen taking the field in their game against Warwickshire. So what you may ask? The panoramic view shows not a spectator in sight! At the end of August I watched the second day of Worcestershire's fixture against Lancashire at Blackpool- I was amongst a crowd of over 2000 and it had been likewise on the first day. In the same issue of The Cricketer Lancashire reported support has been strong at Liverpool all summer and over 7000 spectators watched the three days of Southport's first Championship match for twelve years at the end of July.

I know that we cannot live in the past but do you remember those far off days when we looked forward each season to games at Dudley and Stourbridge and, more recently, at Kidderminster? Of course it is now more about the "Corporates" who I suppose help to keep County cricket alive thus allowing members and the casual spectator to continue to watch county cricket. Anyone for The Cheltenham Festival next year?

Terry Church

Who's Who in Stourbridge Cricket Society

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Chairman Mike Tomkins 01384 288868

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