

Boundary View

Spring 2016 - No. 12

The Newsletter of Stourbridge & District Cricket Society

Founded 1972

COUNTY'S RETURN TO DY8!

After an absence of more than twenty years, Worcestershire will play two matches at Stourbridge this summer.

The County's Second XI will take on Durham in a T20 game on Monday (!) June 6 – followed by a three-day Championship match from June 7 to 9.

Worcestershire played 60 first-class matches at Stourbridge between 1905 and 1962, a further one in 1981, plus three List A games in 1969, 1970 and 1982 while Second Eleven Cricket continued here until the early 1990s.

Still on the subject of Stourbridge, the Club will celebrate its 175th anniversary next year. Plans include a week of matches against MCC and WCCC, plus local clubs. Founded in 1842, Stourbridge CC is almost 25 years older than Worcestershire CCC! Your committee will welcome ideas as to how S&DCS can contribute to the celebrations.

To end on a sad note, we note that Alex Gidman has been forced to retire due to the injury he sustained last season not recovering sufficiently to enable him to resume his cricketing career. WCCC did not see the best of Alex in his brief stay, but we all wish him well in his future career.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Stourbridge & District Cricket Society will be held in the Pavilion of Stourbridge CC on Thursday 14 April 2016 commencing at 7pm.

AGENDA

To receive Apologies for non-attendance
To confirm the Minutes of the AGM held on 16 April 2015 and to discuss any matters arising.

To receive reports from:

- i) Chairman ii) Secretary iii) Treasurer
- iv) Programme Secretary

Election of Officers *

Any Other Business *

* Members wishing to stand for election to the committee or who wish to raise any matter under A.O. B. must notify the Hon. Secretary, in writing, by either email or by post to the relevant address on back page, by no later than Friday 1st April 2016.



Our Guest Speakers

Dec – Darren Maddy (top)
Jan – Ken Burney (middle)
Feb – John Barclay (bottom)
Reports inside

CHAIRMAN'S VIEW

Decision making is never easy for anyone and is often delayed or made in haste without the full facts or implications and as a result, prove ill thought and costly.

As Britain moves towards the EU Referendum in June, the ECB also must act wisely and carefully in the pursuit of the perfect solution for English cricket. Not an easy task for a Committee burdened with great responsibility. Let's be truthful, not many of us welcome change, we like the four-day two-division County Championship which is producing some outstanding cricketers. There is surely not too much wrong with our cricket. Test cricket has improved enormously and although there have been mistakes in South Africa recently, the One Day Teams (ODI and T20) are greatly improved.

If we look back at the World Cup winning T20 side in Barbados, the one notable absentee is Kevin Pietersen who is now scoring runs regularly in franchise cricket. Eoin Morgan's decision to look beyond Pietersen for a possible T20 recall and stay with his very talented batting line up is a massive call. Whatever one thinks of Pietersen, his batting stats endorse him as one of England's greatest cricketers.

The benchmark for the ECB is to win tournaments and to their credit they are making good progress and need tournament wins against both Pakistan and Sri Lanka to prove a point.

This year the ECB must also decide on a new sponsor after Waitrose were shown the door. Also does terrestrial television have a place, or indeed, have any interest in showing cricket?

Then there is the decision to redesign T20 cricket around a city or regional format which most County members oppose. What are the answers? Who would be a decision maker at the ECB at this moment in time?

All our members who made the decision to attend our buffet meeting with guest speaker John Barclay, left I am sure, with a smile having enjoyed the afternoon. Let us hope that all our summer cricket watching is afforded glorious weather and that we return in six months' time to our Cricket Society in good spirits.

Mike Tomkins

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

Dave Nicklin (President)

Committee Members:

Mike Tomkins (Chairman); **Anthony Collis** (Secretary / Editor); **Ken Workman** (Treasurer); **Terry Church** (Programme Secretary)

DARREN MADDY **(Leics, Warwks & England)**

Darren Maddy made his first-class debut for Leicestershire in 1994 against the South Africans. "For some unknown reason, our new groundsman produced the bounciest, fastest wicket seen at Grace Road for a long time. Unfortunately, it was tailor-made for the tourists who had Allan Donald in their side, the world's fastest white bowler!" They batted first and declared an hour before the close. "I was down at number five and looked forward to batting next day, but hadn't reckoned with us losing four wickets before the close.

"Donald welcomed me with a bouncer which reared over my head and 'keeper Dave Richardson's, who was standing 35 yards back, then hit the sight-screen on the bounce. 'Welcome to first-class cricket!' said Darryl Cullinan. With eight fielders behind the bat, I realised that if I managed to put bat to ball, I just might score some runs. I fended forward and collected my first four."

Leicester-born Darren was cricket-mad from an early age – his father was a keen club cricketer and watches his son whenever possible. "I always knew when Dad was present, I could tell by the tobacco haze as he watched anxiously." Darren found the playing environment at Grace Road daunting. "As a junior player, I was not to speak until I was spoken to." Nigel Briers, the skipper, set a military style and James Whitaker once rebuked me for finishing behind him on a training run, "I'm twice your age and I expect you to beat me next time – or else! His words made me determined to get and stay fit. Paul Nixon and I became the fittest men in the team." Maddy secured his position in

the Leicestershire team which won the Championship in 1996 and 1998. He became the first man in the world to compile 1,000 runs in T20 cricket.

Darren Maddy gained his first Test cap against New Zealand at the Oval in 1999. He was chosen as an opener with Mike Atherton; he was anxious and repeatedly asked Athers, before the game, for a chat as to who would face the first ball. "Atherton refused to discuss the matter, other than to say 'he was going to bat as usual at number two', which made me nervous about facing first ball." In the event, he took the first delivery and, having scored 10, was first man out. He looked daggers at me as he departed! I was out next over, bowled Vettori 14."

Darren played twice more for England in 1999/2000 against South Africa. After scoring 24 at Durban, Maddy's final Test was at Centurion. After more than three days were lost to rain, Hansie Cronje and Nasser Hussain agreed that each side would forfeit an innings in an effort to achieve a positive result. England won in an exciting finish, but Cronje later admitted deceit for financial gain.

At the end of 2006, Darren left for a new challenge at Edgbaston. "In my second game I was appointed captain and by the season's end, I had successfully steered Warwickshire to relegation in two competitions! Our Championship challenge in 2007 fell away badly after Dale Steyn and Kumar Sangakkara were both recalled by their respective countries." However, Maddy's side brought the Championship back to Warwickshire in 2012, even if he played little part.

Darren's career was blighted by niggling injuries, including a long lay-off caused by anterior cruciate ligament.

Worse was to come. On a pre-season tour, he was hit in the face by team mate Neil Carter whose 90mph bouncer resulted in nine fractures of the cheekbone, a broken nose and three loose teeth. Against all odds, Darren resumed playing two weeks later! The worst injury to body and pride was delivered by Kevin Dean who managed to split Maddy's box in two, with his old man trapped in-between! "As the coach cut the box away, my raucous team members gathered round to watch in fits of laughter. Thank goodness, no one put it on social media!"

After retiring from first-class cricket, Darren took over from David Hemp as coach at Solihull and in 2015 helped Berkswell finish as runner-up to Shrewsbury in the Birmingham Premier League.

In response to members' questions, Darren thought the Championship matches has a future, but thinks many counties will merge – Leicestershire with Northants, Derbyshire and Notts. His coupling of the Bears and Pears was greeted with scorn! He expects Ian Bell to win back his Test place. Darren thinks Joe Root could become a truly great cricketer and was certain to become a future England captain. Although Allan Donald was the fastest bowler he had faced, he thought Franklin Stephenson caused most problems. He considers Graeme Hick and Mark Ramprakash as the two best batsmen he played against – both of whom lost their Test places to "lesser players."

Darren Maddy spoke passionately without notes and entertained the audience in an honest and straightforward manner. Clearly his love for the game is as fresh as ever!

Meeting held: 10 December 2015

KEN BURNEY **(W.G Grace Collector)**

Ken Burney was our first speaker of 2016. A keen collector of cricket memorabilia he spoke specifically about his W.G. Grace collection.

Amongst a plethora of statistics – as the original Great Cricketer there were many firsts – there was a stream of anecdotes. Whether true or hypothetical we may never know.

Ken classed WG as a 'cricket tart'! He played for over 30 teams in his long career. There was so little competitive cricket at Gloucester that he was always looking elsewhere for a game.

Did we know, for example, that WG played one game for Worcestershire in 1870, albeit a friendly? He was top scorer in both innings.

He once scored 400 not out – or did

he? In a minor game the statistics gave him 399 but it was said that the opposing captain thought that he deserved the extra run and gave it to him!!

He gained automatic selection for the Gloucester XI as he was the only member of the selection committee and his brother was the County secretary!

And for his testimonial in 1877 the admission price was doubled overnight. This was sanctioned by his brother!

He had two testimonials but did not die a rich man as his status and reputation would have deserved. Don't forget that he was as famous as Queen Victoria and William Gladstone! As an amateur he was paid large expenses (£3000 for his second tour to Australia) so this helped give him a comfortable life.

Ken answered a number of questions but revelled in talking about his collection of memorabilia – much of which

was on display. He had many that he was pleased to own and was constantly on the lookout for additions.

Ken built up his collection from a variety of sources and admits to buying more than he sells at the annual Heritage Day held at New Road*. On occasions, he has come across 'valuable' finds at car boot sales.

Many thanks to Ken who gave us an enjoyable insight into the life and career of a great character and cricketer!

Thanks to Dave Nicklin for this report
Meeting held: 20 January 2016
Att. 70

As a fitting postscript to the above,
the 2016 Heritage Day will be held in
the Marquee at New Road on
Sunday 29 May,
the first day of the match against
Gloucestershire

JOHN BARCLAY (Sussex, MCC & O.F.S)

A capacity audience was richly entertained by John Barclay on his return visit at February's lunchtime meeting. Among those present were the widows of Don Kenyon, Martin Horton and Les Hatton, who were warmly welcomed by the Chairman.

Teamwork and *Team Mates* were the themes upon which John addressed the members and guests during the pre-lunch session. The latter topic was the subject of his forthcoming book compiled in collaboration with Stephen Chalke.

John's introduction to Sussex cricket occurred when, at the age of eight, he attended the Gillette Cup Final against Worcestershire at Lord's in 1963. JB recalled the batting of the late Tom Graveney who batted 'suspiciously well', the disappointment of seeing his idol, the imperious 'Lord' Ted Dexter, caught at slip by Doug Slade off Norman Gifford.

John made his County Championship debut against Glamorgan at Swansea in 1970. He batted at number 10, was lbw second ball to Malcolm Nash for a duck in his only innings, did not bowl or take a catch.

Barclay was made captain in 1981 in succession to Arnold Long, who had taken over from Tony Greig. Barclay described the lanky South African as a 'charismatic and inspirational' leader. He recalled an embarrassing event, again at Swansea, when performing 12th man duties (Sussex often only travelled with eleven players), John brought the tray of after-match drinks down to the dressing room and promptly tripped, spilling the entire tray load into Greig's kit bag!

Warming to the theme of teamwork, John described his style of captaincy as democratic and open to all. "I was an okay player, but was fortunate as there were 'no great expectations of me'!" Before the start of play, he usually asked the team if anyone had any ideas or a plan. "It was necessary as I usually didn't have any," he said and added that "all teams must have one, preferably two men who 'really can play'."

"When we went to away games, I travelled with Colin Wells, who grumbled that I let Imran Khan, who was not the easiest chap, to get away with things, such as ar-

riving late, when others were not allowed to do so. I reminded Colin that Immy had the ability to win games for us, on his own, as he did against Derbyshire at Eastbourne in 1981.

"We wanted to win the match in our title race with Nottinghamshire. Imran begged me put him back on to bowl. David Steele was batting defensively, planting his foot firmly forward, in his 'show them you studs' fashion to virtually each delivery. Imran came back with Derbyshire's score on 226 for five. They were all out for 227; Imran had taken four wickets in five balls, including Steele, lbw for 59. He was not done, as he then pleaded with me to let him bat higher up the order. Chasing a stiff target of 234 in under 150 minutes, Imran batted at four and scored a swashbuckling 107 not out to win us the match by five wickets."

The car journeys shared by Barclay and Wells were enlivened by listening to *Brain of Britain*. Contestants won a round of applause for correctly answering five questions in a row. "We gave ourselves a round of applause if we managed to answer one!"

Turning to *Team Mates*, John explained that the book focused on 25 former cricketers who write about favourite team mates with whom they enjoyed playing, who gave to the side more than just runs and wickets.

After a busy buffet lunch, John fielded members' questions. He would have Kevin Pietersen play in his team as he is a match-winner. John described bowling to Viv Richards in full cry. Asked what should be done, Imran Khan suggested that Viv has a weakness against spin and that John should put himself on to bowl. "I fell for his ploy! Richards dispatched the ball four times into the River Tone. I took myself off having conceded 28 runs in the one over!"

John described his year as President of MCC in 2010. "I took over from Derek Underwood, who I think wanted to apologise for having me caught by Colin Cowdrey twice, off my right thumb, for a pair!" He enjoyed using the President's box. On one occasion, his guests included Imran Khan, who was now furthering his career in Pakistan politics. "He seemed bored with the match (involving Pakistan) and confessed that he knew the result three weeks ago!"

John explained the derivation of Troutbeck – a middle and family name harking back to Cumberland. He has found one other instance of the name – the Troutbeck Inn in Zimbabwe.

He enjoyed his time as overseas team manager, which mainly involved keeping Phil Tuffnell out of mischief. Behind the laddish façade, Tuffers is an 'extremely brainy and talented chap'.

The same could be said of our guest. Behind the affable, self-deprecating style John Barclay is a fine raconteur and also a clever man. He made his first appearance for Eton, aged 14, captained the College for two years; made his debut for Sussex two birthdays later, skippered the county for five seasons and led England Young Cricketers aged 18. He was tipped to become an England captain, but that honour did elude him. Anyone with that sort of pedigree surely has got to have something up-top.

The meeting closed at 3.30pm amid great applause.

Meeting held: 18 February 2016
Attendance: 87

Team Mates, priced at £15 (post free) will be published in early April with all monies going to the Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation, with which John Barclay has been inextricably linked since his retirement.

The foundation was formed in 1986 to enhance the development and education of young people, with a special emphasis upon the disadvantaged, the disabled and those deprived of opportunity.

To order your copy of the book visit www.arundelcastlecricketfoundation.co.uk.

In writing this review, the editor rues the discontinuance of the traditional Gents and Players fixture. Surely, John Barclay would have been the perfect skipper for the amateurs!

Just for fun, members are invited to submit their own Gents v. Players teams, consisting of cricketers who have played in the County Championship since 1963. Teams should be balanced, with a designated captain - and hopefully may include a surprise choice or two! Try to avoid men with previous 'G v. P experience'.

Send entries to the editorial address shown on end page.

NETHERTON C.C. – 150 NOT OUT

Netherton Cricket Club celebrates its 150th Anniversary in 2016. Celebrations will commence on Sunday, May 1 when a Club XI will take on a Presidents XI starting at 1.00pm. (Reserve date: Sunday May 8). A 40-over game will take place finishing around 6-30pm. All past and present day players are cordially invited to attend the match and enjoy a pint and a chat afterwards.

Other planned activities include a day match against M.C.C. on Wednesday, August 31 starting at 11.30am.

The season will conclude with a Club Dinner at the Village Hotel, Dudley on Friday, 16 September with guest speaker Jeremy Coney. For further details please contact Dennis Lewis on 01384 861625.

LEATHERDALE JOINS PCA

Worcestershire chief executive David Leatherdale is leaving the County to take up a similar position with the Professional Cricketers' Association.

He made his first-class debut for his adopted County against Leicestershire at Grace Road in 1988 and quickly established himself as a member of the successful Worcestershire side of the late 1980s and early 1990s. During his career, he scored 10,017 first class runs at an average of 32.73 - the first of his eventual 14 hundreds (157 v. Somerset in 1991) proved to be the highest score of his career.

After retiring in 2005 he became Commercial Director and replaced Mark Newton as CEO at the end of the 2010 season.

LAST TWO MEETINGS OF 2015/16 SEASON

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

March 17

David Steele (Northamptonshire, Derbyshire 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

Please note the April Meeting is on the second Thursday!

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at 7pm prior to the April meeting

David Houghton (Zimbabwe) with **Dave Bradley** (BBC Hereford & Worcester)

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

Reports of the above meetings will appear in the Autumn 2016 edition of *Boundary View*

BOOK REVIEWS

DON KENYON – HIS OWN MAN

by **Tim Jones**

£14.99

The title of Tim's book could just as easily have been "Don Kenyon-Two Men". There was Don the Cricketer and Don the family man and never the twain should meet. What becomes apparent in this book on one of Worcestershire's favourite sons was that Don was totally committed to both the game that provided him with a comfortable living and also to his wife Jean and their two daughters, Lesley and Sue.

Tim encapsulates the mood of Don's dedication as his career travelled from his early days with Stourbridge Cricket Club in The Birmingham League, to New Road and ultimately to the Test arena first as a player and later as a selector. Statistics can be absorbed at the reader's own pace but there are so many proud moments to dwell on. Although national recognition must appear high on Don's list of achievements Tim expertly brings out Don's pride in being captain of the County's first Championship winning side and later becoming President of the club.

Tim's admiration for his subject and enthusiasm with which he portrays Don is captured perfectly. A few years ago I disposed of most of my sporting books but this is one that will remain on my shelf. For those who hail from The Black Country and support Worcestershire, this book is a must.

The book is stocked at Ashwood Nurseries or can be obtained from the author at SCS meetings.

Terry Church

Tim's biography of 'Don Kenyon - His Own Man' has been long-listed for the prestigious MCC / Cricket Society Book of the Year Award.

WORCESTERSHIRE ANNUAL REVIEW

The 2016 edition of the annual review, compiled by Anthony Collis, will be on sale at the April meeting.

Previous editions (2012-13-14) were completely sold out, but a few copies of the 2015 edition are still available.

Price £7

PEARS 150

By **Andrew Thomas** **£28**

This book can justifiably claim to be the heavyweight champion of Worcestershire cricket publications. It weighs over 2 kg and runs to some 500 (A4) pages of closely typed content.

Each year of the Club's history from 1865 to 2014 is allotted two pages, which include snippets of other information such as notable national events, flood levels and, at times, even the name of the city's annual pantomime! Separate chapters are devoted to the Club's casualties of both world wars.

One can only wonder at the hours the author must have spent trawling through microfiche records to unearth his material. It surely must have exceeded the number in the book's title!

In his introduction, the author includes a health warning that his work is 'a big slab of a reference book' and one that 'may be dipped into and not read at a sitting'. The reviewer set a personal aim to read a year each night as bedtime reading - and has now reached the 1930s!

There is much to fascinate in this tome, which will appeal to researchers of Worcestershire cricket of yesteryear. The book is a true labour of love and deserving of greater acclaim and much wider availability.

Pears 150 can be obtained from the Supporters shop at New Road, but if ordered from other sources, be prepared for a hefty postage bill.

Editor

ANSWERS TO KEN'S CHRISTMAS QUIZ

The answers are:

1 Sutcliffe 2 Richardson 3 Hick 4 Larwood 5 Durham
6 Foley 7 Milton 8 Oxford 9 Cardus 10 Emmett

The re-arranged initials spell out the ground: **Chelmsford**.

KEN'S SILVER JUBILEE

The Chairman congratulated Ken Workman who has served as Treasurer for a quarter of a century! Not bad for a man who originally said 'he'd give it a go' way back in 1990.

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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