

OVAL WORLD

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SURREY CCC SUPPORTERS' CLUB

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FIRST INNINGS - TOM'S DEATH LEAVES A MASSIVE HOLE by Marcus Hook

Far too many of us take life for granted. It's only as the years roll by that we're reminded of our own mortality, as more and more of our friends and relatives pass away. For every death that's expected, due to declining health, there's another that leaves us lost for words. Tom Maynard's death falls into the second category. Surrey have been there before, with the loss of Graham Kersey at the end of 1996 and Ben Hollioake at the beginning of 2002. But the sight of a once-occupied corner of the dressing room isn't something the players have had to come to terms with during a season. As Alec Stewart said to me, when I bumped into him up at Edgbaston: "It's something these lads have never had to deal with before. Most of them still have both their parents." While it came as a shock, I was, at the time, in fact I am still, coming to terms with the death of a friend and work colleague, who was just 52 when he died of a heart attack back in April. In same way Tom approached his cricket, my friend Stephen embraced the challenges that life throws up with both confidence and courage. It's an even bigger blow to lose a role model.

Perhaps it isn't surprising, given Tom's death and the retirement of Mark Ramprakash, that most of the people I talk to consider Surrey to be short of batting. I still say our bowling blows hot and cold more than it probably should. This was no better illustrated than in the championship loss at home to Warwickshire. At one end Gareth Batty claimed a match aggregate 10 for 142, while, at the other, Dernbach, Jordan, Lewis and Meaker took a combined four for 262. Warwickshire look nailed out to take the title, so it was no shame to lose to arguably the best side in the country. That Surrey went toe-to-toe with them for much of that contest, indeed that they matched all their championship opponents up to that that point, should have been cause for optimism.

I'm not sure whether the Warwickshire defeat knocked the stuffing out of us or if we totally underestimated Sussex, having beaten them at the start of the season. Either way, the boys just weren't at the races at Horsham. At one stage in their first dig, Sussex were 87 for six. But, somehow, they recovered to post 351, with James Anyon hitting a couple of sixes on his way to a career best 64 not out and Monty Panesar rubbing it in with 31. After the match, I waited a full hour to grab a few

minutes of Chris Adams's time on behalf of the Surrey Mirror. Sadly, we'll never know whether what he said to the players made any difference because, just eight days later, the Club was in mourning.

Surrey got off to an unconvincing start to the Twenty20. Even though it was a case of played two, won two, we collapsed twice batting first to be 31-3 against Essex and 32-4 against Middlesex. But I would challenge any team to turn that sort of form around immediately following the loss of such a key component. In describing Tom Maynard, I always find myself referring to him as an integral player, which is a big compliment given that he'd only been at the Oval for little more than a year when he died. Was Mark Ramprakash an integral Surrey player after such a short period of time? Not really. Will Vikram Solanki be? Let's wait and see. The effect that Tom's death has had on Rory Hamilton-Brown is, while utterly understandable, a further indication that it could take years for Surrey to turn things around and become a force on the pitch once more.

It would have been nice to see the boys take their defence of the Clydesdale Bank 40 further, but when you look at the semi-final draw, you have to say both matches should be classics. So, we're left clinging to one remaining hope - that Surrey can avoid relegation in the County Championship. With three rounds of matches to go, one more victory ought to be enough to stay up.

While the 2012 season will be remembered for Kevin Pietersen's run-in with the England hierarchy, I do hope, in Surrey terms, KP won't be remembered for his first-ballers against Hampshire. As he showed at Guildford, he is arguably the most destructive batsman in world cricket. Having been smacked for 234 by KP, I don't suppose Lancashire are looking forward to the re-match. Surrey travel to Liverpool for the last game of the season, which, as things stand, could decide who stays up and who goes down. But let's hope it doesn't get that far.

SUPPORTERS' CLUB NEWS

SUPPORTERS' CLUB PLAYER OF THE SEASON AWARDS

It is soon to be awards time and, as always, there are four categories of Surrey CCC Supporters' Club awards for you to vote on:

- 1) Player of the Season
- 2) Most Improved Player of the Season
- 3) Young Player of the Season, and
- 4) The Sylvester Clarke Rum Moment of the Season.

In case you are wondering about the last of these prizes, it was introduced in 2002 to mark the most memorable Surrey-related moment of the summer. For example, four years ago the Rum Moment was Mark Ramprakash achieving one hundred first-class hundreds. In 2010, Jason Roy received the award for his T20 century against Kent. Surrey's end of season awards dinner is on November 29. So, the closing date for the voting is Saturday, 20th October 2012. For details on how to submit your nominations - by post, email or over the telephone - see the voting slip at the top of the next page.

SUPPORTERS' CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY: 17th December

The Supporters' Club's Christmas Party will take place on Monday, 17th December at the Hanover Arms, 326 Kennington Park Road, London SE11 (close to the Oval tube station). For anyone wishing to attend, the evening gets underway around 7.30pm and there will be a FREE hot and cold buffet available. The final three Century Club draws of the year - one of which will carry a top prize of £200 - will be made the same night. For more details about the Century Club, turn to the back page.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE SUPPORTERS' CLUB'S END OF SEASON AWARDS 2012:

PLAYER OF THE SEASON _____

MOST IMPROVED PLAYER OF THE SEASON _____

YOUNG PLAYER _____

LARGE RUM MOMENT _____

_____ YOUR NAME _____

Cut this form out and send it to Mr M Hook, Flat 1, 67 Birdhurst Rise, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 7EJ to arrive on or before Saturday, 20th October. Alternatively, phone your votes through on 020-8680-5700, or email them to marcushook@aol.com

OVAL WORLD BY EMAIL?

By way of a reminder, if you would prefer to receive this newsletter as a .pdf document, by email, instead of having it sent to you by post, simply inform Marcus Hook at marcushook@aol.com.

CRICKET BOOK SALE

The Surrey CCC Supporters' Club has been bequeathed over 150 cricket books, which were listed in the last edition of Oval World. To see the book list again go to: www.ovalworld-online.com/ow2701c.htm. If you would like to purchase any of these books, please contact Marcus Hook (marcushook@aol.com) as soon as possible. The prices shown include UK postage and packing. However, if you would prefer to collect in person, to reduce costs, simply deduct £2.25 per item.

FANTASY LEAGUE - WITH FOUR GAMES TO GO

As at August 13, with most counties having four more County Championship matches still to play, the Oval World Fantasy Cricket League table looked like this:

1	Jamie Dowling	The Cherry Pie Chuckers	400.3	23	Dot Sharp	Strictly Cricket	309.7
2	Marcus Hook	Depeche Modi	382.6	24	Mick Shaw	Lukesmile	308.5
3	Jean Galsworthy	Rosebery Ramblers	377.8	25	Tracey Field	Victoria Sponge Warriors	303.0
4	Chris Payne	Theakstons Old Peculiars	374.5	26	Michael Greensmith	Blackway Allstars 2012	300.2
5	Nigel Sharp	Nigel's Nurdlers	369.5	27	Paul Witney	Sunbury Prides	298.0
6	Albert Ratcliff	Bertie's Bash Hits	361.7	28	Jim Forrest	Forrest Firecrackers	297.7
7	Ann Millington-Jones	Ann's Allsorts	347.9	29	Chris Stoneman	Albezanaan 2012	293.0
8	Leigh Jones	Coaches Galore	345.2	30	Alistair Gordon	Alistair's Allsorts	291.5
9	Richard Budden	Surrey Stars	343.5	31	Paul Jeater	Essex Wombles	289.8
10	Grahame Cove	Jason Roy Lewis	340.9	32	John Lofts	John's Crackerjacks	289.3
11	Bill Bateman	Deflated	339.2	33	Michael Wright	Almost Surrey	288.4
12	Brian Cowley	Ruislip Ramblers	337.8	34	Ann Atkins	Ann's Team	287.3
13	Roger Hudson	The Wild Rovers	329.0	35	John Flatley	The Sole Judges	279.3
14	David Barker	The Comics	328.0	36	Sarah Atkins	Yet More Hash Browns	277.3
15	Mark Smith	Mountain Madness CC	327.5	37	Bob Parsons	Ever Hopefuls	276.1
16	Chris Keene	Keene As Mustard	326.2	38	Thomas Earl	111 All Out	274.5
17	David Pearce	Pears Hopefuls	324.9	39	Anthony Earl	ACE XI	274.4
18	Paul Blake	Blakey's Eleven	323.5	40	Tony Raisborough	Onecanonlyhope	272.5
19	Andy Woodhouse	Aines Blankey Boys	320.6	41	Adrian Lofts	World Of Sport Umbrella	267.5
20	Rob Lewis	Oval The Bars...	320.2	42	Nick Wheeler	Demons + 1	240.7
21	Don Lambert	Don's Donkeys	315.5	43	Chris Levitt	The Old And Young Hopefuls	234.6
22	Nick Robinson	Comeonthere	314.6	44	Dave Taylor	Hot Chocolates	195.6

SURREY CCC MEMBERS' EVENTS 2012

Saturday and Sunday, 6-7 October: Zip wire across the pitch, Kia Oval. £45 per person.
Thursday, 29th November: End of season awards, Kia Oval. £30 per member.

Tickets can be purchased by telephoning 0844-375-1845.

TEAM, CLUB AND OTHER NEWS

BURNS AND HARINATH SET UP LONDON DERBY WIN

Surrey's tense and much needed championship eight-run victory over Middlesex (15-18 August) owed much to Rory Burns and Arun Harinath's 217-run alliance. Both youngsters made centuries, but, for Harinath, it was his first in first-class cricket. After the match he said: "It's really satisfying, mainly because we won. I don't think I'd feel the same way if they had made those extra nine runs." The opening day could hardly have been less distinguished, with Surrey collapsing to 144 all out after winning the toss. It prompted one bookmaker to offer odds of 8-1 on a Surrey win. Middlesex ran them close. Indeed, almost as close as the corresponding fixture at Lord's back in April, which the north Londoners edged by three runs. But Gareth Batty's relief upon clinching victory - not to mention figures of six for 83 - was palpable as the Surrey captain sank to his knees mid-pitch. Harinath said: "I knew it was going to be hard work, at the start of the day. I didn't expect them to lose wickets so early. I thought twenty or thirty runs would separate us. But we've got two great spinners. We've got Gareth (Batty) and we've got Murali (Kartik), who bowled exceptionally well in both innings." But victory would have been impossible without Burns and Harinath's rearguard, which straddled days two and three. "The wicket, once you got through that early period, and if you could had a plan against spin, became easier. The spinners found that when the hardness went off the ball, we also struggled to take wickets when the ball went soft. But I was glad it was us this time. We've spent a lot of time together. We both wanted to put a marker down for the boys and the opposition, to let them know they were in a bit of a scrap." From a personal perspective, the 25-year-old left-hander said his 109 was "comfortably" his best innings. "I played a couple in 2009, opening the batting in some tough conditions, but that was extremely satisfying," he said. "I'll never forget making my maiden first-class hundred. It's just as satisfying because a lot of people put a lot of work into me. Gareth Townsend, the Academy director, Graham Thorpe, a couple of years ago, and Alistair Brown. So the team around me, and as a club... I owe them a lot of thanks. We've got to look forward now. It's a big three games for us. If we can pick up another win then we should be odds on to avoid relegation."

HAMILTON-BROWN GIVES UP CAPTAINCY

On August 10, it was announced that Rory Hamilton-Brown has relinquished the Surrey captaincy and that Gareth Batty would assume the role until the end of the season. Batty was appointed acting-skipper in June after Hamilton-Brown decided to take a break from cricket following the death of team-mate Tom Maynard. The 24-year-old said: "It has been a privilege to have been in charge of a fantastic group of players. What we achieved together is a great source of pride to me. I would now like to concentrate on my own game and try to achieve ambitions I have in the game by continuing to play well for Surrey." Surrey's team director, Chris Adams told the club's website: "Having taken on the captaincy in 2010, winning a Lord's final and securing promotion to Division One in 2011 were both fantastic achievements. He has undoubted talent and a desire to take his game to the next level. I hope he achieves all his ambitions within the game in the years to come."

FANS GET SAY ON THE FUTURE OF COUNTY CRICKET

The England & Wales Cricket Board is giving cricket fans the opportunity to have their say on county cricket and its future, through the biggest survey of its kind in the game's history. David Collier, chief executive of ECB, said: "ECB has taken significant steps to improve our county game and is committed to improving the match-day experience for county cricket's loyal and valued supporters. Approximately 1.5million fans attend county cricket every season, and we are intent on getting more people through the gates into our county grounds. Along with the Morgan Review, this piece of research is essential to our planning for the future of county cricket, and we are committed to listening to the opinions of fans. This is the biggest piece of fan research in our history, and we look forward to seeing the results." The survey can be found at www.ecb.co.uk/countycricketssurvey

WE NEED TO EXECUTE OUR PLANS - ADAMS

Following the defeat by an innings at the hands of fellow strugglers Durham (7-9 August), Chris Adams called on the Surrey players to execute their plans. The club's team director said: "They outplayed us in all facets. They outbowled us in both innings. They dug in at crucial times and outbatted us. To score three hundred on this pitch was way over what I would call par. I think the plans, very good. The effort, from the lads, excellent. But, execution of the plans is where we lost the game. Yes, things didn't run for us, but, equally, we can't have any complaints. We were outplayed and we got thoroughly beaten." Much was made of Surrey's decision to bat first, but Adams felt the loss of two wickets either side of lunch on day one was crucial. He said: "It was the right plan to go with. As I say, the execution wasn't right. The target was to get 200 as a minimum score (in the first innings). At 67 for three, with Jason (Roy) well set and Arun (Harinath) well set, that was well within target. If we had got to 200 I think we would have gone to win the game. Some tight calls went against us when Durham batted, at the same situation, at 58 for four. If those calls go our way there's parity through first innings and then we're into the business end of the game. As it happened, we lost Jason just before lunch on day one and Arun straight after and that put us under a lot of pressure to get anywhere near enough runs. I still felt confident, had things run for us with the ball, that we could have bowled them out for a similar score. It didn't. They dug in and two quality players in Benkenstein and Collingwood batted the amount of balls that you need to get the right score... and beyond, and to get anywhere near making them bat again was a big ask." Searching for positives as he looked ahead to the last quarter of the campaign, Adams added: "The last four pitches that we play on should suit our team, the make-up of our side. They're all pitches which favour batting and spin. It's at least two wins from four that we need to achieve our target, which is to stay in Division One. It's been tough cricket this year, the lads know that. They are a young, developing side for the most part. Even the senior players have found it very very difficult this year. It doesn't make them bad players or bad people overnight. They've worked very hard this week. Their effort, I cannot fault. Where we need to improve is the execution of plans."

DAVIES SIGNS NEW CONTRACT

On August 3, Surrey CCC announced that Steven Davies has signed a new three-year contract. Davies, who has made 13 limited-overs appearances for England, will remain at the Oval until the end of 2015. The 26-year-old told BBC London 94.9: "I've had a great three years since moving from Worcestershire and I think we've made some great progress. Surrey is a massive club and we want to win trophies. There's lots of hard work to do. I want to get back in the England set-up and for me to do that I'll have to play well for Surrey." The club's team director Chris Adams said: "Steven is such an important player. As a wicketkeeper who performs vital batting roles in all forms of the game his stock is high, so to secure him for a further three seasons is great news."

BURNS KEEPING IT SIMPLE

With Rory Burns and Zafar Ansari, Surrey's latest opening pair, having a combined age of 41, it's worth remembering that, not all that long ago, a section of the Surrey faithful were lamenting the enforced departure of a certain 42-year-old - the legend that is Mark Ramprakash. But after being

recalled to the Surrey first team, Burns followed up a first-baller against Lancashire with championship scores of 79, 77 and 42. The 21-year-old left-hander said: "I'm really happy with how I'm playing at the moment and feel in really good form. But the hard bit is getting in form. Once you're in form, you've got to try and sustain it." A batting average of 87.25 in this season's Second XI Championship on top of eye-catching performances for Banstead was always going to be impossible to ignore. But the secret, according to Burns, is treating cricket as a red ball game. He said: "I don't really think it's mattered who I've been playing against, it's more how I'm going about and my business. People talk about the step up and there is an obvious step up. But you tend, when you're out there, not to think about who is bowling. You're just looking at the red thing and thinking about how you're trying to play it more than anything else." The other facet to Burns's game is his ability to bat for long periods. His last three innings have all seen off the new ball. When asked the secret, Burns responded: "To be honest, the only thing that's going through my head, as someone's running in, is watch the ball. That's a pretty good place to be in rather than thinking about what my feet might be doing or where my hands are going. It's just simple - watch the ball, and wherever the ball goes you react. At the end of the day cricket is just a red ball coming at you." Burns was, however, handed a huge slice of luck in the first innings at Edgbaston, when he was dropped on nought. Burns said: "The first ball I got off Keith Barker was a pretty good ball. I looked at the replays and it looked a good ball. So, you can take confidence that his best ball has gone." The 21-year-old opener has a habit of cashing in when fortune is smiling on him, like when he made an unbeaten 230 for Cardiff MCCU against Oxford MCCU in 2010. "On that occasion I left one, on 18, and it clipped my off pole, but the bail stayed on," said Burns, who is adamant that such things have no effect on his psyche thereafter. His reprieve when Richard Johnson, Warwickshire's wicketkeeper, floored a routine catch behind did, however, give Burns food for thought. He said: "I just saw that and I thought I'll shift myself across, so anything outside my eyeline I can shoulder arms to it. Then, anything straight, I can play to straight mid-on at clip. That was just my game plan. I just broke it down a little bit." Surrey's draw with Warwickshire (27-30 July) left them sixth in Division One of County Championship, but close enough to the relegation zone to know they can ill afford any slip-ups. Burns said: "I haven't really got involved in where we are in the table yet. You just do what you do and then, come the end of the year, hopefully we'll be alright. You control the controllables in sport. If we play well and control what we do then we'll stay in the first division."

DAVID THOMAS

On July 28, David Thomas, the left-arm all-rounder who flirted with an England place and helped Surrey to the 1982 NatWest Trophy, died aged 53. Thomas, Warwickshire born but a Surrey player from his debut in 1977 to 1987, was a hard-hitting lower-order batsman and a left-arm bowler capable of sharp pace and swing. Had he not been a contemporary of Ian Botham, had illness not intervened, or had he been born in the Twenty20 age, Thomas might well have gone on to enjoy a distinguished international career but, never one to allow consistency to compromise the obvious joie de vivre with which he played his cricket, it was not to be. Known universally as 'Teddy' on account of the slicked, Teddy-boy style hairstyle he had in his early days, Thomas became an increasingly important part of the Surrey teams that contested four Lord's finals between 1979 and 1982. The first three ended in defeat, but they finally beat Warwickshire in the 1982 final with Thomas winning the man-of-the-match award for his three for 26, which included the key wickets of Dennis Amiss and Geoff Humpage, dismissed for ducks. He claimed 57 first-class wickets in 1983 and 60 in 1984 but, despite being named in England Test squads, he never made it into the final eleven - he was 12th man for the 1983 Trent Bridge Test against New Zealand - and left Surrey for Gloucestershire at the end of 1987. It was there, after seeking treatment for the recurrence of a groin injury, that he was diagnosed with the Multiple Sclerosis that plagued him for the rest of his life and forced his retirement from the professional game aged just 29. He also enjoyed spells with Natal and Northern Transvaal. Andy Brassington, a former team-mate at Gloucestershire said: "The passing of David 'Teddy' Thomas is deeply sad to all who had the pleasure to have played with him or against him, to all of the cricket lovers who watched him bat

and bowl with such pride, passion and talent and all those supporters who have enjoyed his company and endless stories over a beer at the close of play at the many bars he graced up and down the country over the years. It speaks volumes about the character of Teddy that while suffering from this terrible illness he spent endless time raising funds and awareness for the Multiple Sclerosis charity and all with a smile on his face. On behalf of all your former colleagues and friends at Gloucestershire thanks 'Teddy' for all the fun and laughter we shared together, you will be greatly missed by all of your family at Gloucestershire, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family." Surrey's players wore black armbands on the third day of their County Championship match against Warwickshire as a mark of respect to Thomas. He leaves a wife, Louise, and four children.

RAMPRAKASH VOICES FEARS OVER CULTURE OF EXCESS

Mark Ramprakash has expressed concerns that county cricket may be breeding a culture of drinking and excess. The former England batsman, who recently retired after a 25-year career, was speaking during the first Test between England and South Africa at the Kia Oval, where he played a dozen seasons for Surrey; a club that is still coming to terms with the death of Tom Maynard. Less than a fortnight earlier Maynard, 23, had been one of three players, including Rory Hamilton-Brown, the Surrey captain, and Jade Dernbach, the England one-day bowler, to be fined two weeks' wages by the county after a night out during a county championship match at Horsham. "You come into the Kia Oval and there are quite a few nice expensive-looking cars," Ramprakash told BBC Test Match Special. "If young players show promise they're on to quite good salaries quite quickly. How that translates into their lifestyles, well, it can be very tempting for young men, if they're earning a few quid, to go out and enjoy themselves. You have to keep close tabs on them and that's where the senior players are very important in the dressing room. You hope that the right messages are put across: enjoy your cricket, enjoy yourself off the field but there is a balance." Ramprakash bemoaned the decline of a team-bonding culture where players of all ages would spend time together off the field. "I was sharing a dressing room in the last few years at Surrey with some very young men and they would often go off and do their own thing," he said. Richard Gould, Surrey's chief executive, responded by saying: "Within professional cricket I don't think it's a wide issue but there will always be individual cases. Young men believe they are not vulnerable and in many ways that is the charm of young men. But therein lies danger. I don't recognise the money angle. I came from another sport and saw the money washing around," said Gould, who used to work at Bristol City Football Club. He added: "We work with the PCA [Professional Cricketers' Association] and the ECB [England and Wales Cricket Board] fund lifestyle consultants - there are six around the counties."

ADAMS: SOLANKI SIGNING IS A HUGE BOOST

The rebuilding programme Chris Adams talked about following the championship draw with Lancashire, at Guildford, has started with the signing of Worcestershire batsman Vikram Solanki on a two-year contract (July 20). With the 36-year-old's current contract due to expire in the autumn and Worcestershire unable to give him assurances regarding a new deal, Surrey pounced. Adams said: "Signing a player of the class and experience of Vikram Solanki is a huge boost for the club, giving our young batsmen a chance to learn from one of the most professional and widely respected players in the country. I am delighted that he has chosen to join Surrey and very much look forward to working with him in coming years." He added: "I think it's a great signing. We weren't preparing to sign anyone at this time, but considering what's happened to the side in recent weeks, to find ourselves in this position, where we are recruiting and rebuilding, and the first signing is Vikram Solanki, I'm delighted, absolutely. He's a terrific player, somebody I played against a lot over the back end of my career. I played one-day internationals for England with him as well. He's an absolutely smashing guy and a very dangerous batsman in all forms of the game. He comes with a great career behind him, still with years to go. So, it's a good challenge for him and the timing, for us, couldn't be better really." Adams also highlighted Solanki's leadership qualities, which suggests

Adams sees the former Worcestershire captain as a key member of his inner circle. He said: "Always, as I do, I did my homework. I asked a lot of questions of my own players, and I asked a few other people this week about Vikram Solanki, players I played with and people he would have played with for a period of time. To a man, they all gave a great endorsement, not just about what a great batsman he is and what he brings to a cricket team, but also what a great person he is. He will bring leadership qualities that will just spread through the dressing room. That's exactly the type of person we need."

SURREY SET FOR RECRUITMENT DRIVE

Following Surrey's draw with Lancashire at Guildford, where rain put paid to the fourth and final day, their team director, Chris Adams revealed that Surrey were embarking on a recruitment drive following the loss of several key players. "We will definitely be recruiting," Adams told CricInfo (July 14). "We were always going to be looking for an opening batsman and an overseas player, but now we will be looking for a middle-order batsman as well. We also need an infusion of leadership, so we may be looking at senior players. Most people wait to the off-season to rebuild, but we will start now. We have a very different group of players now. A month ago we had a team who had earned the right to have a bit of freedom with their preparation, that dynamic has changed. We have a young group, with less knowledge, and I've asked the coaching staff to take a more hands-on approach with them. We are more than fine with our seam bowling unit and we will be giving more opportunities to some of our young players. Zafar Ansari is a star of the future while Jason Roy has suddenly become a senior batsman. The likes of Tom Lancefield, Arun Harinath, Gary Wilson, Rory Burns and Matthew Spriegel will all have opportunities, too. There are a couple of other players - the likes of Chris Jordan - who need to show us what they can do over the next couple of months. We've been left in a state of rebuilding. And that rebuilding job starts now." Adams dismissed the idea that Ramprakash might have been asked to postpone his retirement to provide some experience in a green-looking top-order. "We have been very fortunate to have seen the best of Mark Ramprakash at Surrey," Adams said. "I first saw him when I was 13 and I knew then that he was going to be a genius. But he has made his decision and I respect that. The time was right for him."

WILSON ORGANISES CHARITY BIKE RIDE

On 9-13 October, Surrey's Gary Wilson will not be jetting off on holiday. Instead, he'll be cycling 380 miles in aid of cancer research. Wilson will be joined on Irish Cricket's Big Bike Ride by the captain of Ireland and long-standing friend, Will Porterfield. Sadly, back in April, Gary lost his mother to cancer and wants to do something for others in the same predicament. The idea originated from Chris Adams's Big Cricket Ride for leukemia and lymphoma research last year. Wilson will be cycling from Cork to Belfast stopping at Kilkenny, Dublin, Armagh and Londonderry on the way. He will be inviting other celebrities, friends and cricketers to join him along the way. Gary said: "The Cancer Research charity is very special and close to my heart and I want to give something back to everyone affected by this disease. I also really appreciate the fantastic support I have had from our supporters over the years, who are some of the best supporters in the game. If anyone is able to donate towards our ride I would really appreciate it."

RAMPRAKASH: I FEEL I STILL HAD SOMETHING TO OFFER

July 5 marked the end of an era with the retirement of Mark Ramprakash. The 42-year-old, who was, by common consent, the most prolific batsman to play for Surrey in the last 30 years, called it a day after being told he no longer featured in the club's thinking. At last his farewell press conference, Ramprakash said: "I'd like to express how lucky I feel for having had a very long and enjoyable career in a game that I love passionately. It has been an honour and a privilege to represent Middlesex, Surrey and England. I have many memories which I will always cherish. I had a tough start to this season. I wanted to play. However, last week I was informed that I was not in Surrey's selection plans and therefore I felt the time was right to step aside. I wanted to finish this

year strongly. I felt that September would likely be the time when I looked forward to pastures new, but I suppose having had a tough start, having been left out of the side and then not been in Surrey's selection plans, that brought things forward." In just 12 seasons at the Oval, Ramprakash climbed the list of Surrey centurions to finish in the same company as the all-time greats - Hobbs, Hayward, Sandham, Edrich and Abel. He said: "I'm very proud, very happy and I think if anyone had given me this at the start of my career I would have grabbed it. I've been very lucky to have played for so long. I've tried to keep myself fit, be professional. I think you've got to keep evolving as a player and as a person, adapting to new coaches and new types of cricket, and I've enjoyed all of it. I've had a great 12 years here at Surrey. It's been a great move for me to come to the Kia Oval. I've made a lot of friends, but I have to thank the coaches, my team-mates, the staff at the club and the fans as well for all the support they have given me. I've had lots of ups and downs along the way, but all those people have been fantastic. I've made some lifelong friends and I really value the association with Surrey County Cricket Club and I want that to continue. Whatever format it was, to win trophies with Surrey - in 2001 the Benson & Hedges, the Championship in 2002 and the Twenty20 in 2003 - those were really fantastic moments for me and I'll cherish them." Asked to pick out two highlights, Ramprakash said he was equally proud of his maiden Test hundred and of making one hundred first-class hundreds - a feat that has only been achieved by 25 batsmen. He said: "The first Test hundred took a while. I made my debut in 1991, I had lots of ups and downs, lots of really tough moments. I wasn't sure whether I was ever going to achieve that feat, but it did come to me in the end. I managed to persevere and I think making a hundred hundreds is also about perseverance. I've been lucky to play a long time. Therefore, by playing a long time, and trying to keep improving, I've managed to get up to that milestone. I would have liked a few more. I started this season with the intention of finishing very strongly for Surrey. I had a difficult start, but remained fully committed and wanted to play more. I want to go out there now and play. I still feel I can play at this level, without doubt, that's what I've trained for. Even though I was left out of the side, I trained for that and was committed to that. So much has happened to the club so far this season and I very much wanted to try to help and contribute. But the decision has been made, so now it's time to reflect but also look forward."

IT DOESN'T GET MUCH WORSE THAN THAT - ADAMS

Following Surrey's championship defeat at Horsham, the club's team director, Chris Adams admitted it represented a low point. Adams said: "Every time we lose a game of cricket there is a level of disappointment, and, on this occasion, a degree of honesty. The players are disappointed and I'm disappointed because it doesn't get much worse than that. In essence, we've lost almost a complete day to rain and still got beat. That's a proper pasting. I don't think we can have any issues or complaints about the result. We were outplayed. It was a strange game. We knew it was an important toss. It was one we lost and we knew the conditions would be tough. But we just didn't adapt quickly enough and that's been a familiar story. Whether junior players or senior players, we haven't adapted enough in the first innings. And as we've seen over the last few weeks, it's been the captain trying to hold the ship together with the bat in the second innings, with not enough of a contribution from anywhere else. My focus is trying to work out how we're going to get some serious runs on the board. We might be one innings away from that. When that happens, what I have seen in this game is that with Murali Kartik in the side the balance of the side looks very nice. It allows the seamers to bowl with great venom and accuracy for longer periods of time." At the start of the season Adams promised that Surrey would work harder, be better prepared and commit more than their opponents. But Adams conceded: "It is draining, watching us coming from behind all the time. But we said at the start of the year that we would have to learn on our feet in Division One. What we know about Division One is that there is no easy game. Sides do not back down. They dig in. To allow Sussex to get away as we did and for their tail to wag like it did has proved very costly. We're at the halfway stage, with eight games gone. We are certainly not at the end of the table that we would have hoped, after beating Sussex in the first game. The challenge for the team isn't to put four-day cricket to bed. We've got a lot to look forward to in terms of Twenty20

cricket and, on paper, we have a very strong side and two wonderful overseas players to complement some young, exciting and dynamic cricketers. It will do us all a world of good if we get on a run in the Twenty20 and give a good account of ourselves. On paper we look a strong side. Providing we prepare mentally for the challenge we should have a good competition."

DAVID GIBSON

On June 7, David Gibson, who took more than 500 wickets for Surrey as a fast bowler, died in Australia at the age of 76. Gibson took ten wickets in a match against Gloucestershire on his County Championship debut in 1957 - a feat he never repeated - in the first of just two appearances that summer. The following season, in which Surrey won the seventh and last title in their remarkable sequence of back-to-back championships, he deputised for Alec Bedser in almost half their games. Gibson was a regular in the side for the next seven years. In 1965 his claims to be classed as an all-rounder were underlined when he came within four runs of making 1,000 in the season. Allied to his 86 wickets that year, it proved to be the summit of his career. He went on to make scores of 95 and 98, but cartilage trouble, which ultimately brought an end to his playing days, limited Gibson's appearances in 1966 and, thereafter, he was unable to hold down a regular place, although he did score 300 runs and take 18 wickets in eight matches in 1967. Gibson eventually retired at the end of 1969. In 185 first-class appearances he took 552 wickets at 22.22 runs apiece and scored 3,143 runs at 18.93. Gibson moved into coaching - he was Surrey's 2nd XI coach in 1979 and 1980 - before emigrating to Bowral in Australia, where he worked for a time for the Bradman Foundation.

'BEAUTIFUL' MAYNARD HAD A 'HEART OF GOLD' (taken from the Surrey Mirror, June 21)

Jason Roy paid tribute to Surrey team-mate Tom Maynard, who died when he was hit by a tube train in the early hours of Monday morning. Roy regarded 23-year-old Maynard as one of his best friends and believed the Surrey professional was certain to have starred for England in the future.

"Tom definitely wasn't far off playing for England," Roy explained. "He was a huge talent. I've known him since before he came to Surrey, but once he was at Surrey we clicked, especially when we went on tour together to Bangladesh. Tom was such a beautiful guy and had a heart of gold."

Roy, who also plays for Reigate Priory, admits the Surrey squad are struggling to deal with Maynard's sudden death, with the batsman having played for the county's T20 side only hours before the accident.

"Tom and I were only on CricketAM together on Saturday, which doesn't seem that long ago at all," Roy said. "At the moment I'm at Rory's (Surrey captain, Hamilton-Brown) family house and we have just been chatting about it all. It is shocking, I just can't believe it's happened. I feel bad for all his family in Cardiff."

Matt Spriegel, who knew Maynard for five years, believes the charismatic batsman's death will leave a hole in the Surrey squad.

"When I received a call from Surrey team-mate Gary Wilson with the news I went numb, I just couldn't comprehend it," Spriegel, who also plays for Banstead, explained. "A group of us from Surrey all met up in Clapham at a cafe and talked for hours, telling stories about Tom. He was a big character. I just can't imagine walking into the dressing room and him not being there."

Spriegel believes Maynard was not a talented cricketer, but also wise beyond his years. "It sounds strange for me to say this as I'm two years older, but I looked up to Tom," Spriegel said. "He was

always someone you could talk to whether it be about cricket or just things that were going on. He was the life and soul of the party, but also just a brilliant guy. No one had a bad word to say about him. We are all devastated, but I can't even begin to think what his family must be going through."

Surrey team director Chris Adams also paid tribute, saying he was an "amazing person" and that it was a "privilege" to have known him.

He said: "Tom was one of the most exciting players I have ever seen and it has been my privilege to have spent time as a coach with such a special talent. Perhaps more importantly, Tom was a truly amazing person and personality, whose mere presence would just light up any room. He will be sorely missed on every level, but at the moment my thoughts can only focus on the sheer loss for his family and close friends. My thoughts are with them."

THE HOOK REPORT (taken from the Surrey Mirror, June 21)

I had the privilege of meeting Tom Maynard a number of times. In addition to being a great talent, with a bright career ahead of him, he was, more importantly, a top bloke. He was one of life's good guys, which makes the news of his death all the more difficult to come to terms with. Tom leaves everyone at Surrey with so many memories. He hit four centuries, two of which not only remedied first innings ducks, but were as breathtaking as any hundred the county game has borne witness to in recent times. Perhaps his most crucial knock came in the final championship game of last season, when Surrey not only had to win in order to clinch promotion, but also needed to secure maximum batting points. Without Maynard's 123 on the opening day, the latter might well have been a step too far for Rory Hamilton-Brown's men, who finished just one point ahead of Northamptonshire, who had topped Division Two for much of the campaign. The first time I saw Tom, he could only have been a year or so old. Glamorgan were playing Surrey at the Oval and his father, Matthew was pushing him around in a buggy. I always meant to share that recollection with Tom, but never got around to it. That's how it goes sometimes. You never know what the future has in store. My condolences go out to his family, who must be absolutely shattered by what has happened. I pray they get through it. When I think back to the memorial services for Graham Kersey and Ben Hollioake, I won't ever forget the heartbreak etched on the faces of their families. My thoughts also go out to everyone at the Oval who knew Tom and held him close to their hearts.

TOM MAYNARD 1989-2012 by Marcus Hook

Like his career at Surrey, Tom Maynard's life was tragically short. However, in just eighteen months, he had become an integral member of a reconstructed side, a Surrey side that was beginning to emerge from the shadows of the team, under Adam Hollioake, that had so dominated county cricket a decade earlier. Tom Maynard might only have scored 1,657 first-class runs, including four centuries for the Oval outfit, but he averaged 42.48 - significantly above par for a player of his age - and had taken a number of outstanding catches in the slips cordon. Maynard also punched above his weight in the shorter forms of the game. With batting averages almost touching forty for Surrey in both one-day and T20 cricket, his was one of the brightest talents on the county circuit. His call-up for the England Lions tour to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka earlier this year was testament that the England management had started to sit up and take notice. It is often easy to overplay the talents of one lost so prematurely, but not in Tom's case. It wasn't a question of whether he would play for England, it was simply a case of how many times he would step on to the international stage.

Had circumstances been different, Maynard might never have become a Surrey player. Glamorgan was in his blood. His father, Matthew had both captained and managed the Welsh outfit. When they

won the County Championship in 1997, an eight-year-old Tom snuck into the victorious team photograph, taken on the outfield at Taunton, the day the title was secured. Ten years later, at the age of eighteen, Maynard made the first of 94 appearances for Glamorgan, repaying the faith shown in him immediately by hitting 71 off 75 balls in a one-dayer against Gloucestershire.

Surrey had been on the wrong end a number of times when he made hay with the bat, but the final straw, so to speak, came in July 2010 when Tom hit an unbeaten 78 off 43 balls, including five sixes, to turn a T20 clash at the Oval on its head. Five months later, Maynard asked to be released from his Glamorgan contract, citing the club's treatment of his father, whose position as director of cricket had been rendered untenable. At the time, Tom was quoted as saying: "I have my Glamorgan number tattooed on me. That is how much it means to me. I only ever thought I would want to play for Glamorgan. But I no longer feel I can stay at Glamorgan while the current people are in charge."



Gerry Sexton photographing Tom Maynard. Surrey CCC Press Day - 9 March, 2012

When Tom was given clearance to talk to other counties, his first thought was Surrey, where one of his best friends, Millfield schoolmate Rory Hamilton-Brown, was captain. Maynard said: "I got on the phone to Rory and I asked if Surrey would be interested. He was very keen to have me, which was fantastic." At the club's press day in April 2011, Tom was certain he had made the right move. He said: "You just get a massive boost when you come to the Oval every day. It's a bit indescribable. Everything about the place is special."

Maynard already had a brace of one-day hundreds on his CV, but a first-class century had eluded him. He said: "Both of my hundreds have been in a losing cause, so it would be nice at some stage to get a hundred and win the game." Tom finally got his wish at the end of the season when his third

first-class hundred, an inspired 123 against Derbyshire on a turning pitch, set-up the victory Surrey needed to win promotion back to Division One in the County Championship. Tom Maynard's innings is over, his bat is laid down, but perhaps it is fitting that the records will forever state that he played the same number of first-class matches, 24 apiece, for Surrey and Glamorgan.

TOM MAYNARD MADE ME LAUGH, NOW HE'S MADE ME CRY by Mark Wallace (taken from the Western Mail, June 20)

I can't remember the last time I cried. It must have been as a child but I'll admit that sitting here contemplating writing this has the tears streaming down my face. I simply can't believe what's happened. Everybody at Glamorgan, and especially those within the team, are absolutely devastated by the news of Tom Maynard's death on Monday morning. I can't even begin to comprehend what Matt, Sue, Ceri and the family must be going through at the moment and our thoughts are with them and will be for some time. Tom may have ended up playing at Surrey but he never left Glamorgan in spirit, and he never will. It is just so tragic how someone with so much talent, so much potential and such an insatiable appetite for life can no longer be with us. As a cricketer the world was his oyster, he was at the start of an exciting journey where the possibilities for him were endless because he could play. Really play. He would have lit up the game with his touch of genius, he would have played for England and he would have returned to play at Glamorgan one day because he loved the club and he loved Wales. You always had the feeling that he was only ever away on business. Of course, as Matt's son, Tom was a fixture in the Glamorgan dressing room before he was out of nappies and, by the time I arrived there as a 17-year-old, he was part of the furniture. As the youngest player in the team he sort of gravitated towards me, telling me how my bats were a bit too light for him and my keeping gloves a bit too big. All this was accompanied by the mischievous smile that would stay with him into adulthood. I suppose he was like a little brother to a few of us for quite a while. Even then he had more confidence than I've ever had and, as he grew into a member of the first team in his own right, that confidence would turn into a natural presence that is gifted to very few. He was a leader from the moment he started playing and even as a youngster he had the ability to inspire those around him with an act of brilliance or a selfless deed for the team. And that was Tom, it never seemed to be about him. He sent me a message a few weeks back after I got a hundred against Leicestershire congratulating me on two things; first on making the century and secondly on getting out slogging for quick runs before the declaration. He was about the team first and nothing else. It was never about him off the field either and it's clear to see by the outpouring of grief, both within cricket and beyond, that his infectious personality has been felt by so many. Understandably tonight's Twenty20 game against Worcestershire in Cardiff was called off with the players having no appetite to play the game. Tom was a larrikin and a maverick at times – he loved it when I called him that – and realised that life should be for the living and shouldn't always be taken too seriously. As sportsmen we inhabit a world where we're guilty of placing far too much importance on things that, in the grand scheme of things, don't matter that much. What matters is the people, those that enhance our lives through the experiences we have with them and the times you share that will never be forgotten. While many will remember Tom for the outstanding cricketing talent he had, I will always remember him as the lad who could make me laugh more than anyone else I've ever met. I just wish he'd never made me cry. Rest in peace mate.

TRAGIC TIME MEANS WE WON'T DWELL ON TWENTY20 FAILURE by Mark Wallace (taken from the Western Mail, July 11)

It's been a pretty tough few weeks so I'm sure you'll forgive me for the absence of this column over the last fortnight. Tom Maynard's death still hasn't really sunk in for a lot of us and I'm not sure it ever will. The funeral was a very emotional occasion as the cricketing world and beyond came out to show their respects and support Matt and the family during such a terrible time. Speaking at the

ceremony the former Glamorgan and England opener Hugh Morris remarked that: "You could select a pretty good team from the people in attendance today." Had Morris been able to see out of the packed Llandaff Cathedral he may well have realised that there was a pretty decent side to be selected simply from those standing there in the rain. The Cathedral simply wasn't big enough for Tom's popularity. I was honoured to be asked to speak and thankfully managed to hold it together OK, while the other speakers and all those in attendance did Tom and the family proud. Tom's death will, no doubt, have a lifelong effect on some people and, though the day was incredibly sad, it was as much about celebrating life as mourning a tragic loss. Our CB40 fixture against Surrey at The Oval on August 21 will now be a memorial game for Tom. What's happened has certainly brought the two sets of players closer together and, having shared such an experience, there will certainly remain a connection between the two clubs in the future. I think Tom would have liked that.

TOM MAYNARD'S FAMILY STILL NEEDS CRICKET'S SUPPORT by Steve James (taken from the Daily Telegraph, August 21)

It is an item of sporting kit I wish I had never had to wear. The Lycra cycling jersey is predominantly white with black trimmings. The generous sponsors are well represented on it. On the jersey's left arm is the daffodil of Glamorgan with the number 33 below. On the right arm is Surrey's Prince of Wales badge above the number 55. Across the back are the words: The Tom Maynard Trust.

This afternoon 30 of us, including Tom's father Matthew and Andrew Flintoff, all wearing those jerseys, will arrive at the Kia Oval, having left the Swalec Stadium in Cardiff early Monday morning. Hopefully we will arrive in time for the start of the Clydesdale Bank 40 match between Tom's two former counties, Surrey and Glamorgan, that will act as a tribute to him, as well as the launch of the trust.

It will be emotional. Of course, it will. Both teams will wear shirts bearing Tom's aforementioned squad numbers. Before the match Matthew will receive a posthumous Surrey county cap for his son. There will be a presentation to the first three beneficiaries of the trust, David Lloyd of Glamorgan, and Matthew Dunn and George Edwards of Surrey.

The trust will help not only young cricketers but other sportspeople who require assistance in aspects of their career development. The response so far to its setting up has been remarkable. I have seen Matthew a couple of times in recent weeks as we trained for the cycle with our friend Ian Williams, who has organised the ride. With mention of every new piece of generosity, Matthew has just uttered the word "Jeez" and shaken his head. He has been overwhelmed by the kindness and support.

It is now just more than two months since Tom's death at the age of only 23. It is still as incomprehensible as it was then; a wonderful cricketing talent taken from us so tragically early. But as I wrote at the time of his death, more tragic is that a wonderfully likeable young man has been lost.

Last week Matthew gave his first interview since Tom's death. I know how difficult that was for him. He worried how he might cope. He was not sure whether he should do it. But he wanted to say thank you. He did more than that. He gave an unforgettably moving interview to Peter Jackson, the former rugby correspondent of the Daily Mail who was presenting BBC Radio Wales's Back Page programme. I listened to it on the way to Lord's for day three of the third Test. I was still wiping tears from my face as I walked from Paddington Station to the ground.

"The amount of letters that we've had shows how he turned out as a really great bloke," Matthew said. "There can be nothing more rewarding for a parent knowing that your lad's turned out like you hoped them to." Indeed. Like all of us, Tom had his faults, but he possessed something granted to very few: charisma. With his humour and selfless good nature - but also his seriousness about cricket at the appropriate times - he single-handedly altered the culture of the Surrey dressing room. He always led the team victory song. Since his death the wins have understandably been rare, but the tears have certainly flowed when they have come. "I've been amazed at the impression Tom obviously made on people in such a short time," Matthew told me last week.

But, of course, the grieving continues for him, his wife Sue and daughter Ceri. It is an unimaginably dreadful situation for any family. This week they will all journey to South Africa, where last winter Matthew enjoyed such a highly successful first season as coach of the Nashua Titans. His team won the four-day SuperSport series, as well as the MiWay T20 Challenge, which means they will play in the lucrative Champions League in October. Little wonder that he was named Cricket South Africa's coach of the year. How he will cope no one knows, least of all Matthew. All we, as the cricketing family, can do is continue to support him and his family. This cycle is only the start.

Details of the Trust can be found at: www.tommaynardtrust.com

'HE WAS IN THE DRESSING ROOM SINCE HE WAS BORN, DRAGGING HIS LITTLE BAT AROUND' by Lucy Bannerman (taken from The Times, August 25)

On August 21, Matthew Maynard spent the evening at the Kia Oval, being bear-hugged by friends, colleagues and cricket stars. Andrew Flintoff slung an arm around him and patted him on the back. Stewards in orange jackets squeezed him sympathetically on the shoulder. Countless others crowded round, offering gnarly handshakes and pressing cards filled with kind words into his palms. It was his first day at a cricket match since the death of his son, Tom. As he thanked all those who had come to watch the one-day game being held in Tom's memory, only his pride was preventing him from tears.

"I watched a little bit at the start, but it has been tough," he said, staring with bloodshot eyes at the cricket pitch, where Tom's team, Surrey, were playing the Welsh Dragons, his former Glamorgan team-mates. Reminders of the rising star, and the international career for which he seemed destined, were everywhere. "At the moment, the memories are making us cry, but I'm sure in time they will make us smile."

After standing for a minute's applause Mr Maynard accepted a posthumous county cap on his son's behalf, and a shirt bearing the number that the club has now retired in his honour. "It's an incredible gesture. And they don't just give away caps at Surrey. I'll treasure that..." "For a moment, it seemed as if he wanted to say something else, but didn't.

Beyond the glass doors of the corporate box, where we were sitting, men in sunhats were drinking pints. Every so often, a cheer erupted as a wicket fell. His attention drifted towards the pitch. It was at 5.10am on a June Monday that the body of his 23-year-old son was recovered from the tracks of the London Underground District Line. Almost an hour earlier, police officers had spotted his black Mercedes being driven erratically near Wimbledon, South London. When they stopped him, he ran off. No one has been able to explain why.

"We know he had had a few beers," his father said. "The thing about Tom, he was usually bloody good at making the right decision. I think that showed with his cricket. As it was developing, he

was making a lot more good decisions, but for some reason, he decided to get into... I guess he decided to go and see his girlfriend." Struggling to keep his composure, Mr Maynard pressed his fist against his lip. "There's no blame involved," he said, steering himself back on course. "There's no blame. We just can't believe he would do something like that."

The last 50 minutes of Tom's life remain unaccounted for. Once the police officers gave chase, their dogs soon lost track of the cricketer. "That, probably for me, is what I've been thinking about - those 40, 50 minutes. Why was he running from the police? What was going through his mind? How did he feel? Was he scared? Nervous? Obviously we heard he was hit by the train and that causes all sorts of things to go on in your head. Then we learnt that he was electrocuted and that he wouldn't have felt anything."

Having been brought up in an area, where there are no such live rails, he doubts that particular danger would have crossed Tom's mind. "Of course, in South Wales we don't have that. He would just never have thought of it..." His voice weakened, but he carried on. "We've been told it would have been quick." He clicked his fingers. "Boom. It would have been instant."

He dismissed suggestions that as his son's career blossomed he started partying harder, too. "Dean Conway [the former England physiotherapist] said he was training fantastically. When the guys went out, he would be on the Coca-Cola. That's why the drink-driving really surprised me. Very rarely would he have one beer and drive. Because we live in Pentyrch, a village, taxis home are 35 quid. If he was going out, he wouldn't have drunk, so he could drive back."

For the next eight months, Mr Maynard's wife, Sue, and their daughter, Ceri, will join him while he coaches in South Africa. As he was leaving, I asked him about the new tattoo on his forearm: "I'll lend you for a little time..." A poem by Edgar Guest, he said. He stood up straight and recited not just the next line, but the next two verses.

"I'll lend you for a while a child of mine, For you to love the while he lives, And mourn for when he's dead." I was about to respond, but he carried on: "It may be six or seven years, Or twenty-two or three, But will you, till I call him back, Take care of him for me?" He attempted a half smile, shook my hand, and excused himself to return to the box next door, where there was laughter and beer and the cold comfort of cricket.



On the day of Tom Maynard's death, Twitter.com reflected the grief of the cricket world. Here are just a handful of the tweets posted within 24 hours of the dreadful news:

carly baker @misscarlybaker

My beautiful boyfriend Tom Maynard, I can't cope with this. I love you always and forever. You mean't everything to me.

James Benning @jbenningticc

Absolutely stunned by the tragic news of Tom Maynard, top bloke, great player. Thoughts are with family and friends #RIPTom

Jonathan Batty @jonathanbatty

Shocked and saddened by what's happened today, the tragic loss of a wonderful person. My thoughts go out to the Maynards #RIPTOM

Scyld Berry @scyldberrry

Tom Maynard was so talented that when at Millfield he played for the neighbouring village of Butleigh, batted left-handed and hit a 100.

Martin Bicknell @bickers1969

Life is just too cruel at times, so sorry for the Maynard family, Tom really was a great kid with the world at his feet. RIPTom

Stuart Broad @StuartBroad8

Absolutely gutted this morning to hear the news about Tom Maynard. A lovely guy and great talent. #RIPTom

Rory Burns @roryburns17

Can't express how I feel in words... the lad was an absolute legend! Just a talented belting bloke! #RIPTom

mark cosgrove @cozzie99

RIP Tom don't really know what to say one of the best batsman I've seen but or importantly one of the best mates I had my heart goes out

Jade Dernbach @Jwd_16

The day is not as bright without you here with us. Will love you always and forever brother. #RIPTom

Steven Finn @finnysteve

So sad to hear the news of Tom Maynard. Thought with family and friends. Very talented and a top guy. #tooyoung

Alex Hales @AlexHales1

Literally devastated, he wouldve 100% played for England... One of the best strikers of a cricket ball I've ever seen #RIPTomMaynard

Adam Hoolioake @adamhoolioake

Wot is going on at Surrey? R we cursed or something? Graham Kersey, my bro, now this.... Treasure every moment with loved ones x

John Hoolioake @johnhoolioake

@surreyccricket its just over a day since we had the tragic news. Just another day, but one which just breaks your heart over again. #RIPTom

Rob Key @robkey612

Can't believe the news about Tom Maynard. Desperate. My thoughts go out to his family in a truly awful time

will bragg @WDBragg22

You were the best friend anyone could have asked for!! Sublime talent both on and off the field and I will miss you forever #RIPTomMaynard

Ali Brown @The_Lord3

Heaven sadly became a more talented place this morning #tears #tommaynard

Jos Buttler @josbuttler

Life has been truly put in perspective today. Lost a great bloke and a hugely talented cricketer today. Devastated. #RIPTomMaynard

Steve Davies @SteveDavies43

Words can't describe the way I'm feeling. RIP Tom Maynard. Will miss you bro. Thoughts and prayers with his family.

George Edwards @GEdwards29

You where a living legend and shall remain a legend #RIPTomMaynard

andrew flintoff @flintoff11

tragic news that a great lad, Tom Maynard is no longer with us. All my thoughts are with his family at this awful time x x

James Harris @James_Harris9

Can't come to terms with what has happened today. The world has lost an incredible guy, a fantastic cricketer and a great friend.....

James Harris @James_Harris9

.....Thomas Maynard was a man destined for great things. Got some amazing memories of us playing together. Take care mate. RIP

Tom Jewell @TOMJEWELL8

I cant believe it, lost for words... the best of blokes, incredible teammate an amazing cricketer. #RIPTom ...you will be sorely missed

Steve James @sjamesjourno

The lovely kid who was always in our Glamorgan dressing room grew into a man who would have played for England. How can he be gone so soon?

Thomas Lancefield @TommyLancefield

We will never forget you Tom your name will live on forever. #ripTom

Stuart Meaker @SMeaker18

Can't believe the most tragic news we've had today. Most indescribable feeling. My heartiest sympathies to the Maynard family...

Stuart Meaker @SMeaker18

...Tommy your soul and your memory will live on with your team mates at the Rey. We will not forget the joy you have brought to us. #Maynard

Dirk Nannes @dirk_nannes

The world is a sadder place with A much loved and talented friend taken too soon. Tom, you will most certainly be missed. R.I.P.

Kevin Pietersen @kevinpp24

So unbelievably sad!! The Maynard family is so special!! Thoughts are with this special family!! Loads of love guys!! KP xxx #RIPTom

Mike Powell @powelly299

A true gentleman that I was proud to call my friend, Matt and Sue my love and thoughts are with you both, RIP Tom

Gareth Rees @garethprees28

Absolutely devastated, never felt so sad in my life! Thoughts are with Matt, Sue and Ceri. Don't know what to say #truefriend #RIPTom

Mark Ramprakash @MarkRamprakash

Life can b so cruel! Tom Maynard - a really nice guy who was a pleasure to play with & will b really missed. RIP Tom

Matthew Spriegel @Spriegs

The worst day of my life without question. Worst phone call I have ever received. I hope this gets easier. #RIPTomMaynard

Chris Tremlett @ChrisTremlett33

RIP Tom Maynard. Such a sad loss to everyone that knew him and thoughts are with his family. Absolutely gutted. Will be missed xx

Azhar Mahmood @AzharMahmood11

My sincere condolences with Tom's family. Just played against him yesterday, was such a special talent. He will be greatly missed. #Tommaynard

James Middlebrook @midders07

Just heard of the tragic news of Tom Maynard... Top bloke and serious talent, a great loss to cricket... R.I.P. Tom thoughts to his family...

tim murtagh @tjmurtagh

Words mean very little at this time. Not fair for a club to go through this 3 times in past 20 years. Love to family and all @surreycricket

Paul Nixon @Paulnico199

Stunned about the tragic loss of a great friend and quality player Tom Maynard & all our thoughts & prayers are with wonderful family

Pragyan Ojha @pragyanojha

Just got the news about Tom Maynard's accident. Really sad n to hear about it. Had great memories with him during my stint with Surrey.

Matt Prior @MattPrior13

In shock at the news of Tom Maynard! Such a waste of a very talented and much loved player. Condolences to the Maynard family

Jason Roy @JasonRoy20

Cant believe im writing this. RIP Tom Maynard, one of my best friends. You will always be in my heart and will miss you so so much.

Darren Sammy @darrensammy88

Very sad to hear Surrey cricketer Tom Maynard has died at age 23. The West Indies team's thoughts and prayers go out to his family :(

James Taylor @jamestaylor20

What a sh*t day this has been! So sad!! amazing to see all the tributes to Tom, just shows what a top bloke he was! #champion

Alex Tysoe @Phys

In complete shock as I write this. What a tragedy. He was the life and soul and I will forever remember his infectious laugh. RIP mate x

Mark Wallace @MarkWallace18

Absolutely devastated about Tom. Puts life into perspective. Can't even start to think about what Matt and Sue are going through. RIP Mate

Sam Warburton @samwarburton_

Thoughts are with the family of Tom Maynard. Great cricketer, sportsperson and guy.

Gary Wilson @gwilson14

Bottom line... the world is much worse off without Tom Maynard. Quite simply a great guy, a world class player and a friend #manside #ripTom

SURREY CCC SECOND ELEVEN CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES 2012

Cheam: 25-27 June - MCCYC 220 (SS McKechnie 47*, JE Southgate 43, TE Linley 5-40) & 163 (TP Lewis 43, JE Southgate 43, MNW Spriegel 7-42). Surrey 328 (RJ Burns 126, TM Jewell 54*, ZS Ansari 46, JA Porter 4-80) & 56-2 (A Harinath 37*). Surrey won by 8 wickets.

Radlett: 3-6 July - Middlesex 185 (CJL Rogers 66, CJ Jordan 4-48, TE Linley 3-56) & 96-4 (CJL Rogers 40, TE Linley 2-20). Surrey 158 (TM Jewell 45, GS Sandhu 5-32, CD Collymore 4-37). Match drawn.

KS Canterbury: 10-12 July - Surrey 78 (TE Linley 28, IAA Thomas 4-14, CE Shreck 3-17) & 84 (MT Coles 3-24). Kent 157 (CD Piesley 84, TK Curran 5-21) & 9-0. Kent won by 10 wickets.

Ageas Bowl: 1-3 August - Hampshire 284 (CP Wood 81, SP Terry 40, MP Dunn 3-45) & 252-9d (AP Rouse 66*, MDT Roberts 43, TJ Lancefield 2-36). Surrey 210 (A Harinath 103*, D Klein 5-35) & 224-5 (TM Jewell 67, CJ Jordan 62*, H Riazuddin 2-15). Match drawn.

Guildford: 7-9 August - Glamorgan 235 (NA James 80, TM Jewell 4-41) & 308 (MP O'Shea 53, WD Bragg 46, GA Edwards 2-44). Surrey 262 (TJ Lancefield 119*, RJ Hamilton-Brown 48, JR Winslade 47, MT Reed 5-73) & 170 (TJ Lancefield 43, AJ Norman 3-27, MT Reed 3-31, CP Ashling 3-61). Glamorgan won by 111 runs.

KEENOSE KOMMENTS

1) It could be another exciting finish to the championship for Surrey, though maybe not in circumstances we would wish. The final game against Lancashire could be a 44-pointer (I guess that is the equivalent to a football six-pointer, though never heard it used). I thought they were doomed for some time, but the win against Middlesex has raised the optimism level. With the washout summer, any victory is very important, especially as the draw now has less value.

2) I'm not sure, in view of the upsetting nature of his messages, that it was England's loss, but it is certainly Surrey's gain to have KP available for the end of season matches. Given the weakness of our batting order it's almost like having two batsmen.

3) Andrew Strauss said it would take a long time for KP to regain trust, but now that Strauss has gone it may take no time at all. Strauss was beginning to struggle with the bat at Test level, low scores saved by the occasional hundred. Perhaps, after 100 Tests, ending with South Africa at Lord's, it was the time to go. The fact that he has retired completely means that he has something else lined up. I guess all ex-England captains do, though hopefully not golf interviews after rounds at the Masters! Who was the last England Test captain to retire from test cricket but still play county

cricket I wonder. It will be interesting to see how Alaistair Cook does. He seems a quieter character and a less natural captain than some of his immediate predecessors.

4) It was a pity Ramps retired halfway through the season. It has been difficult batting conditions for everyone, but his experience would have only been a bonus for the batting line-up. After the terrible football injury he was, perhaps, never going to regain those great heights of the century's first decade. It is very unlikely that anyone will beat his championship record of the first decade in the next nine decades.

5) Have Surrey ever signed so many mid-30's from other clubs, than has occurred over the last few years? I wonder whether supporters really want short term survival. I'm not sure 30-plusses are going to bring you championship success, or help develop young players. I know this may not actually tie into some of the previous comments, but maybe we should stop signing players, who, though they are totally committed, are on their last contract. It does seem to be the case with a lot of counties, that relatively good rates of pay and year-round contracts are encouraging average county players to stay in the game for longer.

6) I was thinking on one of my unfortunately many drives to Wales recently (it's a lovely place, just a long drive)... How did we ever get back from there on away coach trips with a stop?! Llanelli is right at the end of the M4. We were very lucky Ali Brown made a hundred in the second innings of a Sunday game, as we could still be travelling back even now. I'm trying to remember where we went on the Saturday [It was Neath - Ed]. We also ran two full coaches to Cardiff in 1996 when winning the Sunday league open the floodgates. Funny how so much has changed in 15 years.

7) It must be rare for any county squad to have to cope with the death of a player. I can't actually recall any other county suffering this fate during the last 50 years, but perhaps it has happened. Surrey have lost three. The extremely popular Graham Kersey, the brilliant young talent and personality of Ben Hollioake and now another cricketing family has been struck, by the loss of Tom Maynard. All not past their mid twenties. All tragic accidents. Maynard's death in the middle of a season, must have made it almost impossible for the players to concentrate in the immediate games following the tragedy.

CENTURY CLUB

The results of the Q2 and Q3 Century Club draws of 2012 were as follows:

4th Draw

1st - £40 - Colin Bayly (No.26)

2nd - £12 - Rob Lewis (No.25)

3rd - £8 - Don Mew (No.33)

5th Draw

1st - £40 - Frank Smith (No.102)

2nd - £12 - Barry Newman (No.97)

3rd - £8 - Ann Atkins (No.38)

6th Draw

1st - £200 - Packers (No.57)

2nd - £25 - Hilarie Randall (No.34)

3rd - £15 - Ann Millington-Jones (No.45)

7th Draw

1st - £40 - Steve Bush (No.80)

2nd - £12 - Kim World (No.49)

3rd - £8 - Jon Hall (No.30)

8th Draw

1st - £40 - Albert Ratcliff (No.3)

2nd - £12 - John Douglas (No.75)

3rd - £8 - Jonathan Miller (No.6)

9th Draw

1st - £200 - Les Brewin (No.10)

2nd - £25 - M J Calder (No.115)

3rd - £15 - Grahame Cove (No.107)

Anyone wishing to become a Century Club member for the remaining three draws can do so by sending a cheque for £9.00 (made payable to the SCCSC Century Club) along with their details to Sarah Atkins at The Cheviots, 236 Ashbourne Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 2DR.