

LCS Meeting Thursday 24th March.



Wasim Khan MBE. Our last speaker of the winter.

First of all I have got to say sorry this is not the usual type of report, I am doing this without the aid of notes and relying on my memory. So if I miss something out sorry. Unfortunately Phil could not attend as his wife was not well. I am pleased to say I have spoken to Phil and she is now improving. Thanks to Dave, a friend of Phil's from Nuneaton for acting as courier who kindly brought the raffle prizes. Howard began the evening by welcoming everyone to this our last meeting of the 'season' and introducing our very own chief executive Mr Wasim Khan MBE. Wasim began by telling everyone how his interest in cricket began by watching the test series England v West Indies in 1980 on TV. After the match he would then go outside and play cricket with his friends. He also played in the school playground and it was here that one of his teachers spotted the potential in him. He asked Wasim, would he like to have some training with Warwickshire he said he would, unfortunately he did not have any kit so 'Sir' said just bring your trainers and white socks and leave the rest to me. Which he did obtaining whites, pads gloves and a helmet. "Sir" took him the first evening after school to Edgbaston; showed him how to put on his pads and gloves. Wasim asked him how he would get to Edgbaston next week, the answer by bus! So after school at 4.30pm he needed to catch 3 buses! We then heard how he progressed through the ranks U13, U14 etc. until he played 1st team cricket for Warwickshire and eventually England. After his playing days he took a university course as he did not have any qualifications. He then went on to tell us of the time, Mervyn King, the previous governor of the Bank of England rang him regarding a new charity he wanted to set up. This became 'Chance to Shine'. Where funding was found and the government under Gordon Brown matched it. On a sad note Wasim's father passed away before he became a first team cricketer. When he was going to Australia for the first time his uncle told him he would arrange his flight ticket. This he duly did with Canadian airways. His flight to Australia took him via Ottawa. For his work with the charity, Wasim was awarded the MBE. For each investiture 3 people are invited to Buckingham Palace for lunch with the Queen. Wasim was one of the three. Wasim sat next to the Queen and he was told of the etiquette about speaking to the Queen during lunch. Wasim sat on her left, the Queen spoke to the person on her right first then to Wasim. He even gave us a secret of the royal bed chamber! The Queen said that Prince Philip watched the cricket at night and that she knew when things were not going well for England because, Prince Philip grunted! When they left the luncheon they were all given a menu and a seating plan. He said he has his framed and hung up at home. He told us it looks good as next to his name is says 'The Queen' when he got in his car afterwards he switched his mobile on and he had got a text from his wife "do not forget it is parents evening" sometime after the lunch he was talking to someone (sorry I cannot remember who he said) of the security dept. and commented that he was surprised he had not been vetted before he went to Buckingham Palace. They replied by "we did" They told him about his arrival at the hotel, where he parked his car, where he had eaten the night before, checked his room at the hotel and even

had his phone bugged. It sounded just like a James Bond film. After the break Wasim answered our questions and explained about the changes to the ground. Wasim informed us the plans for the ground were going well. At the Milligan Road side the wall had been demolished and was going to be replaced by a small wall with railings, thus creating an open feeling. The floodlighting is being installed, with 2 towers already in place. The remainder will be installed in the next few days. They will be ready for use for the 1 day and T20 matches. We will not be able to use them for the 4 day championship matches as they will not be ready for the first match. So the ECB rules prevent the use of them for this season. He also thanked Mike our membership secretary and the previous chief executive for his work and leaving everything in good order. Howard invited Norman Harrington to give the vote of thanks. Norman also thanked the county for the use of the facilities and presented Wasim with a cheque for £500 from the society. The raffle was drawn at the halfway point; Wasim was asked if he would draw the tickets which he did. I just hope our batsmen can score runs as quick as Wasim drew the winners! I managed to keep up, just! Robin our treasurer had to go before the money could be counted. However Phil advised me the total was £128.15 which took the overall amount to £1012 for the season. At the end of the evening a few of us helped as usual to tidy the room, Wasim helped by stacking the chairs. I would like to add my vote of thanks to Roger for finding such a great variety of speakers and to the rest of the committee who work very hard for the society to make it what it is believed to be the largest cricket society and what I believe to be THE BEST.

Margaret Richardson.

My thanks to Margaret for putting this report together.

I also wish to thank everyone for the fantastic amount of money that you contributed to the LCS funds. This is only the second time the raffle as raised over £1000. Many thanks to all the people who helped run the raffle throughout the winter.

The members and committee of the LCS wish the County every success both on and off the field, for the coming season. We hope that some of the new players will be able to come along to one of the LCS meetings next winter.