

LCS Meeting Thursday 25th February



Our Guest speaker for Thursdays meeting Chris Waters



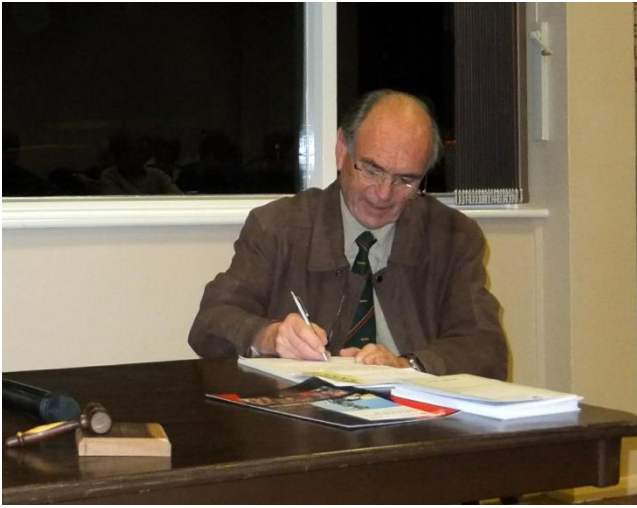
Chris arrived at Grace Road without his normal speaking companion Sid Fielden, Chris very quickly told Howard that normally, Sid would do 75% of the talk and that he [Chris] did the remaining bit and provided the necessary dates, facts and figures. So, a very very nervous young man said to Howard, I don't know what I'm going to talk about. Well at the end of the night, he was not nervous, and we the audience had a better insight into Hedley Verity.



Chris with his book and the topic of his talk



Before the start of the meeting Howard and Chris discussing what to talk about



Howard started off this meeting by telling everyone that the county were giving LCS members a special deal if they decide to become members of the cricket club.



This is Chris starting his talk about Verity, he looks terrified and talking to him before the meeting got underway he definitely was.

Chris gave us a little background on how he came to write this book, 10 for 10. Chris told us that at the time he had been working for the Nottingham Evening Post for five years, he got to interview Frank Shipston, who had played county cricket for Nottinghamshire. This was in 2000; Frank Shipston had become the oldest living cricket player, at the age of 94. Chris had gone to talk with Frank, for an article in the Post. As it turned out, Frank had batted in that famous match; the game in which this bowling feat took place was played at Headingley in 1932, a match between Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire. Frank Shipston died in 2005 at the age of 98 years and 342 days.

Chris told the audience that Frank Shipston had difficulty in remembering about the match; Chris said he was asking Frank to remember something that had happened almost 70 years before. Chris gave us one anecdote about Frank, Frank on his first day at Trent Bridge in 1925, going into the nets. The Nott's coach at the time Jimmy Iremonger, said to Shipston, that he should take care as the bowler in the net he was making for was a bit sharp, Frank got a painful whack in the unmentionable's, first ball, the bowler was Harold Larwood.

Chris went on to tell us that the match was pretty dull to start; this was a game between the 2nd and 3rd place teams in the county championship of that year. Nott's batted first scoring 234 from 120 overs on the first day, at this time county championship matches were played over three days. Chris said that in this first inning's Verity was completely upstaged by Maurice Leyland, only a part time

spinner in the Yorkshire side. Leyland took 4 wickets for 14 runs whilst Verity took 2 for 16 off 40 overs. On the second day Yorkshire scored 163 for 9, then in the afternoon, Chris said there was a torrential storm, which ended play for that day.



LCS members listening to Chris's account of this famous match

On the final day, Chris said, there looked very little likelihood of there being a result. However the Yorkshire skipper, Brian Sellers, declared on the overnight score. Shipston and Walter Keeton who opened the batting for Nott's took the 2nd innings score to 44 for the loss of no wickets at lunch. Chris then went on to say, that the sun came out and dried the pitch, then Verity took ten wickets for ten runs, in 19.4 overs, of which 16 were maidens. Chris said, that then even more incredibly, Yorkshire knocked off the 139 runs to win the match without losing a wicket; Percy Holmes and Herbert Sutcliffe were the two Yorkshire batsmen. Verity also took 10 wickets in an innings in the 1931 season against Warwickshire, his first full year as a professional cricketer.

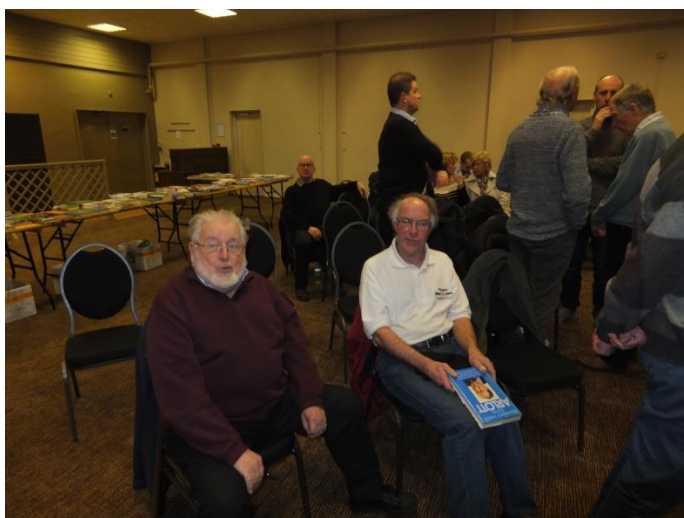
Verity fought in the Second World War, he joined the Green Howards and rose to the rank of Captain, during the battle for Sicily in 1943, at the age of 39, he was seriously wounded, and he died in Italy, he is buried in Caserta.



Headley Verity



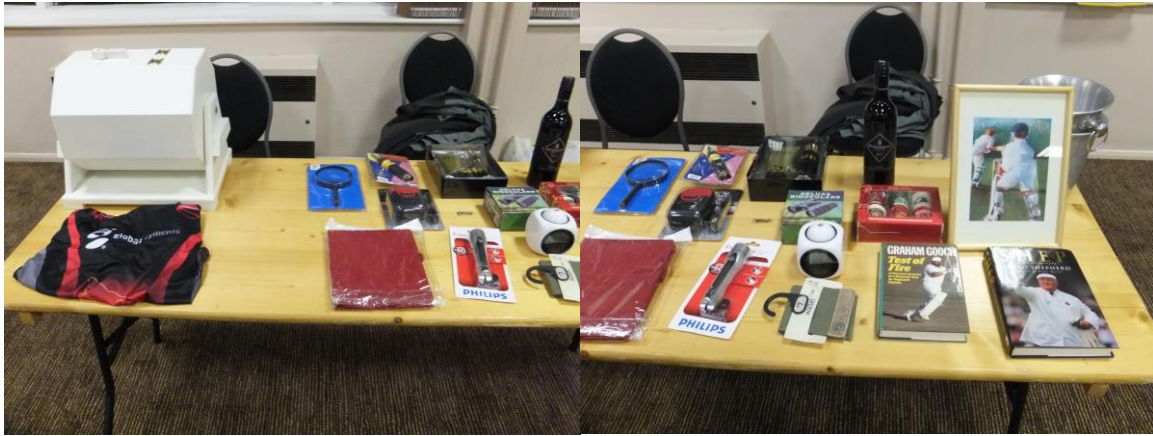
For somebody who at the start of the night was so nervous of how his talk would go, Chris Waters gained all the audience's respect. All the facts and figures I quote above, Chris went through without a single note. It was pleasing for us all that as the evening went on Chris became more confident and this was shown with the warm round of applause, Chris received at half time.



These photos were taken before the start of the meeting we had another good turnout for our last but one meeting of this winter.

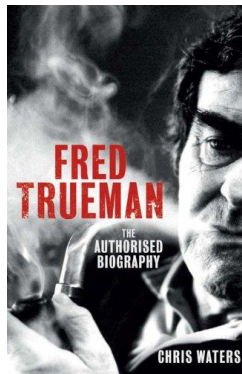
Around 120 people came to hear about Verity, we've had a very good winter regards of the number of people attending our meetings, with about 1000 members, guests and visitors coming along. It always encouraging for your committee that the LCS has such a staunch following.

At the break the raffle raised another £110 for the funds, the running total now stands at a magnificent £884, would be good to break that magic £1000 this winter. But whatever total we finish at, it's thanks to the generosity of you all that the raffle does so well. I must thank Margaret and Richard, Margaret and Ken for their continued help



The raffle prize cupboard is looking a bit bare right now

After the break Chris talked and answered questions on a book about Fred Truman that he had written in 2011.



During the Q&A session, Chris was asked about an MCC touring side that went to Verity's grave. Again Chris had all the details at his fingertips. It was the 1954 MCC touring team that was on its way to Australia for an Ashes tour. Len Hutton who was the captain of this side, Abe Waddington and some others went by car to the grave, when the ship they were on, Orsova, stopped at Naples. A white rose and a Yorkshire CCC tie were placed on Verity's grave.



Bleddyn Jones gave the formal vote of thanks on behalf of the members.

The next LCS meeting is on Thursday 24th March, when Wasim Khan MBE, Leicestershire CCC CEO, will be our guest. The society is presenting a cheque to Wasim on the night.

Phil Veasey

On behalf of the LCS committee

